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Inside: **5** Morgham: Yemen post is a continuous development various and distinguished services **10** Investing as pleases God **11** A Tribal Order: Politics and law in the mountains of Yemen

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Why do you think Yemeni media does not represent the voice of common Yemeni Citizen?
 Unprofessional media (19%) Restrictions against freedom of speech (42%)
 Low impact because of high illiteracy rate (39%)
 This edition's question:
 Do you think activists are out of line in defining state institutions in a black list?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Black list released of press freedom suppressors in Yemen

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
 SANA'A, August 8 — A group of journalists and human rights activists released a black list of those individuals and groups responsible for violating press freedom. The list mentioned five names as representatives of institutions responsible for violations against journalists recorded from 2005 to 2007.
 The black list was developed in light of continuous sit-ins organized by the Civil Society Coalition, demanding possession of mass media and a wider margin of freedom for press.
 National Security Apparatuses, headed by Ali Al-Anisi, ranked first place with 96 violations, equivalent to 27.82 percent of total violations. The Ministry of Information, led by Hasan Al-Lawzi, came in next with 95 violations, equivalent to 27.53 percent.
 The Ministry of Interior, led by Rashad Al-Alimi, came in third place with 54 violations and a percentage of 15.65, followed by Political Security

القائمة السوداء.. لمتهمي حرية الصحافة لعامي 2005 - 2006 م والنصف الأول من عام 2007 م

م	الجهة	المسؤول الأول فيها خلال الأعوام 2005-2006 - النصف الأول 2007	الاجمالي الانتهاكات	النسبة الانتهاكات
1	الأمن القومي	علي الأنسي	96	27.82%
2	وزارة الإسلام	حسن اللوزي	95	27.53%
3	وزارة الداخلية	د. رشاد العليمي	54	15.65%
4	الأمن السياسي	غالب القميش	40	11.59%
5	التوجيه الحكومي	علي الشباطر	11	3.18%

The list mentioned five names as representatives of institutions responsible for violations against journalists recorded from 2005 to 2007.
 Apparatuses, led by Ghaleb Al-Qamish, with 45 violations. In fifth place came the Moral Guidance Administration, led by Ali Al-Shatter, with 11 violations.
 Violations ranged from banning the issuance of papers to preventing journalists from practicing their duties to shutting down papers to beatings, harassment and detention.
 The list was compiled according to data from three annual reports issued by Women Journalists without Chains in which they address issues of press freedom in Yemen during 2005, 2006 and the first half of 2007.
Continued on page 3

Four Al-Qaeda-linked terrorists killed in Marib

By: Moner Al-Omari
 MARIB, August 8 — In a land and air operation, Terrorism Fighting Forces managed to kill four Al-Qaeda-linked terrorists on Wednesday morning in Raghwan area located between Marib and Al-Jawf districts, according to the governor of Marib Aref Al-Zuka.
 Al-Zuka told 26 September.net the four men are suspected to be among the cell that plotted Marib's terrorist attack that targeted a convoy of Spanish tourists in early July and killed ten, including two Yemenis. They are also behind killing the chief of Marib's Investigation Department Ali Qusilah.
 The killed terrorists include Qassim Al-Rimi, Ali bin Ali Dohah and Naji Ali Jaradan, the prime suspect in Qusilah's killing. The identity of the fourth member is still unknown, because his corpse was badly deformed. The four men are among a 10-member cell, including two foreigners that planned and implemented the terrorist operation in Marib.
 Al-Rimi appeared in an audio recording before Marib's terrorist attack, threatening the Yemeni government for killing some Al-Qaeda members. He is also accused of participating in the attack that targeted the French tanker Limburg.
 He was tried in absentia in the state's specialized court for forming an armed gang and planning to target foreigners and vital interests.
 Ali Dohah
 Naji Ali Jaradan
 Qassim Al-Rimi

Despite reported clashes, mediation efforts continue

By: Mohammed bin Sallam
 SA'ADA, August 8 — Tribal sources in Sa'ada revealed there has been exchange of fire between the army and Houthi loyalists since the beginning of this week in different Sa'ada districts including Al Al-Saifi, Bani Muath, and other areas in Sahar district. No injuries were reported.
 The sources added that a number of Houthi followers have been spotted over the last three days in Gharabah Mountains and Azan in Sahar district digging trenches and barricades. Additionally, cars belonging to Houthis were seen transporting building equipment to these mountains.
 A report prepared by the Red Cross



Sa'ada security authorities were held responsible for delaying arrival of the Red Cross International Committee to Sa'ada
 International Committee about the recent war in Sa'ada that lasted for over six months, highlighted the tragedy of displaced citizens, noting their straitened living conditions.
 The report held Sa'ada security authorities responsible for delaying arrival of the Red Cross International Committee to Sa'ada as well as confining relief and aid to Sa'ada city and nearby areas.
 Further, the committee voiced its concern over the situation of civilians affected by the war especially when their personal property was looted and their movement was restricted, together with having no access to medical services.
Continued on page 3

Viewed as partial treatment, President Saleh orders reinstatement of pensioners

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, August 8 — In fulfillment of military pensioners' demands, last Monday President Saleh ordered the government to work towards reinstating hundreds of pensioners from the southern and eastern areas of Yemen to their jobs as well as granting them their deserved promotions and financial allowances.
 The Supreme Council for military and civil pensioners have staged many demonstrations in Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale', Shabwa and Abyan, asking for justice and reinstatement of service, together with freeing those arrested during a peaceful demonstration held last Thursday.
 Such demonstrations were led by high-ranking officers in protest against the forced removal of over 60,000 military and civil public servants following the 1994 civil war. Workers were either pensioned or suspended from work.
 On Tuesday, Aden's security authorities released the chairman of the Pensioners Association, Nasser Al-Nobah, and three of his companions whom authorities arrested last Thursday, while four other ranking officers remain in jail.
 Member of the Yemeni Socialist Party and head of the Foreign Affairs Department Mohammed Ghaleb Ahmed revealed that security forces arrested around 150 protesters during preceding demonstrations. Those who were arrested were locked in iron cages, including a member of political office and head of its

branch in Aden Ali Munaser Mohammed.
 Ahmed told Al-Ishtarki.net that security forces locked arrested protesters in iron cages located on Al-Sheikh Othman and Al-Mansourah streets, noting that such conduct is a strange.
 He added that other arrested demonstrators were transferred in groups and thrown into Bir Ahmed desert behind Cupota area, close to Salah Addin Camp in Al-Burikah and they managed with difficulty to return home.
 Thousands of citizens demonstrated last Monday in Aden, Abyan, Al-Dhale', Lahj and Radfan demanding the release of those arrested on Thursday. Security forces arrested dozens during these demonstrations.
Continued on page 3

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In brief

MAHWAIT

Course on epidemic control and fighting diseases

Aug 7 — The General Authority for Epidemic Control and fighting Diseases has, yesterday, completed a training course on epidemic monitoring and disease control. The course comes as a part of a program funded by a World Bank loan and included 38 health workers in the both Mahwait and Raiyma governorates. Specialists from the WHO conducted the training which also focused on the national guide for controlling epidemic diseases, reporting mechanisms, and how to contain infected areas.

SANA'A

Yemeni works in 31 government jobs in the same time

Aug 8 — It was not until the finger print system was used in monitoring and controlling government jobs that a Yemeni citizen's scam was discovered. Yemeni authorities reported that a Yemeni citizen (without disclosing the name) has been working for many years in 31 different government jobs in the same time. He had been successful in getting the jobs through crooked means and breaking through the fragile monitoring system that was used in the government until recently.

Yemen 20-20 Cricket Trophy 2007

Aug 7 — Every Friday at the Al Wahda Football Ground at Hadda Madina Sakinia there will be a cricket match competing for the Yemen 20-20 cricket trophy 2007.

Four teams are participating in this year's tournament including players of British, Indian, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh nationalities and few players from Yemen as well. Matches will be played in league format and will be of 20 over's each side. Teams participating are Arabian Cricket Club (ACC), Dove Cricket Club (DCC), Friends Cricket Club (FCC), and Taj Sheba Cricket Club (TCC).

HADRAMOUT

Al-Ahqaq scriptures library restored

Aug 7 — Costing around 27 thousand US dollars the project to restore the scriptures and documents preservation sections at Al-Ahqaq Library has been completed. The library is one of the most famous and rich libraries in the region containing historical texts and now there is a good chance the texts will be preserved for many generations to come. The building is now equipped with a sensitive fire detection system, along with efficient circulating system and airtight chambers for storing the old documents. The library is also equipped with a computerised system to index the documents and a photocopy machine.

HUDEIDAH

Children and media training for journalists

Aug 8 — In cooperation with UNICEF, the media office in Hudeidah will conclude, today, a three-day workshop for journalists on children and media. The workshop aims at educating journalists on the international convention of child rights and how to report children's issues effectively in the media. Forty journalists participated in the workshop in which practical sessions were carried out to train journalists.

LAHJ

Citizens protest hospital negligence

Aug 7 — Several families from Al-Hawta in Lahj governorate seized the opportunity of the Minister of Health's visit to Ibn Khaldoon hospital to protest against the terrible conditions and treatment the hospital practices. Apparently, four of the families' relatives had died because of negligence and lack of basic medical equipments such as oxygen masks and defibrillators.

Association for unemployed youth

Aug 8 — A number of unemployed youth in Lahj decided to create an association to reflect their needs and issues and convey their concerns to media. The youth started the first preparations for the association and created the main committee of seven unemployed youth. The committee will follow on the creation and invite youth from other governorates to join.

Floods cause more victims and property damage

By: Sadam Al-Ashmori
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, Aug 8 — There is a situation of worry and anxiety that overwhelm citizens inhabited the areas near flood drains in the capital city of Sana'a as well as other governorates due to the lack of rescue teams.

This fear came as a result of the floods caused by heavy rains, leading to cars wash-away, traffic jams, as well as the destruction of a number of households. Local news reports also revealed that most of the victims were children.

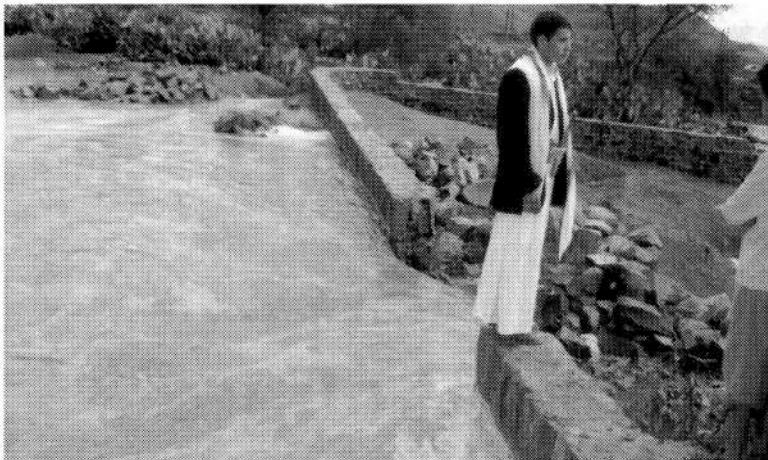
Though the Civil Defense Official, Naji Abdua Al-qhwa, confirmed that rescue teams, belonged to the civil defense, dispersed in most of the areas of the capital city of Sana'a such as Al-Rawdha, Shu'ob, Bab Al-Yemen, and Al-Salal Roundabout, that belongs to Bani Al-Harith district, to carry out rescue operations so as to take citizens out of the disadvantaged areas, he warned citizens as well as car drivers to take ultimate care when they reach those places, which make their lives in jeopardy.

He also confirmed the wash-away of one car in the main watercourse in the capital city of Sana'a. However, the official stressed the necessity of early alarming sirens to avoid the frequent damages in lives and properties especially when rains fall on the edges of the southern and eastern areas of the capital city of Sana'a. The floods may take the passages of the Old city of Sana'a watercourse as a usual road, he cautioned, adding that the issue of alarming sirens has been discussed but not adjudicated yet.

A local source indicated that Waleed Al-Thamari, the director of the economic corporation branch in Manakha city, in Sana'a governorate, was one of the three washed-away persons in the watercourse. He was washed away along with his car to a far distance while passing that area.

An eye-witness affirmed that four cars were washed away and four archeological houses were destroyed in the Old City of Sana'a. He also indicated that water ran into them with a large quantity but was taken out from houses by nozzles, indicating that the repetition of water submersion for the foundations of those houses threatens their future. However, the operations theatre in the Ministry of Interior did not receive any notifications regarding human victims inside the capital city of Sana'a, a local source commented.

In Amran governorate, north of Sana'a, eye-witnesses told the Yemen-times that four children among them three females died in Qa' Al-Bawn after the collapse of their houses due to the heavy rains fallen in their area.



An eye-witness affirmed that four cars were washed away and four archeological houses were destroyed in the Old City of Sana'a.

The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority had warned, in a statement, the citizens to take precautions and avoid flood areas during Sunday and Monday because of the fall of heavy rains accompanied by thunder in most of the governorates including Sana'a, Thamar, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Mahwait, and Syu'n.

Similarly, a number of governorates of the Republic experienced heavy rains resulting in injuring a number of citizens and causing sever damages in properties and lands.

The floods washed away a child, namely Ateeqah Sa'eed Al-Abadi, from A'maha area in the district of Lahj governorate and her destiny is unknown. A number of citizens were distributed over areas searching for the missing girl, Ateeqah.

However, local sources in Al-Radma district in Ibb governorate affirmed that the heavy rains fallen on several areas resulted in destroying households and caused sever damages in the livestock as well as properties.

A large quantity of hailstones fallen on some villages remained piled up for two days in the tops of mountains, deeming it a disaster for the area's citizens, a local source indicated.

Worth-noting, a little girl in the fifth class was dead after being washed away by floods. And another one was seriously injured in the last few days while coming back from the summer center in Al-Radma city to her houses via Al-Kharaba road in Amar.

September-net reported from sources in the Interior Ministry that heavy rains and thunderbolts, accompanying the rains fallen on the country, resulted in killing and injuring a number of people in some governorates reaching to 17 persons in the first week of August, 17 of whom are dead due to rock slides over their houses, seven injured by thunderbolts, and two others were washed away by floods. In addition, four children were dead due to the slide of their

house caused by heavy rains.

Earlier this week, the National Coordinator of Disasters Restriction, Abdulkhaleq Al-Ghaberi warned that many rural areas may be under direct risk due to constant rain.

He specified that the Qafat Al-Sawanah village might face a natural disaster at any moment, stating, "The village's current situation is alerted by an expected disaster." "That is because of being under big rock clusters, which become breakable and might fall, due to different denudation factors" he clarified.

Additionally, he pinpointed that more than 15 houses are faced with this danger and in need of immediate assistance to avoid any possible damages, especially during heavy rainfall and rock sliding.

Al-Ghaberi emphasized the speed needed in handling the serious condition of the village in order to avoid a repeat of what happened in Al-Dhafir's disaster in Bani Matar, located in Shahara district, with a population of more than 1,000.

Retrospectively, Al-Dhafir village was destroyed in December, 2005, when a mountaintop landslide hit more than 23 houses, sixteen of which were inhabited at the time of the avalanche, resulting in death toll of 65 and eight injured.

Al-Ghaberi indicated that there are three options for saving the people of the village. The first is sending a specialized team to determine the extent of rock cohesion and the possibility of collapse, as well as evacuating the houses, which are under the crushed rock, and providing emergency residences for displaced citizens.

The second choice is fragmentizing the rocks through scientific methods without any damage to the houses. The third option, according to Al-Ghaberi, is constructing belts to catch the rocks. But, he confirmed that the latter option would be temporary and the problem would arise again in the future.

Parliamentary investigation about \$1 million

SANA'A, Aug 7 — The financial affairs committee in the Parliament presented the parliament's budget for the next year during its sessions by the end of July. The budget estimated to be YR 4 billions and 286 millions with an increase of YR 402 millions, 10% of which is from the budget of the current year, 2007.

Most of the new increase went to the fourth section for acquiring the financial assets with an amount of YR one billion and 90 million, an increase of 31%. The report of the committee recommended increasing the field visits allowances for the parliamentarians with 50%.

However, the registered amount, estimated by YR 72 millions, is not enough due to the hefty expenses afforded by the permanent committees in the parliament.

Worth-noting, the parliament has no financial bylaw or regulations until now. The cost of one MP's work is estimated with more than one million per month. He receives 50% of the amount and the rest goes to the administrative and operational budget of the council as well as the permanent committees.

The committee's report recommended increasing the allowances of housing of the parliamentarians, transferred from the

southern and eastern governorates, into 20000 per month. It is because the amount did not increase since 1990.

It also stressed the importance of the real number of the special guards of the Parliament, dropping the unavailable names. The report indicated that the list of the guards' award contains 95 names including commanders and soldiers, though the real number is much less than that.

The Parliament discussed the internal affairs meeting in a live session in which a special committee, consisting of 113 members, was assigned to verify the aid amount given for the Parliament by the United Nations Program. The amount was estimated as US \$ one million and YR 200 million.

The committee was also assigned to draft the Parliament's remarks related to the way of employment in the Parliament as well as the frequent absence and early leave from the hall. It also discussed the transportation allowances allocated for the MPs as well as the negligence of the Presidential Body regarding following up the Parliament's recommendations to the government and the ways of implementing them.

However, the committee demanded the re-nomination of the Parliament's representatives in the contemporary Arab Parliamentary Union.

120 companies display their products in Apollo

SANA'A, Aug 7 — 120 local and international companies are currently showing their trades and products including electricity, power, agriculture, irrigation, in the exhibition of electricity and power 2007 staged in Expo Center in Sana'a during the period from 8 to 12 August, 2007.

O'mar Al-Nehmi, the marketing manager of the organizing company, said that the exhibition is periodically staged every two years. However, the exhibition is unique this year due to several reasons, especially the economic activities staged in Yemen such as the investment conference, which brought up positive results that encouraged international companies to enter the Yemeni markets.

The government also opened the space to invest in the field of electricity which encouraged power companies

such as Turkey to participate with 25 companies and Egypt in 15 companies in addition to a number of international companies directly or through their agencies.

Al-Nahmi also added that the exhibition is staged under the supervision of the Ministry of Electricity and Power, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Public Works, and Ministry of Water and Environment.

He invited all businessmen and companies working in that field to get benefit from the foreign participation and visit the exhibition to negotiate with them about the possibility to make a deal or agreement of trade agencies. So, the coordination will be done directly through the chambers of commerce and industry as well as Apollo Company for International exhibitions.

Researchers: True unity must ensure equal citizenship and rule of law

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Aug 6 — A number of researchers and activists came together earlier this month to discuss a daunting issue in Yemen politics: the Yemeni Unity and democracy. Dr. Mohammed Al-Dhahiri, Head of the Political Science Department in Sana'a University, discussed "the role of institutions in enhancing national unity". Al-Dhahiri stated that the Yemeni intellectuality is still fully inculcated with the culture of enormity and disregarding faults whether in the ruling party or in the opposition parties. Every party makes enormity of the other side's mistakes and also makes easy of its faults, he stated.

He also pinpointed that there is a decline and a contradiction in describing events. "The Yemeni unity is the dearest and most costly unification in the world though its new institutions are administered by old elite."

MP Ali A'shal talked about "Democratic Change and National Unity" he said that there is no complete definition of the meaning of democracy. He also pointed out that there are several democratic indicators with theatrical views, showing the lack of individual's sovereignty, referring to law, and rights.

"Despite these democratic indicators, the Yemeni parliament breaches laws and there is no reference to laws organizing the parliament's works," he asserted.

On the other hand, Tariq As-Shami, the chairperson of the Political Committee in the General People Congress, presented a paper reviewing the most important political changes in Yemen. He elaborated on the mechanisms of dealing with events in the Yemeni community, calling every citizen to have responsibility to maintain the unification as well as to stand against those who want to harm it.

As-Shami also affirmed that Yemen is suffering from the paucity of sources. "A third of the state's budget goes for

salaries, the second third is allocated for supporting oil's derivatives, and the last third is to fund investment projects," he mentioned.

However, Mohammed As-Sabri along with Khalid As-Saditi presented two work papers, focusing on the impacts reflected upon the unification due to the war of 1994, the Sa'da war, and the citizens' miserable conditions.

In the discussion, Al-Dhahiri discussed the price hikes as well as the increase of poor people and beggars. The Yemeni unification is in jeopardy due to the lack of modern institutions, and popularizing the political life, commented: the lack of modern institutions is the key reason behind the spread of corruption and price hikes."

He went on to say that the role of the parliament is ignored and the executive power plays a decisive role in the country. He also questioned the reality of implementing issued laws, urging the ruling party to stop misusing the Yemeni body as well as politicizing it by weakening the role of tribal establishments without finding modern institutions.

A'shal also discussed issues related to human rights and freedoms. He said that rights and freedoms suffer due to deterioration; there are unofficial prisons and freedom of press is violated. The executive power has an influence upon judiciary. He continued to say that there is no true and good intention to reform the electoral system.

"The national unity was been crystallized and formed under all-inclusive systems that neglect the principles of equal citizenship and do not divide the source equally between citizens of the same country," he maintained.

The seminar was organized by Al-A'smah newspaper held a political seminar under the title of "National Unity, Challenges and Risks" last week, in the capital city of Sana'a. In the activity a number of work papers were presented by academic figures, MPs, and politicians to discuss the obstacles as well as risks facing the national unity.

Water and Environment Minister

A plastic layer will cover Yemen in one century

SANA'A, Aug. 8 — Water and Environment Minister, Abdurrahman Fadhil Al-Eryani, cautioned of the dangers of the spread of plastic bags in Yemen. "There is unconsciousness of the environmental and medical disadvantages of the spread of these plastic bags" he pointed out.

The Minister also announced many assumptions of one of the researchers, which confirmed that if the people continue dealing with the plastic bags like today, Yemen would be covered by a

plastic layer in a century.

He showed his sorry for the environmental pollution caused by the spread of plastic bags, indicating that there is a "Mafia" which works on making the plastic products in the hands of citizens, especially Qat Sellers who prefer to use these bags.

Additionally, the Minister, who participated in the opening of Ibb's Fifth Tourist Festival, urged the people of the governorate to take this matter seriously for the sake of their surroundings.

He also called for getting rid of the unused plastic bags during the coming three years. Further, he mentioned that it is not a civilized behavior when tourists visit the country and see plastic bags here and there.

"For a traveler the main visual flaw in the beauty of Yemen is plastic bags" the Minister elaborated. "Light-weighted pink, yellow, and blue plastic bags carpet streets and color hills. So, whatever the beauty seductions of Yemen, the traveler will not come back" he emphasized.

Ten out of 62 discriminating articles to be amended

SANA'A, Aug 8 — Under the patronage of his Excellency Dr. Ali Mugawar, the Council of Ministers has approved last Tuesday the amendments projects of ten laws out of 62 laws concerning the Yemeni woman as a step to eradicate legislative discrimination. The amendment projects for ten laws were forwarded to the parliament to start the debate and complete constitutional procedures.

These Laws include the Pleadings and Civil Implementation Law, Diplomatic Law, Personal Status Law, Labor Law, Police and the Organization of Prisons Law, Insurance, Pension, and Social Insurance Laws, Civil Laws, and the Crime and Penalty Law. The articles that are in the amendment project are:

- Article No (97) of Law No (40) for 2002 for the Pleadings and Civil Implementation.
- Article No (90) of Law No (2) for 1991, on the Diplomatic and consular corps.
- Article No (7), (11), (12), (14), (76), (87), (262) of Law No (20) for 1992, on the Personal Status Law.

- Article No (45) and No (47) of Law No (5) for 1995, on the Labor Law.
- Article No (158) of Law No (15) for 2000, on Police Authority.
- Article No (32) of Law No (48) for 1991, on the Organization of prisons.
- Article No (20) of Law No (25) for 1991, on Insurance and Pensions.
- Article No (2) and Item No (1) paragraph (A) of Article No (57) of Law No (26) for 1991, on Social Insurance.
- Article No (61) of Law (14) for 2002, on Civil Law.
- Article No (42), (232), and (278) of Law No (12) for 1994, on Crimes and Penalties.

Amal Al-Basha, Chairwoman of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF), stated exclusively to the Yemen Times that we should first evaluate how these 10 articles will affect women's lives. She added "however, approving 10 articles out of 62, shows how uncommitted the government is to eradicate discrimination against women, which is also a clear breach to the President's Program which had many promises for women to

be met in its first year of implementation".

The Women National Committee (WNC) which is the governmental body that is concerned with women's issues expressed their appreciation to this positive step. Hooria Mashour, Vice-Chairwoman of WNC stated to Yemen Times that this is a positive step that is appreciated by the WNC. She further added "however, we expected that the whole package of the 62 that the WNC presented to the Council would have been approved, additionally, we hope that the parliament assent and approve the 10 laws that were forwarded to them. She also expressed the WNC's determination to work on approving the other remaining laws.

It is important to note that important amendments to the laws of Nationality, as well as, the determination of Marriage Age, and the Quota system in the election law and political parties formation laws which are set to make major improvements in the development of Yemeni women were not approved.

UNDP offers \$ 4 million to Eliminate Mines

SANA'A, Aug 6 — Yemen and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed last Thursday an agreement to fund the third stage of landmines survey project, which will cost as much as \$4.3 million.

The cost-sharing agreement of the third phase of Mine Action project was signed yesterday by the Government of Yemen represented by the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC), with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The UNDP will grant Yemen with \$ 1 million dollar to carry out the third phase of the project, which will start soon, so as to eliminate the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Accordingly, the Government of Yemen will contribute with USD 300,000 to the Mine Action project. Worth-mentioning, the estimated total budget of the project is USD 6,000,000, some of which has been allocated through UNDP's contribution of USD 1,000,000. Also, the European Union is expected to contribute with Euro 2,000,000, while the remaining amount will be mobilized by UNDP. The duration of the project is for two and a half years.

The overall goal of the project is to assist the Government of Yemen to

effectively deal with humanitarian and development problems of mines and fulfill Yemen's obligations under the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Treaty.

According to a press release issued by UNDP that the project will support Yemen to eliminate the impact from landmines as well as the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and to successfully integrate mine and ERW survivors in their communities.

In addition, the project will capitalize on capacities created during earlier phases and will further strengthen them. It will also support the Government of Yemen to successfully implement the priorities identified in the National Mine Action and Strategy Plan, through eliminating landmine impacts by 2009, addressing the needs of the mine victims, integrating them into the society and economy, enhancing mine risk education, and supporting community development in mine affected areas.

Since Yemen was the first country in the region to ratify the Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines, Yemeni Government represented by Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established Mine Action Support

Project (YEM/98/002), in the year 1999.

In two different phases – phase I 1999-2003, followed by phase II – the project made several achievements in this field, such as clearing all high, medium, and low impacted communities, building capacities, raising awareness of the public, establishing YEMAC, and providing institutional support.

According to Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) that was carried out in Yemen during the year 2000, a total of 592 communities were identified impacted by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW, 14 of which, with a population of 36,000, were found highly impacted. The rest of communities, with a population of 731,400, were considered either medium or low impacted.

The LIS also recognized an estimated number of casualties as high as 5000 over the past 10 years, large numbers of which are believed to be women and children. Far from the humanitarian destructive aspect of landmines, they can be considered a barrier to the economic growth in Yemen because the impacted agricultural lands are blocked and so are the impacted irrigation sources.

MWF publishes second analytic report on women's violated rights

By: Almigdad Daresh Mojali

SANA'A, Aug 7 — Media Women Forum held their second conference related to a project monitoring the Yemeni women's rights movement in 18 governorates on Sunday, August 5. The project aims to monitor the positive and negative changes made in regard to the rights of women and how social, political, economic and cultural attitudes regarding women have changed.

The project's sample group consisted of 554 women whose rights were violated. The sampled women were divided into groups of 30 in each of the 18 governorates, except for Sa'ada, which included 40 cases (7.2 percent), Taiz and Al-Mahweet where the cases were 32 each (5.8 percent), Amran with 31 cases (5.6 percent) and Ibb with 29 cases (5.2 percent).

The results will be issued in periodical reports to clarify the changes on the level of each of the 18 Yemeni governorates that are being monitored. This process depends on the investigative skills of 18 researchers from within the 18 different regions. The monitoring process also will include what has been published about women on websites and in Yemeni newspapers.

Field, web and newspapers reports aim to transfer a side of Yemeni women's experience to concerned individuals and organizations internationally, regionally and locally, especially those whose work is related to women's issues, human rights and democracy. Also, these reports represent an active step in personalizing Yemeni women's political, social and economic reality in an attempt to discard the negative aspects and retain programs that are improving their situation.

The report revealed that married women (247 of sampled) have the highest rate of rights violations (44.6 percent), followed by single women (203 of sampled) with 36.6 percent, divorced women (66 of sampled) with 11.9 percent and widowed women (36 of sampled) with 6.5 percent.

In regards to age, the report showed that women 25-34 years old were subjected to more violations than others, with 218 cases (39.4 percent), followed by 24-18 year olds with 136 cases (29.4 percent), 35-44 year olds with 84 cases (15.2 percent), 10-17 year olds with 42 cases (6.7 percent) and 45-49 year olds with 34 cases (6.1 percent). Children aged 0-5 and 6-9 had the lowest percentage of violations (4 percent), with 2 cases reported for each group. Women age 60 and over reported 6 cases of violations (1.1 percent). The study also indicated that three violated females (0.5 percent) refused to reveal their real age.

Based on the sampled women's professions, housewives represented the highest violation rate (42.2 percent) with 234 cases. Students followed with 101 cases (18.2 percent), then farmers



Reasons for women's rights violations stem from the society's culture and poor awareness of a woman's significance and respect for her status within her community.

with 53 cases (9.6 percent). The unemployed reported 46 cases (8.3 percent), followed by teachers with 22 cases (0.4 percent) and nurses with 45 cases (8.1 percent). Street vendors identified 7 cases (1.3 percent) and doctors 18 cases (3.2 percent). The report also showed that the violated women who refused to answer questions were 23 (4.2 percent).

In terms of violated women's education, it is noted that the illiterate were subjected to abuse more than other groups with 149 cases (26.9 percent) followed by secondary school students and college graduates, which were equal with 117 cases (21.1 percent). Primary schools pupils reported 55 cases (9.9 percent), basic education 44 cases (7.9 percent), preparatory school students 39 cases (7 percent), high school graduates 21 cases (3.8 percent), post-preparatory school graduates 5 cases (0.9 percent) and M.A. students with 0.4 percent of cases. Ph.D holders had the lowest amount of cases with one report of abuse (0.2 percent). The abused who refused to answer questions were 4 (0.7 percent).

As for abused women's health there were 70 cases of sick women (21.6 percent) and 10 cases of disabled. Violated women with good health formed 473 cases (85.4 percent).

The styles and forms of women's rights violations varied from objective violation, dignity, physical and psychological violations. The cases in these categories were 89 (15.5 percent). Forcing girls to marry prematurely, resulting in dire psychological, health and social complications represented 62 cases (11.2 percent). Other rights that were violated included a girl's right to

choose her husband with 93 cases (16.8 percent), the right to make birth decisions, which could be necessary sometimes in order to avoid health and psychological damages, with 29 cases (5.2 percent). Also, the right to work after marriage came in with 29 cases (5.2 percent). According to the report, violators of women's rights are mostly non-family members with 416 cases (75.1 percent), while the violators from within the family constituted 138 cases (24.9 percent).

The violations in terms of type were: physical with 115 cases (20.8 percent), verbal with 152 cases (27.4 percent), deprivation of rights with 364 cases (65.7 percent) and sexual harassment with 15 cases (2.5 percent).

Male inclination to dominate and always be in command is characteristic of a culture that looks down on women and their abilities in favor of men. Reported cases of such domination were 225 (40.6 percent). The second reason reported was social with 206 cases (37.2 percent) followed by financial and economic reasons. Bad economic conditions could cause damaging effects to the society because they create bad patterns of behavior that are too intense for people to handle. This was the case with 118 cases (21.3 percent) followed by cultural reasons according to 115 cases (20.8 percent).

According to abused women, the reasons for women's rights violations stem from the society's culture and poor awareness of a woman's significance and respect for her status within her community. Therefore, the greater society's awareness is of a woman's significance and active role, the higher her respect will be in that society.

Continued from page 1

Black list released of press freedom suppressors in Yemen

Additional data was collected from international reports issued by the Committee to Protect Journalists, Without Borders Correspondents, Amnesty International and the U.S. Department of State.

Without Chains chairperson Tawakel Karman noted that impartiality and objectivity was exercised during preparation of the list, stressing that there exists a number of violations committed by more than one party at once.

"We can put into account that those who bullied journalist Jammal Amer were boarding a car with army plates, while his requests to the Interior Ministry to investigate the perpetrators found no response. Further, National and Political Security Apparatuses remained silent and they are accused of being behind the operation. Thus, we can deduce that four state institutions are responsible for bullying Amer," clarified Karman.

Karman added that the Interior Ministry did not act as required, especially when dealing with those responsible for violations against journalists. Further, violations have been committed by institutions belonging to the ministry. Regarding violations committed by the Information Ministry, Karman pointed out such violations are committed in collaboration with National Security, especially when banning the issuance of a new paper. "We have evidence that steps for granting licenses start from the National Security and end there," Karman stated.

She also noted the list was not made in an act of vengeance; rather it aims at restricting violations against press by shedding light on parties responsible for violating press freedom. She further called for conducting strategic reforms in state institutions responsible for violations in a way that complies with the law and constitution.

Additionally, Karman called those individuals responsible for violations to abandon such acts and announce their repentance, hinting the black list will be

prepared annually and timed with publication of her organization's annual report.

Parliament member Aidrous Al-Naqib, in his speech, criticized the way in which authorities deal with peaceful demonstrations as evidenced by the Freedom Square incident.

First Deputy Chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Sa'eed Thabet assured that possessing media outlets is a constitutional right and condemned Yemeni officials for their failure to understand the current era's demands.

"We are in the age when everything has changed and they have to know that we have changed. Our demands will continue until citizens are allowed to possess private media outlets."

Despite reported clashes, mediation efforts continue

Meanwhile, the report mentioned that the International Committee assisted over 23,000 displaced people living in camps located on the Yemeni-Saudi border, noting that the committee distributed 965 tents, 6,307 mattresses and 25,590 blankets.

"The armed clashes caused over 5,000 families to leave their homes, while other families preferred to remain in their villages to defend their houses and property," the report mentioned.

It added that conditions were worsened by strong winds, rain and heat as well as the increase of food and fuel prices. Further, accessing food is a problem for those whose movement is restricted by fighting.

Accessing health services also became difficult as those working in the medical field were unable to reach areas affected by the conflict. The report stressed that international law binds warring parties to protect those who do not take part in war acts and prohibits destroying provisions required to sustain human life.

A source close to the mediation committee told the media that the committee is continuing its meetings in Sana'a to discuss the scheduled implementation

of remaining articles of the Sa'ada ceasefire agreement, hinting that local authorities set a 10-day deadline for implementing the remaining articles while Houthis set a 23-day deadline for the implementation.

The source further revealed that the Houthis schedule includes a withdrawal from all sites and mountains they seized, except Al-Naq'ah and Matarah.


Additionally, the source pinpointed that the army is to continue its evacuation of villages and farms belonging to Houthis according to the signed agreement, but the evacuation has been slow-occurring, thus delaying full implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Viewed as partial treatment, President Saleh orders reinstatement of pensioners

A laid-off pensioner, who declined to mention his name, pointed out that pensioners want the state to solve all issues and fulfill all of their demands at once and not over different phases.

He added that the reinstatement of a few pensioners is not sufficient and the announced raise of salaries is modest when compared with the current price hikes of foodstuff.

Moreover, he asked that the state secure residences, health services and free education for all pensioners. "We want to lead a decent life... and we do not want the state to turn a deaf ear to our demands, because we sacrificed our youth and lives for the sake of the country," he stated



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
SANA'A
INDEPENDENCE DAY 2007**


The Embassy of India, Sana'a cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of 61st Independence Day of India on Wednesday, the 15th August, 2007 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy by 0900 hours.

PROGRAMME

0915 Hours - Flag Hoisting
- National anthem
- Reading of the President's Address
- Patriotic Songs/ Cultural Events organized by the Indian Embassy School, Sana'a.
- Refreshments.

To all members of Indian Community in the Republic of Yemen

PS: (i) The recipient of this circular may kindly circulate the information to other Members of the Indian community known to him/her.
(ii) It is requested that cameras/Mobile/bags etc. should not be brought inside the premises. Otherwise these will be kept at Checking-point at owner's risk.



Vacancy Advertisement

An immediate vacancy exists at the World Bank Office in Sana'a for a **Program Assistant**.


The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Have two-five years of office work experience including administrative and logistical support.
- Have excellent command of verbal and written Arabic and English.
- Have computer aptitude and proficiency with internet including ability to retrieve information from various sources.
- Have excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
- Be a committed team player able to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure and multi-task.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Provide primarily assistance to the implementation of the unit's work program including some specialized support, including filing both electronically and hard copies, editorial assistance, basic interpretation/translation etc.
- Independently prepare correspondence and working documents and proofread materials using proper grammar, punctuation and style in Arabic and English.
- Use computer applications for processing and formatting variety of texts including charts, graphs and spreadsheets.
- Coordinate schedules and assist in preparation of events and activities.
- Participate in developing project/product timelines and participate in mission work as required including field activities
- Interact with different clients including government officials, external organizations and internal institutional units.

For full consideration, please send by e-mail your letter of application accompanied by the CV before August 20, 2007 to WBYemen@worldbank.org



**Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) Yemen Ltd.
Invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions
with its office in Sana'a.**

**RECEPTIONIST
QUALIFICATION/EXPERIENCE**

- 3+ years working experience as a receptionist
- Good computer skills to use MS word, Excel etc.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skill
- Fluent in speaking and writing English

**ASSISTANT FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
QUALIFICATION/EXPERIENCE**

- 3+ years working experience in administration
- Positive attitude to carry out public relations
- Good computer skills to use MS word excel etc.
- excellent communication and interpersonal skill
- Fluent in speaking and writing English

**ACCOUNTANT
QUALIFICATION/EXPERIENCE**

- University degree in accounting
- 5+ years working experience as an accountant
- Enough knowledge to make financial statement
- Good computer skills to use accounting S/W.
- Fluent in speaking and writing English

**OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR
QUALIFICATION/EXPERIENCE**

- University degree in related field
- 5+ years working experience to support general operation of G&G and Engineering
- Positive attitude to carry our public relations
- Fluent in speaking and writing English

Candidates are required to forward their detail CV with a colour picture to the P.O.Box 16995 before 15th August 2007. Only short list will be contacted.



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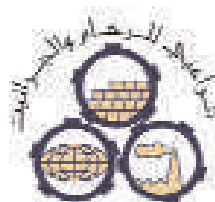
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الثقورة



و كافة العاملين بالوزارت السابقة و مجلس الترويج السياحي
والى جميع الرعاة الرئيسيون والاعلاميون والمشاركون في
المهرجان الكذي لن يحد من ذاكرة الجميع



YEMEN TIMES



Morgham: Yemen post is a continuous development various and distinguished services

Post and Postal Saving Corp exerts exceptional efforts to provide quality service, aiming to keep pace with new developments in order to rival commercial banks. Currently, post offices are not only meant to send and receive mail, but also are places where all electronic and official services are offered. Ismail Al-Ghabri from Yemen Times met with Mohammed Ali Morgham, General director of the Post and Postal Saving Corp, in order to get a closer look into the developments and services available through Morgham's agency.



Eng. Mohammed Ali Morgham (General Director)

Interviewed by: Ismail Al-Ghabri

YT: When was the Post and Postal Saving Corp established?

Post and Postal Saving Corp was established according to law No. 64 of 1991, which granted the authority the full right to provide all postal and financial services in Yemen.

YT: What are the services provided by your authority?

The authority provides different postal and financial services that fulfill the needs of the customers and state. We are working in upgrading and developing new services through a wide web linked together across the republic. The authority provides distinctive services including postal

saving, money remittances, paying the salaries of the pensioners, collecting the bills of electricity, phones and water, sending and receiving posts and mails. We are always introducing new services to keep pace with the developments in this sector.

YT: How do you view the developments and the services provided?

Our authority tries to improve the quality of its services and in 1994 the authority constructed a web that links the general administration with all post offices across the republic and thus services can be provided fast within no time. Such a web helped facilitate the measures and contain the increasing number of customers.

YT: Since Yemen's unification, what are measures you followed to establish unified postal and financial services and what are the achievements?

In line with the new reality, we have tried to stretch our services to all areas across Yemen. Training centers were established in Sana'a and Aden to qualify employees to provide the best services to the clients.

The Ministry of Telecommunications, in collaboration with German experts, has undertaken technical studies for the authority's building and also established centers in different Yemeni areas to facilitate the exchange of information between them.

It also furnished these centers with the required equipment that ensures

safe and regular work.

YT: Would you please brief us on the authority's expansion of activities?

Due to the increased activities of the authority, we worked on modernizing and increasing the volume of postal and financial services. The web was designed to contain any potential expansion and it holds all post offices together with electricity, telecommunications, water, etc. More than that, all transactions are made in safe ways.

YT: What is the percentage of profits given to depositors within the postal saving service in 2006?

The amounts granted to depositors during 2006 reached YR 801 million against YR 585 million distributed in 2005. The Saving Fund achieved a profit margin of 12.5 percent in 2006 after it was 12 percent in 2005.

The total number of deposits reached YR 14,653,219,537 during 2006, compared with YR 11,400,255,473 in 2005 and the total number of customer accounts rose to 266,657 with an increase of 23.23 percent.

Depositor balances rose to 26.29 percent in 2006 and the investments also reached 16.52 percent. Now, the total number of post offices reached 169. The authority also managed to receive around YR 1.2 billion in support from the state.

The authority will also launch ATM service by the last quarter of 2007.

How do you see your receiving of the Bronze Prize by Universal Postal Union?

Without doubt, receiving this prize is recognition of Yemeni post authority's achievements and a motive for further success in the future.



Building of Post

YT: Will there be new post stamps this year?

The supreme committee affiliated with the authority approved issuing

seven new stamps and they will be distributed in markets soon. These stamps reflect the Yemeni environment and some archeological attractions.



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معرض الكهرباء والطاقة والزراعة والري والبناء والتشييد والمقاولات

12-8 أغسطس 2007

من أبولو للمعارض الدولية فقط

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بمشاركة الجناح المصري

فرص جديدة

شركات عالمية تطلب وكلاء في اليمن

- من أجل تطوير المجتمع والتحديث المستمر في أداءه.
- المقاولين المهتمين بتطوير أعمالهم وتحديث كفاءاتهم.
- للعاملين في مجال الكهرباء والطاقة والبناء والتشييد.
- للعاملين في مجال الزراعة والري وتحلية المياه والحضر والتنقيب.
- لمن يريد الوصول إلى أفضل الشركات العالمية والعربية التي تبحث عن وكلاء لهم في اليمن.
- نحن نوفر عليك عناء السفر وتكاليفه ونجمعك بهم في

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قطاع الزراعة والري
حراشات - جرافات - حصادات - وسائل ري - مدخلات زراعية - معدات زراعية أخرى - شبكات ري

قطاع البناء والتشييد والمقاولات
معدات بناء ثقيلة - مستلزمات بناء - طلاء - سراميك - رخام - شركات مقاولات عامة - مقاولات طرق وجسور - شركات مقاولات هندسية

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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
National Water Resources Authority - Sana'a Branch (NWRA / SB)
SANA'A BASIN MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management project (SBWMP) and it is intended that portion of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of the project management. Now the project Coordination unit (PCU) invites qualified and experienced local specialists to apply for the following post:-

Procurement Specialist

The procurement Specialist will be a member of the PCU core staff of the SBWMP and shall report to the PCU Director. He/ She will perform without being limited to the following tasks and responsibilities:

- Responsible of all procurement activities in the project such as goods works and consultant services ensuring that established procurement guidelines of the Government and IDA are complied with.
- Develop coordinate and implement a comprehensive procurement plan for the whole SBWMP period, such plan shall be deal out annually and updated on regular quarterly basis
- Work with PCU staff and relevant Ministerial Department specialists to prepare and revise the different bidding documents of works and goods call for Expressions of interest and RFPs consultancy services staff recruitment notices and obtaining the necessary clearance from IDA and ensure their safe keeping and recording.
- Preparation of the Terms of Reference(TOR) the different consultancy services required by the project .
- Responsible of contract management and maintaining of proper records of all relevant procurement documentation as well as developing well - defined management reporting tools to manage and monitor procurement activities and reporting system review and endorse payment certificates of related contracts
- Participate in the PCU team in clearing procured items through customs and arrangements for the transport and supervise their custody.
- Support assist and train procurement Officers reporting to the PCU to apply procurement guidelines of the public sector as well as IDA.
- Preparing and updating the annual budget of procurement under the project .
- Provide inputs into the project annual work program and budget .
- Participate in bid evaluation committees for the selection of contractors.
- Participate in the preparation of the quarterly progress reports concerning procurement matters .
- Liaise with other similar projects and units and relevant Government Authorities.

Qualifications and Experience:-

- University degree in Business Administration, Commerce, Law, Economics, engineering, or related fields
- Five years professional experience in procurement operations, of which at least three with IDA Financed Projects
- Working knowledge of English, and Arabic
- Competent in using computers and relevant supporting software.

Duration of assignment:-

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contracts will be offered thereafter. Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP, 60 Street, Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax(00967-1-469158) E-mail (Saldubby@yemen.net.ye) Latest Date is (August 20th, 2007)

Announcement

Tender No. 100/2007 400MW Gas Power station Extend the deadline for submission of tenders for the second and last time

The Public Electricity (PEC) Announced to the Internationally qualified, specialized and experienced tenders who will participate in the tender No 100/2007 to extend the deadline for submission of tenders, qualification documents and bidding opening date tell Wednesday 12 september 2007, instead of 13 august 2007, at 11 a.m. local time, the Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of those Tenders representatives who choose to attend.

إعلان

تمديد فتح مظاريف المناقصة رقم (١٠٠/٢٠٠٧م) الخاصة بمحطة مآرب الغازية المرحلة الثانية للمرة الثانية والأخيرة

تعلم المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء للشركات العالمية المتخصصة والداخلية في المناقصة رقم (١٠٠/٢٠٠٧م) بأن موعد تسليم العطاءات مع وثائق التأهيل وفتح المظاريف قد تأجل من يوم الاثنين الموافق ١٣/أغسطس/٢٠٠٧م إلى يوم الأربعاء الموافق ١٢/سبتمبر/٢٠٠٧م الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً بالتوقيت المحلي وسيتم الفتح بحضور مندوبي الشركات المتقدمة للمناقصة المذكورة.

Sudan unhappy at some Darfur rebel demands

By: Opheera McDoom

KHARTOUM (Reuters) — Sudan's government is not enthusiastic about some elements of a joint Darfur rebel negotiating platform agreed during U.N. and African Union mediated talks, U.N. Darfur envoy Jan Eliasson said on Tuesday.

Eliasson and his AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim, in an effort to reignite peace efforts, brought many Darfur commanders and groups together for unity talks in Arusha early this week.

They emerged from the meeting in Tanzania with a common platform, including agreement on land issues, power and wealth-sharing ahead of proposed talks with the government.

But Eliasson told reporters after meeting Foreign Ministry officials in Khartoum: "Not all of the points of course are met with great enthusiasm, but it is a basis."

Khartoum says a Darfur peace deal it signed with one of three rebel negotiating factions in May 2006 should not be reopened to address the concerns of rebels, who have since split into more than a dozen factions.

"The government does not want to have a renegotiation of the DPA (Darfur Peace Agreement) so this is a matter we will discuss both with the government and with the non-signatories — how will we finalise the final agenda," Eliasson added.

He said the U.N.-AU team would try to bring government and rebel positions together in the coming weeks to reach a final agenda for talks, due to begin in about two months.

Senior Foreign Ministry official Mutrif Siddig said the government welcomed the Arusha talks, but was disappointed not all the factions were present and that the original timeline, which had envisaged peace talks beginning by August, was lost.

Legitimacy

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been driven from their homes during more than four years of rape, murder, disease and looting in Darfur, violence Washington calls genocide.

European governments are reluctant to use the term, which Khartoum rejects. Sudan puts the death toll at 9,000.

The International Criminal Court in The Hague has issued arrest warrants on war crimes charges against a government minister and a militia leader.

On Tuesday ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said Khartoum must hand over the suspects.

"Sudan cannot be a pariah country. They know it is important. The gov-

ernment needs legitimacy, so they will respect the law," Moreno-Ocampo told Reuters in Australia.

Sudan says the ICC has no authority in Darfur.

After months of talks, threats and negotiations, the government finally agreed to a joint U.N.-AU 26,000-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur, but said most of the troops should come from Africa.

But Zambia said on Tuesday the continent could not muster enough soldiers to complete the mission and international troops would have to be found from other areas.

"We don't have the means," Foreign Minister Mundia Sikatana told Reuters during a meeting in Malaysia. "Immediately Africa has no capacity to deal with the situation in Darfur."

Andrew Natsios, U.S. special envoy on Sudan, concurred. "We are going to try to recruit from Africa but it is very clear from already talking to African leaders and military that there are not enough African troops that are trained in peacekeeping operations to make up this force."

"I think there is an understanding from the Sudanese government that we are going to have to go outside of Africa. This is a sensitive issue," he told reporters.

The United Nations says the joint force must deploy alongside a renewed political process, as they must have a peace to keep. Assistant secretary-general in peacekeeping Jane Holl Lute said on Tuesday the U.N. was meeting the objective of a predominantly African force.

Rebel absences

Analysts said the Arusha meeting's chance of success was hampered by the absence of some important rebel figures, but nonetheless succeeded in boosting unity which has been a major hindrance to talks with the government.

Among those who did not attend was Suleiman Jamous, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) humanitarian coordinator who is seen by experts as key to any lasting peace.

He has been hospitalised outside Darfur and risks arrest if he returns. On Tuesday the government said it would lift that threat if the international community guaranteed he would not rejoin armed groups in Darfur.

Eliasson said a seat at any future talks was also available for Darfur SLA leader and founder Abdel Wahed Mohamed el-Nur, who refuses any talks until an oil-for-food programme and no-fly zone is in place in Sudan's remote west.

Nur has few troops on the ground but commands huge popular support among Darfur's largest tribe, the Fur.

Hunger and disease stalk India flood children

By: Kamil Zaheer

BOCHAHA, India (Reuters) — Millions of malnourished Indian children are vulnerable to disease after South Asia's worst floods in years, officials and aid groups said on Wednesday, calling for urgent assistance. Hundreds of UNICEF workers rushed to immunise and supply rehydration fluid sachets to children in the worst-hit and impoverished eastern state of Bihar, where millions are stranded on embankments or living in primitive shelters on highways. They are exposed to sweltering temperatures, sudden downpours and filthy conditions, making them sitting ducks for infections, aid workers said. Hundreds of cases of diarrhoea are already being reported among children. The latest bout of monsoon flooding which began about three weeks ago is said to be the worst in living memory in parts of Bihar. It has affected about 30 million people across India, 10 million of them in densely populated Bihar alone. Another 20 million people in neighbouring Bangladesh are coping with flood waters that have swamped more than half of the low-lying, riverine nation. In Bihar, children were seen running down embankments to grab food sacks dropped by occasional helicopter sorties. But they lost out to the adults and often returned empty-handed and bewildered as the aircraft pulls away. "In the big scramble for relief, kids and women are not prioritised and we need to focus on them, especially where malnutrition is high," said Marzio Babilie, head of health for UNICEF in India. Five-year-old Kanti Kumari sat outside a makeshift shelter of bamboo canes and a black plastic sheet and wished she could go back to her sturdier thatched home, seen submerged in the distance in Bochaha village. "My ear hurts," said the skinny girl whose face was smudged with dirt. "I feel hungry often." Her mother Sheila Devi said no doctor or health worker had visited her family of six daughters and rickshaw-puller husband, despite the fact they lived by the side of a pot-



Children travel by boat through the flooded village of Brahmangaon at Lauhajang, 70km from the capital Dhaka, August 6. Millions of malnourished Indian children are vulnerable to disease after South Asia's worst floods in years, officials and aid groups said on Wednesday, calling for urgent assistance. REUTERS/Rafiqur Rahman

holed national highway where trucks regularly ply. Neither has the family received food, and school is not even an option. "They barely can get anything to eat. How can we even think of school," said Devi, holding her two-month old baby whose face was marked by rashes.

"Endless wait for help"

About 540 people have been killed in the floods, including 192 in Bangladesh which reported 28 new deaths on Wednesday, mostly by drowning, disease and snakebites.

More than 50,000 people were suffering from diarrhoea in the flood-hit districts of Bangladesh and many more were sick with other waterborne diseases, authorities said. More than 400,000 people had taken shelter in relief centres.

"We hate to sit idle or rely on doles

for a living. But the cruel floods have made us jobless," said Fahima Begum of Jasaldia village, about an hour by road from the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka.

Her rickshaw-puller husband has been without work for 10 days since their village was inundated, pushing them to the brink of starvation.

"I am trying to keep my children alive, at least," Fahima said as her son and two daughters sipped a potful of gruel.

Residents said they were yet to receive help.

"Everyday we hear someone will come with something. But at the end of day, no one turns up," said 60-year-old Jarina Begum.

India's Bihar, home to about 90 million people, is one of the country's poorest and most lawless states. Nearly

60 percent of its young children are malnourished, far higher than the 46 percent average nationally.

Officials said caring for millions of flood-hit children was daunting as hundreds of primary health centres (PHCs) — the first point of healthcare in rural India — had been flooded.

UNICEF said millions could fall sick with malaria, dengue fever and other diseases if authorities did not bring food and medicine within days to those stranded.

Although officials said they had stocked rehydration fluid sachets and anti-diarrhoea medicines in PHCs in anticipation of floods, they did not expect such a deluge, which many say is the worst inundation in memory.

"We were prepared, but not to the extent required," Bihar Health Secretary Deepak Kumar told Reuters.

Curfew for Shi'ite festival begins early in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — A three-day curfew, meant to protect Shi'ite pilgrims gathering for a major religious festival, began across Baghdad on Wednesday hours earlier than previously announced, police said.

Baghdad's chief military spokesman, Brigadier-General Qassim Moussawi, had said the vehicle ban would begin at 10 p.m. (7 p.m. British time) on Wednesday but it was instead enforced from early Wednesday morning.

Moussawi's office could not be reached for comment.

Central Baghdad's normally bustling streets were quiet, with no cars on the roads and many shops shut as residents stayed home from work.

The early start to the curfew surprised many residents, who had planned to do

last-minute grocery shopping before the announced start time.

Moussawi said on Tuesday the curfew would end at 5 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Saturday.

It took effect from Tuesday night in Baghdad's northern district of Kadhimiya, where thousands of pilgrims are expected to converge on the shrine of Imam Musa Kadhim in the next few days.

Nearly 1,000 Shi'ite pilgrims were killed in a stampede during the ceremony in 2005 when a crowd heading towards the shrine was panicked by rumours of a suicide bomber.

It was the greatest loss of Iraqi life in a single incident since the U.S.-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003.



Iraqi women and children sit and watch as U.S. soldiers from the 2nd battalion, 32nd Field Artillery brigade raid their home in Baghdad August 8, 2007. A three-day curfew, meant to protect Shi'ite pilgrims gathering for a major religious festival, began across Baghdad on Wednesday hours earlier than previously announced, police said. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following positions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: National UNV – Interpreter / Fieldworker


Responsibilities:
Under the direct supervision of the Associate Protection Officer, in the Branch-Office Sana'a, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:-

- Interpretation and translation during refugee status determination from Somali/Arabic/English, counseling and resettlement interviews at UNHCR Sana'a;
- Interpretation and translation between UNHCR Sana'a staff and refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern to UNHCR within the UNHCR premises;
- Interpretation and translation from newspapers, written reports, magazines etc.;
- Interpretation of oral conversations, discussions and interviews during meetings with refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern to the UNHCR;
- Interpretation and translation between protection staff and refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern to the UNHCR during field trips;
- Interpretation and translation of letters and documents received from the refugees, asylum seekers or others of concerns;
- Undertaking other tasks as directed by the supervisor

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary education.
- Excellent knowledge of Somali, Arabic and English.
- Knowledge of other regional languages is an asset.
- Minimum of two years of experience in the field of interpretation.
- Computer literacy.
- Flexibility in responding to additional requirements.
- Strong commitment to volunteerism as a tool to achieve sustainable Development.

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to mushtaq.al-saqqaf@undp.org
For more information on UNV Programme, please visit <http://www.unyemen.org/unv/>
UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.
Deadline for receiving applications is 15 August 2007.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position.

Post Title: Local Security Assistant
Responsibilities:

- Serves as primary security assistant to the UN Security Officer;
- Liaises and coordinates with local government security organizations;
- Maintains the Country Security Plan, including updating the staff list;
- Maintains Minimum Operations Security Standards for equipment;
- Maintains Office security;
- Acts as translator/interpreter;
- Assists in the preparation of security reports;
- Liaises with mid and high level police and political security officials;
- Performs occasional in-country travel;
- Assists in the conduct of investigations;
- Serves as chief warden for UN national staff;
- Performs close liaison with UN agencies;
- Collects information of security relevance;
- Maintains security computer database;
- Assists UN Security Officer in the preparation of classes;
- Inspects and writes assessments on guard performance;
- Assists in preparation for security related meetings;
- Assists in development of the UN Security Plan;
- Works closely with security administration;
- Performs various other related security tasks;
- Any other matters, as required by the Chief Security Advisor or Designated Official.

Conditions

- On call 24 hours a day in the event of emergencies.
- Subject to working unusual hours, as the security situation dictates.
- May be called upon to perform duties in hazardous circumstances.

Qualification:

- University degree.
- Military or Police experience (essential).
- Completely proficient in both spoken and written Arabic and English languages.
- Completely computer literate – familiar with most major soft-wares.
- In possession of a valid driving license – 4X4 and sedan.
- Capable of dealing successfully with confidential information.
- Use of Radio Communications (preferable)

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ve/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed terms of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates
UNDP, P.O. Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: hr.ve@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 22 August 2007
UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Social citizenship and Joint Meeting Parties' initiative

By: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih

The Joint Meeting Parties' initiative regarding the comprehensive political and national reforms, which was announced late in 2005, has not originated from the vacuum. Instead, it emerged at a time when equal citizenship was absent along with its political dimensions. Citizens' rights to participate in politics and enjoy their citizenship rights and public freedoms, as well as to play an effective role in the political process were highlighted. As it is difficult for one to make a distinction between the political, economic, and social reasons that led to formulating the JMP's initiative for carrying out comprehensive political reforms, this article focuses on the social reasons or the so-called 'absence of equal citizenship', which represents the requisite or essential condition – even if it is not enough – to help people enjoy equal political rights and freedoms.

By the equal social citizenship we mean that any individual should enjoy all the social rights related with the different aspects of living that enable him/her assert themselves and develop their capacities to the maximum

possible extent. The complete social citizenship can be achieved by granting everyone the right to have an equal access to education, healthcare, and liberation from poverty. In the absence of equal social citizenship, any individual in the democratic country becomes only a voter and not a citizen. But, in the non-democratic country, the community members will be merely subjects and not citizens while their political role is limited to obeying the ruler.

For the Republic of Yemen, it witnessed a great deterioration in the way people have access to equal social citizenship during the period 1995 – 2007. Before listing the indicators related with social citizenship, one of the famous Yemeni writers confirmed that the scores on situation deterioration are the best estimates. Compared to Yemeni government's stats, the scores provided by international organizations such as the UN Development Program (which are the mostly reliable scores) are more credible, particularly as the former usually lacks credibility and keeps on changing according to the preset goals. However, the Yemeni government's scores are estimates subjected to mistakes when attempting to assess a given situation but sometimes they

evaluate situations correctly. These facts mainly concentrate on four basic rights, which are: the rights to have an equal access to education, obtain adequate healthcare, work and liberate oneself from poverty. All these stand for the minimum social rights accrued to human beings.

As far as the education-related right is concerned, the UNDP measures the level of education in its annual report on human development via two indicators: the rate of adults at age 15 years and over who are able to read and write in Yemen, in 2003, is one of the indicators. Yemen had the worse rate of literates worldwide as only 49 percent of the age group 15 years and over can read and write while 51 percent are illiterate. The other indicator is associated with enrollment rates in the different school grades. The Third National Report on Human Development in Yemen estimated the school age kids enrolled in schools at 60 percent of the total school age population. The report estimated children enrolled in the first nine grades of school at 64 percent of the total age group (5-14 years) population. It added that 75 percent of the total primary school age boys and 50 percent of the total primary school age girls have access to education. This

means that half the female population is deprived of education.

The report went on to say that 50 percent of children enrolled in schools complete their primary education. According to the report, the situation of secondary education is worse, as only 40 percent of secondary school age boys and 5 percent of the girls are enrolled in schools. Additionally, the government and private universities admit only small numbers of high school leavers.

With regard to the right of having equal access to healthcare, the report used many indicators to assess the health situation in Yemen. The relevant figures concentrate on life expectancy after birth and the mortality rates of breastfed babies, under age 5 infants and pregnant women. Except for Sudan and Djibouti, life expectancy after birth in Yemen has one of the lowest rates in the Arab world. As life expectancy of Yemen's population is averaged at 61 years, it is estimated at 70, 72, and 74 years in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Oman respectively.

When it comes to labor and poverty, it is difficult for one to obtain authentic scores on unemployment rates in Yemen. There are scores via which the government attempts to reduce the estimates for political reasons while

several international organizations interested in humanitarian issues work hard with the aim of providing authentic scores of what happens in real-life situation. Represented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the Yemeni government estimates unemployment at 17 percent of the overall workforce in 2005, but the Central Intelligence Agency estimated the unemployment in Yemen at 35 percent of the workforce while other estimates calculated the unemployment rates at 40 percent of the workforce.

Prior to the 1990 Reunification, the social development was controlled by the two regimes in both parts of the country. In South Yemen hard efforts

were exerted to eliminate any bureaucracy and influential sheikhs and religious scholars under the cover of establishing equality in favor of the class of laborers, but the opposite happened in North Yemen where tribal and traditional sheikhs were lavishly supported by the government at the expense of national development. All these phenomena and factors compelled leadership of the Joint Meeting Parties to propose a project for comprehensive reforms to help the country escape the bad consequences of the rampant corruption exercised in most of the government offices.

Source: Al-Wasat Political Weekly

COMMON SENSE

Yes, it can be done in Yemen

This observer would never have dreamed that after suffering for many decades from acute Myopia and Astigmatism and after having undergone an operation for a partial ; retinal detachment by surgery and laser over two decades before (in Germany), it is possible again to see again without having to wear glasses that looked like the reinforced bottoms of prune juice jars. What is even more fascinating is that this can actually be done right here in the Land of Sheba at affordable cost, and without the agony and the tiresome burden of travel overseas and the possibility of getting ripped off your lifetime savings.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yes, indeed there is a lot of progress that has been realized in Yemen and indeed Arab private sector initiatives are working diligently to combine resources to provide access to significantly important health services to most Yemenis, who would otherwise either have to sell their hard-earned or inherited assets or bear the agony of heavy indebtedness to be able to restore their normal health.

For several years, now the undersigned has been approaching many of the seemingly highly qualified doctors, who have set up fancy and sophisticated ophthalmic clinics, without being convinced of the possibility that removal of acute cataract in both eyes can be undertaken under the conditions cited above and of successfully restoring one to life with near 20-20 vision. But I am very proud to say that at last, thanks to the kind efforts of Dr. Mahfouz Bamashmous and his fine team of Ophthalmic Consultants at the "Maghribi Eye Hospital, recently set up in Sana'a, a joint Yemeni-Saudi enterprise, established in 2005, the impossible can now be achieved in Yemen as far as rectification of most eye impairments, and with minimal cost and with high quality service with the added human touch. For people like this observer, it is great to be able to have "a better look at the world" after years of looking at it with heavy straining, even with thick and heavy corrective lenses.

One must give credit when and where its due as well as continue to tell the world about all the gripes that Yemenis continuously have under these most difficult of times and it is really refreshing that people like Dr. Bamashmous can contribute to improving the quality of life for the Yemeni people amidst all these signs of hardships and economic despair.

A Word About Developments in Lebanon

Amidst all the chaos that the United States and Israel are working diligently to instill in Lebanon, the Lebanese people have shown again that they are not about to be used as pawns in the efforts of the United States to impose its "Greater Middle East" scenario in the region. Mind you this is not due to the work of the indefatigable Hizbullah, but the tireless efforts of the Maronite Christians led by the nationalist leader Michelle Own, Suleiman Franjeih and other prominent Lebanese Christians who cherish the importance of maintaining Lebanese independence in determining the fate and destiny of Lebanon, in particular and the region in general. The significance of the defeat of Amin Jumeyal in the off-season Parliamentary elections in Beirut by the candidate of the Free Nationalist Current and supported by the opposition forces in Lebanon simply cannot be overemphasized, especially amidst all the efforts to insure the defeat of the latter by every sleazy and non-sleazy means possible. Thanks to the existence of the next best thing to a working democracy, the Lebanese were able to tell the evil forces of the world: "Please leave us alone and tend to your own business".

This might be a good reminder to our aging Arab leaders that it is better to combat foreign pressure by the establishment and reinforcement of true democratic practice, rather than submit to the evil designs these foreigners which to impose on us all. After all, as Lebanon has shown, the people know what they want and how to go about getting it.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

Why the National Strategy for Secondary Education?

By: Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Habtour

The national unity and establishment of the Republic of Yemen on May 22, 1990 constituted the first steps for the new stage of the development process in different aspects of the social, economic, and political life. Such comprehensive development was established in conformity with a strategic vision meeting all the demands of progress and advancement in a way coping with the rapid growth of science and technology in the modern age.

On this basis, the unity state approved, since the very beginning of its establishment, the long-term scientific planning principle for the different projects of the comprehensive development process. This principle was aimed at making a distinctive move in updating all the frameworks of the political, social, and economic system for the unity state that ensured continued progress of different sectors in a harmonious and balanced manner.

Starting from this goal, the foundations of which were established by the unity state, under President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who built Yemen's development and future, the new state witnessed numerous achievements in different social, political, and economic fronts of life. These achievements are pondered upon as a natural and logical product of political and economic move for the process of construction contained in the General People Congress's platform. Prior to the unity, nothing of this had been achieved.

Regarding the educational system, although the unity state inherited a fragmentary education system and different school syllabuses, there have been a lot of improvements. The unity state formed a committee concerned with the education sector, which was authorized to work on unifying syllabuses and the educational institutions. During the early days of the unity state, students were enrolled in schools and institutes, the latter of which constituted a prominent barrier to efforts aimed at improving the education system. In the meantime, the

government was pinning great hope in the improved education system to make generations armed with science and knowledge, as well as values of the national personality and identity, in order to play an integral role in shaping Yemen's future.

Despite poor situations, scarce resources, lack of bond between outputs of public, technical, secondary and university education and incompatibility between specializations and demands of the labor market, the education sector has reached various achievements. It unified the school syllabuses, merged schools and institutes together under the Ministry of Education, increased the number of schools and boosted girl's education. Such achievements strongly motivated the political leadership and education officials to review the situation of education in the country and shape its future in the light of comprehensive and scientific evaluation of the experience.

Additionally, the concerned authorities assessed the successes and achievements so far reached in the area of education in order to shape the future

vision for improving and updating primary education. The experience related with implementing the National Strategy for Primary Education (2002 – 2015) has proved the great success reached in the sector. This motivated senior education officials to review the situation of secondary education, considering it the link between primary and higher education. Over the past two years, the process of preparing the document of the National Strategy for Secondary Education (2007 – 2015) was given top priority in order to help achieve a list of goals, the most prominent of which is strengthening individuals' sense of responsibility toward secondary education. Secondary education is very significant in the current stage due to its being related with President Saleh's platform that concentrated on developing and improving secondary education quantitatively and qualitatively.

According to Saleh's platform, improving the secondary education helps school leavers to enroll in universities. On this basis, the First Conference for Secondary Education was held in Sana'a on July 17 – 19. The conference focused on implementing the National Strategy for Secondary Education, which included numerous themes for diagnosing core and content of secondary education in its current situation. It also, laid more emphasis on discussing the various challenges facing the strategy, the document of which covered a deep scientific vision on the quality of syllabuses, education programs, teachers and the fair distribution of education opportunities. The document specified the timeframe for implementing the strategy.

As the conference was serious about the strategy's document, this makes us live up to the responsibility for 15 years to achieve all the goals and objectives that are essential for the national development. Implementing the strategy will help enhance relations between Yemen and other donor countries.

Abdulaziz Bin Habtour is Deputy Minister of Education.
Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily



By Samer

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

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Al-Najjar, Jamal

Copy Editor

Dana Patterson
Mohialdeen Al-Otumi

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Batati
Mobile (+967) 77383733
Email: albatati88@yahoo.com
Fax: +967 (05) 360303

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Empty-hearted secularism

Modern Turkey has never experienced as extended a period of stability and economic growth as it has under the last government. This government was led by the Justice and Development Party, which just scored another major electoral triumph in the Turkish general elections. In its victory speeches, the Islamist party pledged to safeguard the constitution of Turkey's secular republic. As I recall, in the trial over the murder of the Egyptian writer Farag Fouda, some mainstream members of the Muslim Brotherhood testified on the behalf of the accused that the killers had been rightfully motivated by religious zeal, because the secularism that Fouda advocated was heresy. What a striking difference! One Islamist party swears to uphold the state's secularist system while another rules that secularism is anathema and justifiable grounds for murder. Not that this kept mainstream Islamist movements from jubilation, in turn, over the victory of a party whose position on secularism they would roundly condemn if that party had declared it openly in their own countries.

The Justice and Development Party is far from a leftist or liberal democratic party. But it has certainly governed Turkey better than any other Turkish party that I know of, leftist, liberal, republican or otherwise. Even so, it did not have any easy ride. At one point it had to dissolve and change its name. More recently, it was the victim of a massive hate campaign waged by the left and right in concert in the name of secularism.

Many factors combined to propel this mainstream Islamist movement to embrace parliamentary life. For one, the military establishment certainly put a cap on its ambitions. Undoubtedly, too, Turkish cultural and national identity, the conflicting ramifications and repercussions of globalisation, and economic progress and development also played a part. Whatever these factors were, the party retained its equilibrium, adjusted to present limitations, and decided to play by the rules of the game.

This placed Europe in an awkward spot. As it hemmed and hawed over granting membership to an industrially developed nation with a democratically elected government, a nation many times better than some of

the Eastern European countries that were gaining admission, Europe was once again exposed for its widespread and deeply seated undercurrent of racism. But the platitudes keep coming fast and furious to cover up the resounding moral collapse of European policy towards Turkey (in spite of a brave attempt to revive it in the post-colonialist era of the Kreisky and Brandt generation), a collapse that was merely a sideshow to the even more telling and more hastily swept under the carpet collapse of the German handling of the Jewish question and Palestine.

Of course, the issue has some bearing on the history of Islamism in Turkey. Unlike in the Arab world, Turkey never had that clear divide between radical political Islam versus mystical Sufism on the one hand and the conservative clergy on the other. In Turkey, things are more subtle: a vast social base of subscribers to a rational and tolerant form of Sufism and an invisible give-and-take between "the military" and "the Sufi lodge" that is constantly recalibrating itself.

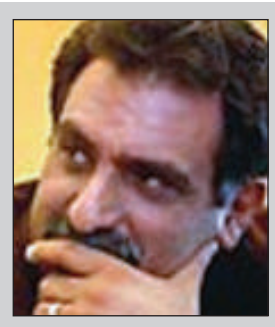
While in Turkey, a victorious Islamist party displays more moderation, rationality and pragmatism, and less demagoguery and populism than all its secularist rivals, the Arab world is experiencing a curious decline in the rhetorical lip service paid to democracy. I say "curious" because one sniffs hidden agendas and because there is a sudden increase in the talk of "secularism" and "the unity of secularist forces". Not that this should be all that surprising. Most of the ruling regimes are secularist and undemocratic, and most of the corruption they foster, and the nepotism they thrive on, is secular. At the same time, everyone knows that democracy could open the corridors of power to Islamist forces. Not that anyone would be so bold as to come out against democracy, even if they never supported it in their lives. The fashion, now, is to say you're a secularist instead.

Of course, there are some very sincere liberal secularists out there who have not been co-opted by the prevailing regimes and sucked into their cycles of corruption. Many of these oppose suffrage for all, a position that, as much as I take issue with it, I find I have to respect. I'm the last to claim that "democracy is the solution", to borrow from the Muslim Brotherhood chant "Islam is the

solution." I don't subscribe to panaceas.

This said, secularism to some is a way of life; as opposed to a political philosophy that espouses the separation of religion and the state. More often than not, these self-acclaimed secularists are not secularist at all, but inveterate narcissists who do not like to be crossed. They worship worldly values perhaps more than others revere spiritual ones, and they can be more fundamentalist and verbally and physically aggressive in the defence of these values than ultra-nationalists and even ultra-opportunists. Criticism puffs up their vanity even more and goads them into peddling to the consumerist middle and upper classes a rhetoric seething with a phobia of religion and religious devotion. In effect, they have founded a new secular religion that is hostile to Islam in particular. And they are not put off by the George W Bush brand of fundamentalism and the bigotry of a broad segment of his grassroots base.

Democracy was fashionable among some antidemocratic intellectuals at the time the US moved to export democracy by gunboat. They joined the American chorus in the chant that some regimes can only be changed from the outside, even though some of these intellectuals were good friends with the regimes in question and moved from one to the other when they had to. A life of luxury sometimes depends on someone to support it, and the intellectual life in our countries certainly can't feed itself as well as that mode of "secular" existence. But what is sadder yet is that these panderers to American rhetoric dropped democracy like a hot potato as soon as the neo-cons (apart from Bush) realised that their advice was backfiring and decided to revert to their former pragmatism that entailed taking their allies for better or worse, laying off with the democratisation blackmail and reconciling themselves to that bitter truth that political reform only opened the floodgates to their enemies. So much is perfectly understandable. What defies comprehension, however, is how fast our neo-liberals, here, took up "secularism" in the course of this



By: Azmi Bishara

past year. "Secularism," now, has become a multipurpose word. It can even be used to justify siding with Bush, Olmert and the secular Arab regimes against what the legitimately elected Hamas movement did, let alone to support the practices of corrupt security agencies in defending the secular consumerist way of life in the face of the backwardness of those who turned against it.

Of course this brand of secularism has very little to do with the latest definition of secularism as privatising religious self-determination and separating it from the public sphere, and very much to do with taking a stance against political Islam. It is a position that expresses itself in the Arab world in the form of corrupt regimes that have hitched themselves to the skirts of Western powers and, occasionally, Israel. Here, secularism is not a prerequisite for democracy, or a means to rationalise politics, but a form of the worship of consumerism and the wares of certain classes.

Secularist forces, in their original sense or in the latest sense of anti-Islamist forces, do not form a sufficient majority to establish a democratic order. They are highly dependent upon dictatorships. In the best of circumstances, they criticise dictatorship without presenting a democratic alternative. But this is a form of camouflage. Secularist forces will never be able to offer a democratic alternative until they, themselves, become democrats and conceive of a reasonable way to run the country in a democratic and secular manner. But this challenge will remain beyond their reach unless they take into account the influence of Islamist parties and Islamist political forces.

Democratic secularists must reach out to and speak with Islamists. There is a vast spectrum of them, and it is important to distinguish between those who share democratic values and those who condemn the democratic process. To toss all of them into a single basket on the grounds of a shared religious frame of reference is to be pointlessly rigid and closed-minded. Even if secularists have some grounds for suspicion, to yield to this sentiment is irrational and futile. The fact is, not only is there a rift in the greater

Islamist movement; its mainstream segment will constantly evolve the more it is given the opportunity to involve itself in the affairs of society and state, and the more it discovers, through practice, the diversity and limitations of pluralistic interaction. In addition, the desire to attain and keep power necessitates certain compromises with both self and others.

But reaching out to Islamists does not mean flattering them to the extent of abandoning important secularist principles. Nor should it stem from that paternalistic self-righteous attitude that Arab nationalists, in particular, seem to cling to without cause. Islamist movements have deep experience and diversified expertise; they do not need tutors or custodians, but people they can converse with and whom they can trust at times when it is necessary to fight for a common cause. The Arab nationalist trend may still attract the majority of the Arab public, and its Nasserist version may still appeal to the majority of Egyptians. However, it is not a sufficiently unified and organised movement to make its political clout felt. For this, it has only itself to blame. It should not cast the onus on organised Islamist forces to carry out tasks it should have performed itself long ago. For Arab nationalists to turn around now and exclude Islamists on the pretext that they are not "secularist", and therefore not ready to practice democracy, apart from being hypocritical, is unrealistic. What kind of democracy excludes that many people from across the various sectors of society and with such enormous potential to offer the nation?

Of course, the Islamist mainstream must be expected to abide by both the spirit and principles of democracy. This does not only mean adhering to democratic practices, such as holding free and fair elections and handing over power peacefully when the polls tell it to. It also means respecting the human rights and civil liberties of all citizens during its period of rule, something for which Arab "secularist" governments have a dismally poor track record. Islamists will also be expected to accept and work for the national agenda and to honour and safeguard national sovereignty. Equally, if not more importantly, it must do this in collaboration with other political forces and, moreover, it must educate its own rank and file on how to engage in a constructive process of give-and-take.

This brings me to some observations on the difference between internal awareness raising and the discourse used to placate others. The very fact that a movement perceives the need to modify its discourse to allay the qualms of others is, in itself, a significant development, even if the discourse has yet to be channelled for absorption within the movement. Islamists that brand all other political movements and ideologies heretic do not care at all about how others think of them. Of course, the radical left, in its time, made no such distinctions. To it, hypocrisy was worse than fascism and, anyway, it perceived little difference between social democracy and Nazism: both were essentially forms of the rule of the bourgeoisie. To me, Nazism and fascism are worse than hypocrisy. So is absolutist Islamism. However, the transformations through which mainstream Islamist movements are passing are not hypocrisy, but a historic imperative for the type of reforms needed to make the transition to a real and robust democracy. This fact must be acknowledged and handled appropriately.

Those who do not recognise that the Muslim Brotherhood has undergone a sea of change since the days of Sayed Qotb, that Hamas today is not what it was a few years ago and that Hizbullah is not the same party that shot Shia leftists in the 1980s are, themselves, fundamentalists of a different stripe. They cling to their ideas or preconceptions without subjecting them to rational scrutiny or the light of reality, whether out of rigid closed-mindedness or simply because it is not in their interests to try to understand. Or perhaps it is because they, too, have changed? I, for one, find it difficult to understand a left that now finds itself collaborating with the US and Israel against Islamists. I find it even harder to understand a left that is now so remote from the poor and the culture of the underprivileged, and from the quest for social justice, and is so cosy with the prosperous classes that are so aloof from their own societies

Azmi Bishara is a Palestinian Christian who was a Member of the Israeli Knesset and leader of the Balad party from 1996 until resigning in April 2007.

Source: Al-Ahram online.

Reading the fine print

By: Prof. Tom Plate.

Newspapers today still count for something — and in some societies, they can count for a great deal.

Whether indeed Rupert Murdoch and his News Corp are to become the new proprietors of the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) is a matter of concern not only for us in America, but it is also a matter of interest for everyone in the world, especially — with the rise of China — for Asians. The quality of American society overall — from the White House to the newsroom — has impact elsewhere. World stability depends on well-informed political decision-making, including and especially in Washington.

For better or for worse, the US news media remains the most influential national media on the planet. At or near the top of the US journalistic heap sits the Wall Street Journal. The proffered acquisition by the mammoth News Corp makes perfect economic sense: bigger is better in today's competitive economy. But as a journalistic evolution, the deal throw takes us back into the dark ages.

For most Americans, the Murdoch regime's true journalistic colours show up on Fox News, the 24/7 cable TV news challenger to CNN and MSNBC whose promotion mantra is "fair and balanced". Well, it's not — and it is precisely because Murdoch and his Foxes may actually believe that their self-serving "fair and balanced"

assessment of their journalism is — well — "fair and balanced" that makes people so alarmed by the impending takeover.

On the contrary, it is in the daily journalism of a truly special newspaper like the Wall Street Journal that you find news coverage and financial analysis that is characteristically not only fair and balanced but also thorough. Clearly, our current age of globalisation has brought this paper to the height of its powers. With people all across the globe dependent on economic, political and financial reports in a timely and credible manner, the journalistic integrity of America's leading financial newspaper has never been more valued and relevant.

That integrity can only be guaranteed by the character of the proprietor or the publisher. This is the key individual in any American newspaper. The flamboyant Ben Bradlee, for decades the celebrated top editor of the aggressive Washington Post, often declared that the secret to success for any editor was to be lucky enough to be able to report to a great publisher.

In my own journalistic career, I have been darn fortunate to work for some great publishers. The most recent was in my job as the editor of the editorial pages of the Los Angeles Times. The publisher back then was David Lavenhol, the legendary father of Long Island Newsday, and clearly a great man. For decades, the Los Angeles Times — under Publisher Otis Chandler, then Tom Johnson and then David Lavenhol — escaped its sorry

past as a southern California rag and transformed itself into one of the world's great papers. It happened because of a conscious continuum of commitment to quality and determination to compete with the best. Alas, such ambitions cost money: journalists have families to feed, foreign bureaus that help provide Americans with sophisticated windows to the world are frighteningly expensive to maintain, and you can save so much dough just by closing down those bureaus.

But in its ideal constitutional role, a newspaper isn't just about making money. It's about recording history as it happens — "history on the run", as Bradlee would put it. Newspapers had to be profitable, to be sure, or they would go out of business; but if they made too much money at the expense of good journalism, why should they be allowed to remain in the business?

This is the fear that Murdoch strikes into the heart of many American editors and reporters. In this age where the only thing that really seems to count is money, it is hard to imagine that Murdoch will fail to bring off this ill-fated deal. But then it is also hard to imagine the Wall Street Journal remaining the WSJ under his management.

Prof. Tom Plate, a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, is founder of the Asia Pacific Media Network. Source: Khaleejtimes online

Free the Korean hostages

By: Prince Hassan bin Talal

It is with great sadness and pain that I follow the ongoing captivity of the Korean hostages held by the Taliban in Afghanistan. The brutal and senseless murder of some of their number has shocked my family and me. The claims to righteousness of their captors has offended our Islamic identities and inspired me to write in appeal and in protest.

Many of us wonder what plea can reach the ears of those who are causing such suffering to innocents. How can we show these misguided men of war that our faith instructs them to put humanitarian considerations above all else? All true Muslims must realize that it is vital to recognize the humanity of the other in order to affirm our own humanity.

It pains me to see the religion of Islam once again being exploited in a way that is wholly at odds with its historic message. Perhaps we can understand how this comes about in certain circumstances. When people are afraid, when they are broken and powerless, they sometimes lash out violently. However, it is both tragic and ironic that in their rage and fear, they destroy the beautiful tradition they claim to defend.

This is indeed a time of great crisis in our world. Violence has overtaken dialogue, and compassion has lost out to hatred and revenge. Now, as anger threatens to escalate out of all control across the world, we must remember

that peace is not just the absence of violence; it is the active nurturing of trust, respect and empathy.

As a Muslim, I call for my co-religionists to work together so that our faith may be elevated above politics; so that church, mosque, synagogue and temple may regain their moral authority outside the political realm. We must consider the damage being done to Islam by those who act out of anger and aggression. Religions for Peace, representing the world's diverse faiths, reaffirms the sanctity of human life and calls for a respect for human dignity and common standards for all.

Our religion of peace commands us to take positive action amid mounting hostility and mistrust and to make a substantial contribution to peace-building in a polarized world. Our communities need an urgent call for responsible religiosity among Muslims. We must move away from the polarities of truth that have come to drive the international agenda.

The violence in Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq, along with the anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment which has developed since 9/11, have caused real pain and suffering to millions of Muslims around the world. Vicious calumnies delivered by a minority of Christian Evangelists and Western politicians have created the impression of a religious "crusade" against Islam. To this, many Muslims around the world have reacted with indignation and anger.

But the actions of a misinformed

minority in the West and the objectionable policies of some governments must not lead any Muslim to forget the centrist and humanitarian message of the Qur'an. Muhammad's life is clearly not being implemented by so-called fundamentalists but perverted into a driving force for their own highly politicized agendas.

Some years ago I was saddened as a Muslim to see the wanton destruction of places of worship sacred to the Buddhist faith in Afghanistan. I am more dismayed that the precious terra media, the middle ground of dialogue, which has existed for centuries between faiths, is being destroyed by politicians and warlords who claim to speak for our faiths.

Once again, I would wish for Muslim delegations to travel to Afghanistan to represent the United Nations and the families of the captives. As a Muslim and a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), I can claim cultural and religious affinity with those who would act in my name and say to them: "What you are doing is unconscionable for Muslims."

As President Emeritus of Religions for Peace, I call for dialogue to resolve this moral and humanitarian crisis. Religions for Peace is well-placed to mediate any discussions that might hopefully arise in the coming hours and days.

Islamic Banking Investing as pleases God

By: Klaus Hachmeier

Financial transactions in accordance with Islamic law are gaining ground. Klaus Hachmeier discusses "riba" prohibition, "murabaha" transactions and other principles of Islamic banking.

Islamic banking is particularly dynamic today in the Gulf States and in Malaysia, where Islamic and "conventional" banks compete freely. The term "Islamic finance" has come to stand for a comprehensive system of business transactions in keeping with Islamic law. Closely related and encountered almost as frequently is the expression "Islamic banking," revealing the central role played by banks in this field.

Of course, it is difficult to construct a complete economic system from Islamic sources alone – even if these include not only the Koran but also the traditions passed down by the early Islamic community surrounding the Prophet Mohammed.

A kind of "social free market economy"

But at least certain principles crystallize out that suggest a kind of "social free market economy" as the most appropriate one for Islam. While this economy recognizes that profits can be made and prosperity achieved through commercial dealings (economically speaking, this means that people have a right to private property and that prices can develop freely according to supply and demand), there is also an emphasis



Islamic banking is particularly dynamic today in the Gulf States and in Malaysia, where Islamic and "conventional" banks compete freely (photo: AP)

on social duties, such as donating money to help the poor and the needy.

Examples of Koran verses cited as reference are: "When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and traffic)! ... And when the Prayer is finished, then may ye disperse through the land, and seek of the Bounty of Allah: and celebrate the Praises of Allah often (and without stint): that ye may prosper." (Koran 62: 9-10)

"O ye who believe! Give of the good things which ye have (honorably) earned, and of the fruits of the earth which We have produced for you! And do not even aim at getting anything

which is bad, in order that out of it ye may give away something, when ye yourselves would not receive it except with closed eyes!" (Koran 2:267).

Western (as well as Muslim) scholars of Islam point to the historical background behind the revelations in the Koran, arising as they did in the city of Mecca with its flourishing trade. According to conservative Islam, the Koran is the genuine word of God, which retains its validity irrespective of spatial and temporal limitations.

In addition to the above, there also exist a few more tangible restrictions with respect to commerce. The first is the general prohibition of gambling, which is derived from the Koran's ban on "maisir," a game in which arrows

are used to determine who gets the best pieces of a slaughtered camel.

Speculation forbidden

A ban on speculative business ("gharar") can also be deduced from Islamic sources, which some believe is applicable to short-term speculators who try to make the most of temporary fluctuations in exchange rates.

The most far-reaching restriction that can be derived from the Islamic body of rules is without doubt the prohibition of "riba," which is often, and not entirely correctly, interpreted as a general ban on interest. This word of controversial origin is used in the Koran in connection with moneylenders who demand excessive interest and can be translated as "usury."

Today, the proscription is interpreted as meaning that no interest at all may be charged on credits that are granted. Interest-like structures are permitted for sales transactions, however: if someone defers payment on a purchase, for example, the Islamic jurists recognize that a surcharge on the price may be demanded for the delay.

Inspired by German cooperative banks

In the mid-20th century, the first forerunners of today's "Islamic banking" began to appear on the scene. In 1963, for example, Dr. Ahmad al-Najjar of Egypt, inspired by West German cooperative banks, founded a bank in the Nile Delta that managed to make do without charging any interest whatsoever, investing the customers' money in equity models or in its own business activities.

The experiment ended just a few years later under ominous circumstances, most probably financing problems. The Islamic republics of Sudan, Pakistan and Iran have arranged large portions of their state systems – including the banks – in accordance with Islamic rules.

The strongest dynamic in this field comes today from the Gulf States as well as Malaysia, where Islamic and "conventional" banks compete shoulder-to-shoulder, the former already

managing to conquer a market share of up to 20 percent, with a rapid upward trend.

Increasingly, Western banking institutions are starting to offer their own Islamic products from special departments: for example, business loans tailored to Islamic customers.

Criticisms have been voiced that Islamic products often merely imitate conventional ones and, other than in name, do not offer any specifically Islamic characteristics. This goes especially for products that copy interest-like structures.

Mortgage as "murabaha" transaction

A real estate credit is for example replicated by the "murabaha" transaction, in which the bank often purchases the property for the space of one second only and then sells it to the end customer on an installment plan. The installments are calculated to include the interest that would be charged on a classic mortgage.

Critics demand that such credit-like structures be limited or done away with entirely; only interest-free credit should be offered, or investments with full participation in profits and losses ("mudaraba"). However, the fact is that the average household often needs to borrow money to finance big-ticket purchases (house, car, stereo system) since such items cannot be paid for with the available cash on hand.

As long as these purchases are designated only for a consumer's own use, "mudaraba" does not apply, since no profit is being made. The success of "Islamic finance" will depend on whether Islamic product alternatives are created that offer not only conformity with Islamic law (which, just like in other legal systems, can be applied more or less flexibly) but also answer the needs of the broader Islamic population.

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Business in Brief

Oil Ministry opens 4th International bidding Round

The Ministry of Oil, Gas and Minerals has opened the bidding for the 10 off-shore oil blocks in a seminar held yesterday. Minister of Oil said that he is optimistic that the off-shore blocks will attract a number of international oil companies and would increase Yemen's oil production in the years to come.

Privet Sector demands involvement in setting up of new tax law

Deputy Chairman of the Yemeni chambers of commerce union Mr. Khalid Mustafa stated that the privet sector should be actively involved in the setting of a new tax law, indicating that the business community suffers from the neglect of policy makers during the development phase of these policies, resulting in the failure of executing these policies.

Regional workshop on Commercial Negotiations

The Office for communication and coordination with the WTO affiliated to the ministry of trade is administering a workshop for commercial negotiations to enhance their understanding of the terms of International Trade, to take place from the 11th to the 15th of this month. The workshop is funded by the Islamic Development Bank.

Aden Local Council: Zakat Payment required for bidding

The Aden Local Council has listed the Zakat (Islamic donation) payment receipt among the prerequisites for any bidders who wish to win awards in Aden through the local council. The last bid included a 150 million Riyal tender to purchase street-lighting equipment for three districts in the governorate.

Yemen's Agricultural exports reach 1.7 billion in 2006

Yemen's Agricultural exports have totaled 1.749 billion Riyals during the 2006, the prime agricultural commodities exports were onions, tomatoes, and other vegetables, in addition to several fruits such as bananas, water melon and sweet melon. Most of these agricultural commodities were exported to neighboring gulf countries.

Microcredits for small business start-ups in Indonesia

Religion no bar to financial support

By: Christina Schott

The Indonesian Dian Mandiri Foundation is a Christian organisation that specialises in the allocation of microcredits, the majority of them to Muslim savings clubs. The funds are intended to provide the means to set up small businesses. Christina Schott reports

"What is important for your business?" Around 20 women in multi-coloured dresses and headscarves are sitting around, attentive, and eagerly responsive to their trainer's questions. "Getting up early in the morning and always opening for business at the same time," one woman calls out from the back row. "That my husband and I trust one another," volunteers another. "Discipline", "punctuality", and "trust" are among the mantric concepts scribbled in Indonesian on a blackboard for the instruction of the group who are squatting around it on phloem mats on a wooden porch.

For four years now, the women of the "Sari Ayu" microcredit group have been meeting once a week in the village of Kiyarapayung in the district of Tangerang, one and a half hours west of the capital Jakarta, the members taking it in turn to offer their house as venue for the meetings.

Comprehensive approach the way to success

Training sessions, however, do not take place every week. The Dian Mandiri Foundation, which organises the training, has been making microcredits available to savings clubs in the poorer areas of Jakarta and its surrounding area, including Kiyarapayung, since 1998.

The foundation's aim is empowerment of the poor, women in particular, by making it possible for them to

establish their own businesses, not only by making microlending facilities available, but also by ensuring that they receive adequate training and support.

New members receive a first credit, equivalent to a little over 40 euros, after they have completed a minimum of eight training sessions, with the loan and interest (at 3.5%) to be paid back in weekly instalments. "Of course, it's more than a normal bank would take, but they wouldn't give us any credit in the first place. We, on the other hand, get training included," says Soleha, who has been a member of "Sari Ayu" from the beginning.

No Christian bias

Although Dian Mandiri is a Christian organisation, 95% of its clients are Muslim, the majority female. "We are a professional organisation, not missionaries: our religion has nothing to do with our work," explains operational director Dino V. Hadjarati. "When we are asked what our aims and purposes are, we refer people to our terms and conditions of business. That's what we adhere to, and so far it has worked out well. In order to more fully meet the needs of our customers we are currently developing our knowledge and expertise in syariah banking."

There is no problem with religion as far as the women of the "Sari Ayu" group are concerned either. "We have been working with these people from the beginning and they have always been true to their word. We have even turned down offers from other microcredit organisations, because we trust Dian Mandiri completely – whether they are Christian or not," Soleha insists. Now on her seventh cycle of credit, the 33-year-old has transformed what began as a bamboo kiosk in front of her house in Kiyarapayung into a

fully-fledged corner shop.

The additional money is used to pay the school fees for her three children, something her fisherman husband's income alone would not suffice for. "Without the credit group and the training I would never have managed to do it," Soleha says.

Solidarity as principle

Savings clubs have a long-standing tradition in Indonesia. Everyone in Indonesia knows the Arisan system – informal social gatherings where people get together to pray and eat and contribute money to a common savings fund.

People in the villages also make small financial contributions towards the cost of communal necessities, which are then collected by a night watchman from old tins or jars left at the house door. It provides a way for the village community to help out when, for example, someone dies.

Dian Mandiri also applies this principle of neighbourhood help. If, say, for reasons of ill health, a member is forced to default on loan repayments, then it is the rest of the group which must take on the responsibility. In the case of Rohayati, this is currently being put into practice, and working out well. With a critically ill husband to be looked after, the 40-year-old is no longer in a position to work enough to pay back what she owes. The other women of "Sari Ayu", therefore, have clubbed together to come up with the money.

Additional insurance safeguard

To provide a safeguard against an unnecessary burden falling on surviving dependents in the case of a death of a borrower, Dian Mandiri last year introduced a compulsory insurance coverage.

In collaboration with Allianz Indonesia and Germany's agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the organisation is now offering a combined credit and life insurance for an additional twelve cents. In the case of a client's death, not only is the debt liquidated, but the beneficiary also receives a sum of double the originally borrowed amount.

"It's the first time in my life that I have had insurance," Soleha says. "But I really do feel better knowing that my family will not be faced with any debts should anything happen to me." To close the meeting they pray together to Allah – the headscarved women and their Christian trainers.

Translated from the German by Ron Walker, © Qantara.de 2007.



The loans of the Dian Mandiri Foundation are supposed to help the needy out of the poverty trap

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A Tribal Order: Politics and law in the mountains of Yemen

This book is the result of fieldwork in Jabal Razih in the northern area of Yemen. The anthropologist Shelagh Weir visited the region three times and spent there in the years 1977, 1979-80 and in 1993 about twenty months. Most of the time during her fieldwork she dwelled in madinat al-Nazir and studied the cultural and social institutions of the village. The village is inhabited by one of ten small tribes that settled in the Razih region. The author found this village an ideal fieldwork-base, because it was socially and occupationally heterogenous, personalities in official positions, men prominent in tribal and government affairs lived in the village, and the weekly market was a good meeting place of locals and visitors from remote places.

Review by: Dr. Aviva Klein-Franke, Martin-Buber Institute for Jewish Studies, University of Cologne, 50923 Cologne, Germany

At the time of her first visit in 1977, travelling in the area was difficult, for instance, no motor truck was available and most places could only be reached in the traditionally way, by foot, as hundreds of years before. First in 1979 routes for a Trans-Razih trucks was established. During the periods of her research the Razihis used two currencies, the Saudi Riyal (SR) for everyday transaction and for bigger business transactions, like land purchase or sale the used the Riyal Faransi (Maria Theresia Taler). Weir investigated the institutions of a traditional society in transition to modernity and therefore her description of life in al-Nazir is an "ethnographic present" document of the 1970s.

The book has three parts with a total of eleven chapters. It also includes two appendices: 1. A list of chronological events affecting Razih. 2. A catalogue of Razih documents, mostly papers of pacts and treaties, signed between tribal groups, tribes, among the ruling elite itself, or with the state authorities. Shelagh Weir could collect over 350 documents covering a period of nearly four centuries. According to Weir, these documents testify the predominantly contractual basis of political relations in Razih, which show remarkable continuities in structures and practices. In addition, these documents provide information about legal and political matters. Therefore they are an important primary source to catch local people "inscribing" their own system of ruling into their place back through time. Unfortunately there are no translations in English of these invaluable primary sources, which the author explains by: "because of lack of space".

Furthermore, the book includes tables, maps and plans of Jabal Razih, fort and fortress, notes, glossary, bibliography, index and 49 photos, which were published in b/w and coloured.

Shelagh Weir was - before her retirement - a curator for Middle Eastern Ethnography at the former Museum of Mankind. Her research on Razih was conducted under the auspices of the British Museum. Initially she intended to study the crafts in Razih and was also interested to study the local economy. A dispute which broke out between Al-Nazir and a neighbouring-tribe opened for her a fascinating window to study tribal law, how the chiefs who were fighting for recognition of their political powers sought for a solution, reached a conclusion and achieved the necessary political balance to carry on without losing face or status. This striking event, which took place during her second visit in 1979, urged her to change the aim of her research and to focus not on the ethnographic subject but to switch on and emphasis historical matters. The political relations in Razih in structure and practice became the major issue in her fieldwork (Part II, chapter eight).

Weir dedicated two chapters (Part III, chapters nine and ten) to a historical survey of the last 400 years. She summarized key-features of Zaydism and the Zaydi state and of life in the region under the rule of the two Ottoman invasions, the political situation of Razih during the rule of the Idrisi in 'Asir and along the coast. She described the state-tribe relationship between the tribes of Razih in the el-Qasimi period until Imam Yahya Hamid ad-Din and his son Ahmad. Razih's political power had to struggle year after year to oppose conditions, which were dictated by the central government. Reasons that occurred tensions between the Imams and the tribal leaders was mainly on the issue of taxes. The most important taxation in this area was based on agricultural products, sorghum and on coffee (p. 259). The local representative of central authority collected the money from the tribes and

forwarded it to the treasury house, bayt al-mal. The Imam in return would give loans or stipend to the leader of the tribes. In the 19th century Imam al-Mansur changed the system of taxation. He divided the canonical taxes (wajibat or huquq Allah) into two categories: one for the treasury, which was the zakat tax which was collected on agriculture and animals, and the other for the Imam, which was collected from traders, mostly at the markets, as a rent (haqq al-qa' or haqq al-mafrash).

The author also describes life in Razih in the first period of the republic and the struggle to keep the political power in the hands of the tribal leaders (chapter eleven). After years of supporting the Royals in the civil war, toward the end of the war realized the chiefs in Razih that they had to accommodate to the republican state. They still regarded the traditional way of ruling as valid and wanted to negotiate with the republicans on the state-tribe relationship. Therefore, after the end of the civil war, in the early 1970s, they provided a draft with terms of their capitulation in which they demanded to keep their privileged status. Furthermore, in the draft they elaborated that the state should be ruled according to the precepts of Holy Law and the waqf property would be administered according to the spirit of its creators. Apart from that, the tribes of the north wanted to pay only the zakat and demanded that Razihis should be appointed as policemen and border guards and their wages should be paid by the state.

In addition to the draft other details were mentioned, e.g., their expectations towards the new state on behalf and to the benefit of their people, such as roads, schools, hospitals, water pumps, mechanical ploughs, a central telegraph system and branch-office to issue passports, so that they could travel to Saudi Arabia (many of them were guest-workers in the neighbouring country. They realized what the state could provide for its inhabitants and they benefited from the technical development).

Although in the first years of the existence of the new state, the republicans saw that it was essential for their legitimacy to deliver basic social services and to develop the infrastructure in the country. But they did not have the means or the manpower capacity to do it. Therefore, the new state continued to regulate the relationship with the leaders of the tribes in the northern part of the country in a similar way as it had been in the time of the Imams, which means, that the tribal chiefs continued to supervise taxation and to maintain order by using tribal law as before. The state paid them salaries, like loans, based on a fraction of the zakat collected from the tribes' members.

Because the relief from the central authority in Sanaa reached the area of Razih very slowly, the Razihis took the initiative and established small bodies to enforce modernization in their region. They were called "Local Development Associations" (LDA, p. 288). The government, which was incapable of implementing such projects itself, encouraged these informal groups and granted them autonomy. In 1973 the government incorporated them into a nationwide umbrella organization called "The Confederation of Yemeni Development Associations" CYDA, in which the president of the republic was elected to be their president (p. 290). The state via CYDA supervised and coordinated the LDA projects. In 1985 there were nearly 200 LDA groups nationwide. The state allowed LDA to use half of the local taxes and also redirected their foreign aids as well as released LDA from import-taxes on heavy equipment needed for building the roads. A few years later, the activities of the LDA representatives were integrated into the government bodies and the head of the LDA groups became established as members of the "General Peoples Congress" Party. Later in the 1980s the government transferred the responsibility for local projects from the LDA to provincial and

local governors, which caused the decline of the LDA organizations in the country.

The first official visit by a republican delegation in 1980 (p. 294) brought some changes in the situation. The republican officials made extended promises to the tribes. The Naziri proudly invited them to a lavish banquet followed by a qat party and a delegation of Razih's leaders accompanied the delegation back to Sanaa.

Shortly after the unification with southern Yemen in 1990, "Yemen Arab Republic" and the "People's Democratic Republic of Yemen" formed one state: the "Republic of Yemen". The new government increased democratization in the country; urged liberation of the press and allowed free political bodies and NGO groups to be established.

A national referendum on the constitution was held in 1991. In 1993 the first national multi-party parliamentary elections was held. The country was divided into 301 constituencies (sing. da'irah), each of which directly elected a delegate to the Council of Representatives (majlis al-nuwwab). In Razih fourteen candidates stood for election. All of them were males from the major clans of the leading tribes. This means that the electoral system did not challenge the structure of the tribal order and their inequalities in Razih. Hence, due to the election and its procedures, the central government had gained some respect among the inhabitants. Concerning the state-tribe relations - probably not only in the case of Razih - due to the election, the people breathed a whiff of democracy. They felt the new spirit of the times (Zeitgeist). They realized the political system of the new regime's authority and appreciated this impact of the democratic processes on their lives; there were discussions on the constitution, the establishment of the electoral committees and the registration of candidates and voters. Although all these acts and omissions had left a flash of approved-statehood on the people, the traditional power of the tribes was unshakeable. The introduction of the new system of elected representatives, which meant giving opportunity to individuals to gain political power, did not change the traditional political power within the tribes, as the author stated: "In the delineation of constituencies, state and tribal geo-political conceptions remained congruent" (p. 306).

Weir analyzed in her study why the situation did not change. Within the tribal system, the tribes, as shown by the example of Razih, should in many respects be regarded as mini state; they have internal administrative divisions and they possess clearly defined territories with political borders as well as control of their domains. Furthermore, they are able to mobilize men for defence and protection or for war. They are socially and occupationally stratified. They have permanent offices of leadership and have exclusive juridical institutions acting according to their tribal law. Tribes also enter into formal alliances to protect and promote their interests and acknowledge super tribal courts of appeal. In addition all political relationship at every level of the system is based on written contracts, pacts and treaties. In spite of all what has been mentioned above, the tribal structure today is part of the state and subject to its superior authority.

The case of Razih challenged common assumptions about tribes and states in the north of the country. The nature of the relationship in historical perspective should be considered from both sides. Due to new roads and infrastructure, today Razih is no longer a citadel in a remote province and an isolated place; modern equipment and machines for agriculture and the increase of motor trucks on the roads help to maintain contacts with other regions. The more the state will continue to bound the tribes tightly to the centre - and the case of Razih is a good example to show this - the more it will gain political stabilization in these regions and the country.

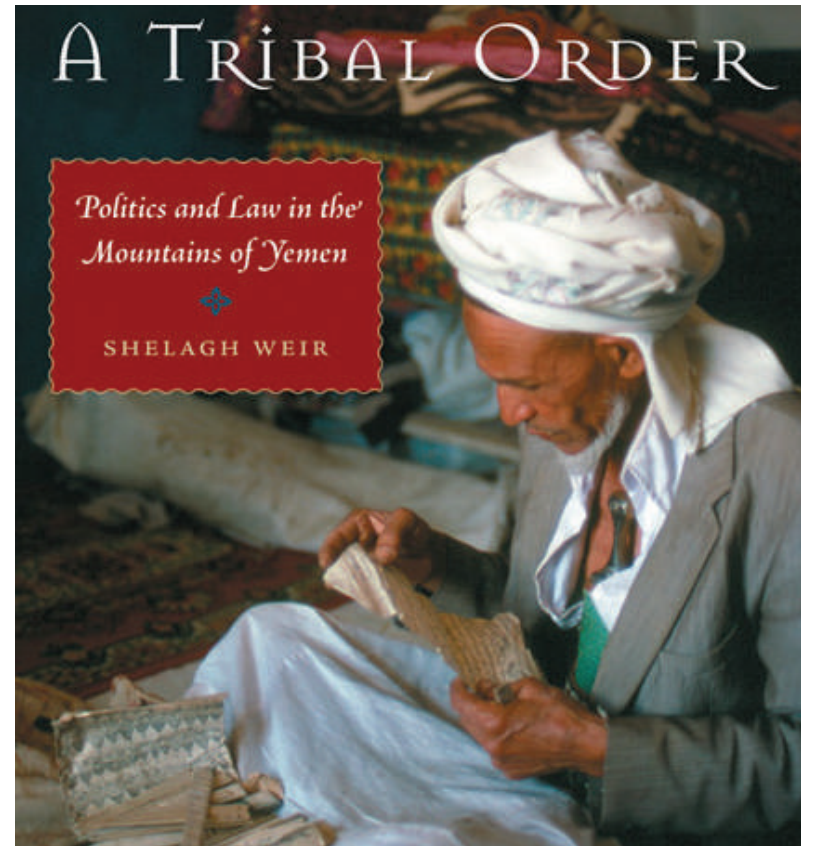
Summary

Weir describes many situations from the past: the Ottoman periods, Yemen under Imams' rule, the civil war and its outcome for the inhabitants of the northern part of Yemen as well as the reaction of the ruler and the people to this development and challenges. She could observe how the tribal leaders absorbed step by step the newly established central institutions of the republic. Her book is an important document describing a traditional society in transition.

During the months of her fieldwork in the region, Shelagh Weir collected multiple ethnographic and historical data, embracing many aspects of the life of the people in the region of Al-Razih and especially that of the village of Al-Nazir.

Shelagh Weir started her study almost twenty years ago, when Yemen made its first steps as a republic. In the historical overviews from the documents she gathered and from information she acknowledged from the collective memory of the people by collecting their oral traditions in interviews and observations she provided information essential to understand the political situation both in the past and today.

The traditional society as presented by the tribes needs more time to gain trust in the state. We realize that the reasons for tensions between the government and the tribes especially in the north of the country are rooted in the past and belong to the structure of the tribes. The tribes and their rulers are actually not willing to destroy the institutions of their "mini state". They see it in their responsibility to keep their legacy and transmit it to the next generation. Hence, they are looking for ways to find harmony, not to oppose but to cooperate with the state. The older generation and even more the younger generation have learned to see the positive sides of the republic, and they enjoy the benefits the state has provided them with. Although they want to keep the structure of their political tribe-family units and their culture, the tribes and their leaders recog-



A Tribal Order. Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen written by Shelagh Weir. The British Museum Press. London 2007 Printed in: USA, the University of Texas Press

nize the state as supreme authoritative body.

By her valuation and conclusion of her study the author demonstrates deep and sensitive insights. Her professional attitude of keeping a certain distance from the events around her allowed her sharp but respectful descriptions of many delicate situations in families and of political affairs in the regions of Razih. Hence she shows that she has also remained a friend of the Razihis.

The book is written in a very fluent, readable way. The publisher has also invested thoughts and has produced a book with a beautiful layout.

Erratum

Titles in this review were previously published in Yemen Times incorrectly. As a curtsy to the author Yemen Times is republishing this article with the correct spelling of the names.



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- 7- The bids are to be presented in an envelope sealed with red wax.
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- Proficiency in English appropriate to the proposed lecturing or research project to be carried out in the United States.
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For more information and application forms, please contact Mohammed Alhimyari Email alhimyarimm@state.gov or Najlaa Kassim. Kassimmns@state.gov Telephone: 755-2454 at the American Embassy, Sana'a. Deadline: September 10, 2007.

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University Co-Education

By: Mohammed Saleh Ali Almoqri
A student at Sana'a University
Faculty of education
Mas2005male@yahoo.com

As a matter of fact, in most Yemeni schools and universities boys and girls usually study together, in the same room, but individually. This habit came as a result of the lack of girls' special schools and universities. We have been accustomed to this situation since grade one and so on. It was something normal for us to study side by side with girls as brothers and sisters regardless of those weak psyche people who are against that.

Actually, everything has positives as well as negatives and every side has its

supporters. For example, in classrooms boys are on one side and girls are on the other one, and as soon as our dear Writing teacher suggested boys and girls to work together in groups, voices shouted no...no, and of course these voices came from that side. And the strange thing is that not just girls who refused but also two boys. The teacher was immediately shocked and started to explain the benefits of cooperation and working together to exchange ideas and opinions in respective to studying.

When she asked both of the two refusing students about the reason of their objection, one said "it is a shame", the other ironically responded "my father asked me not to speak to any girl". Therefore, the teacher immediately said to him "so do not talk

with me".

Obviously, I can tell as there are positive people, surely there are negative ones, and it is rare to find those negative people in educational places, and if so, we just can judge logically and look at the environment asking ourselves, did we come to study? Did we come to avail ourselves?

In fact, most of boys and some girls did not reject that. For, they have their own reasons. When I asked one of them "why don't you have a problem with that?" he responded "We are academic students, and we are in need to exchange ideas and perspectives, aren't we?"

For those who are saying that co-education is a shame, one of my colleagues has said "shame and

shyness should not be considered in the places of knowledge. Though we have spent one year and a half studying in the same class, unfortunately most of the girls and some of the boys did not know what academic fellowship means.

In brief, girls and boys should work together to make the benefits bigger. And, working as a team of ten or more is not a problem but the problem is the lack of cooperation and communication among students. So, try now to ask others to help you and see the emerging benefits. For me, boys and girls should work together in order to get real avail. However, the teacher was right when she insisted on the students to work together, to be on the way of success.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE



Dear all, if females outnumber!

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com

Noticeably, women outnumber men not only in Yemen but all over the world. This happens naturally and most people accept it like this. Some people, nevertheless, look at that as a social problem, while others regard it as something normal since there would be no difference between the two cases.

Though equality is always preferred in everything, it is sometimes preferred, at least to me, to have female more in number than male, especially when they prove successful in the aspects of life they are involved in.

In the Western societies, the larger number of female can be noticed anywhere since no social or religious restrictions tie their personal freedom of study, work, or doing anything else outside home. They feel the responsibility of constructions and improvement societies. As a result, they are self-confident and self-dependent.

But this differs in the Eastern world, especially in the conservative societies. I say conservative societies to compare them to other Arab and Islamic societies where such restrictions are not there at all and women enjoy rights of obligations and duties as well.

In the case of Yemen, which is a conservative society, there are many religious and social restrictions that limit the women's activities. Such ties are sometimes logical and related to religious or social norms. But, sometimes, they are not in the sense that they prevent women from their simple rights. This usually happens 'in some' of the rural areas.

Especially in villages and the tribal families, women get less opportunities to work or to study. They have no objections against this because they are not educated or cultured to know so. They accept the situation as it is; unknowing what takes place around; otherwise there might be a change.

In spite of this, the cities witness the spread of female in almost all the social, political, educational, etc activities. They do not fail nor do they complain against difficulties to deal with the male except in some rare cases. But the attitude of some men is sometimes negative though there are many positive things to turn it over.

Some people look negatively on the case of having women as partners in all the aspects of life. They seriously declare its danger as a critical social

problem that requires fast treatment. For them, women are for nothing more than kitchens and home affairs. And as a sequence, they may harm the society if they grow in numbers in high ranking positions and social affairs.

Worse still, women, in some cases, are humiliated for being a shame for the family. They have nothing to do or even to express feelings and opinions because they are 'mere women', and as some men claim that they are of 'light minds'. It is really astonishing when such people search for a solution for such a problem, though there might be no problem at all.

Many other people find no distinction whether men are more or women. Both are human, and can do similar things any where and any time. The difference is only in the 'sex organs' which have nothing negative to society or even to religion, of course, if they behave morally with each others.

In my personal opinion, though I have 'allergy with the so-called fair sex', accepting women as positive partners in life stabilizes the society and reduces the conflicts among the both sexes.

Nobody denies this 'without women there would be no men'. The difference of the sex origins will not disturb the relation since both will deal self-confidently and follow the Islamic and social norms. There is no problem if women are more. On the contrary, there might be a better situation.

Regarding study, we find the female get the highest rates. This indicates how much serious they take matters.

Similarly in the case of work which can be done by any sex, women prove successful in most cases. In the social affairs, women take responsibility of home, children, and of the husband too. Some of them do all these at the same time, study, work, manage home, etc.

Men may do study, and work, but sometimes they fail to do all. How life would be if there are no women? Can men hold the responsibility? I don't think so, while it happens in the case of women.

So, why shouldn't people take the matter easy to deal with women normally as partners in the social life? One should not be emotional or partial in such an issue, but to be rational and take the matter through the mind's eye.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

Local people's participation in reconstruction

By: jac radfani
jacradfani@yahoo.com

Local people's role in this issue is very important point that has been ignored by a lot of people nowadays, instead of giving it the most of their care and interest. Therefore, societies in any part of the world can't prosper without their own people's efforts as well as awareness, and by these few lines I want to highlight this subject if I am not objected by a lot of those who oppose me in this point of view.

First of all reconstruction is not an easy matter that could be achieved in a day and a night, but it's a long term

process that demands a lot of time, it may last decades, if not hundreds of years, to do something appreciable or valuable that all its benefits go back to the society itself.

Starting From this viewpoint, I personally think that we as Yemenis should give our country something in return, and according to the proverb saying "life is giving and taking" - a truth that could be seen very clearly.

Yemen is our homeland that needs our help, our co-operation, and also our thinking so that it can face any difficulties in its practical future life. In fact, anything challenges it means a direct dare to our future in general.

As we know, many people help their countries in many different

ways; economically, politically, technologically, etc, we should do the same. Therefore, our government should ensure the local communities' involvement in the implementation of its development projects in order to promote political and economic stability in Yemen during this critical time.

For sure, I, and you, know and hear that indicators from around the world have shown that development agencies which don't listen to the experiences and concerns of the local populations failed in their planning though they had invested millions of dollars in projects.

However, when local communities are engaged in planning projects,

correspondent to their self-described needs, important socio-economic benefits become apparent in remarkably short time. And, the examples of how others sacrifice for their own countries with all their best are uncountable, this small column is not enough to talk about a one single story of them, any way, I am not going away from our point of view, but I believe the solution to this issue is very simple that is, in my personal viewpoint, the following:

In most cases, people from local communities have to establish associations to create and manage projects beneficial to their entire areas.

When love been a reason

It is "Yemen Times"

By: Abdullah Bin Abri Al-Nahdi
alnhdi@yahoo.com

I've studied English, but when I left my English school, I felt that I'm losing what I'd studied, specially when I moved to my hometown. I didn't find any one to practice with. My vocabularies were disappearing from my memory. Sometimes, weeks passed or even months without saying one English word. Shortly, I can say that I lost hope to speak English again.

Once I went to the stationary shop in my neighborhood. While I was talking to the salesman, something attracted my attention. I saw someone

as she was playing hide and seek with me. It was too crowded there; I could just see her eyes between the others. Her eyes were telling me something, but I didn't get it. I left that place, and I went home back. At home I was wondering "who was she? And what did she want?" I decided to go there one more time.

Next week I went to the same place on the same day at the same time. I was just asking my self "am I lucky enough to meet her again?" I entered and she was there, but she dressed differently this time. Every thing she was wearing was new.

I got closer to her, but she directly asked me her first question in English "Do you speak English?" this

question woke up something inside me, for my English has slept for a long time. I tried to answer her, but it was difficult for my tongue to push the letters; however, I finally I succeeded.

We had a short conversation. Then, I decided to leave, but she said "you can meet me here twice a week". "Ok, I'll come" I responded.

We made a deal to meet there every week, we had never missed the meeting, and our relationship became strong. I decided once to take her with me in my car, she didn't mind. Then she became a part of mine. Where ever I go, I take her with me, when ever I feel bored I just look at her she makes me happy. Her most care is just

to improve my English. She was my teacher when ever I've a question. She opened a new horizon for me. She refreshed my English and she brought back hope to my life. She seems like that she was created just to help me. As she said "Hello" to a person waiting for "Goodbye"

I admit that I love her, and she deserves that love. I decided to tell her name. At the beginning I felt jealous to tell, because I thought that I'm the only one who loves her, until I found out that she is loved by thousands of people, so no need to hide her name. Her first name is my country's name, and her last name shows you the valuable moment in our life. Did you know her? It is the "Yemen-Times".

Musical tones and rainbow of human being

By: Radhieh Amer

We may ask ourselves what we as human beings are and what our needs are. These questions are a white light. If we are going to expose this light to a prism, the individual frequencies are split a part into the colors that were contained within the single beam. In this case, the colors are arranged in layers separate and distinct from one another, yet each one is blending into the next. Another arbitrary division in our life is the musical scale. Here too, although the use of the musical division differs from one nation into the other, the seven-note scale seems to be predominating. The audible spectrum is much border than that of the visible light, and as these things our life, as

human beings, differs and varies.

Like both the white light and seven notes of musical is our life which is a combination of various needs; bread, knowledge, relationships among us, love, security, faith, and so forth.

In the dictionary the noun "human being" has one meaning: any living or extinct member of the humane family. And, this word has many synonyms homo, man, and human.

Viewing man in relation to the larger picture, he needs food to support and keep his physical form and strength to be able to perform different actions at different planes on the stage of the life. But, we get here a question poses itself "Is the bread the only thing needed for the man to maintain his existence in this life?" This can be the only need of any being on this earth except the human being. Our body in this life is only an organ of dealing with the

surroundings and the tool to reach the holly purposes behind our existence.

As the body is in need for bread, the mind is in need for bread, too. But what are the ingredients for the mind's bread. The recipe for this bread is a mixture of knowledge from various sciences, experiences of different societies, and cultural backgrounds, added to that some spices presented in the personal experiences. Man can find that all in books, magazines, newspapers, TV programs, and so forth.

Life is everywhere and we live in an ocean of it. This ocean contains various things. One of them is our relationship among us as human beings, which is the skeleton of life, without it life would be shapeless. Being in touch with others, man increases the amount of his experiences, develops himself, and

feels better helping others.

Moreover, being in contact with others, man can feel and share the sense of love.

This magic feeling gives everyone the energy to go on in this life. Experiencing such feeling from or towards others helps us to encounter life's difficulties, hardships, and obstacles. Such feeling is the thing that mostly drives us to scarify for the sake of others without counting the conclusion of what we are doing. Talking about life, we are not talking only about the love between man and woman that leads to marriage or making any kind of relationship. No, we are talking about the love with its various spectrums.

Then, when we all are sharing such sublime feeling, we get the inner sense of life. As a result of this one, the sense of security born in our souls, which is the other feeling that

should be felt to maintain an acceptable level of an atmosphere where we can live in as human beings. Man is always in need for a stable social surrounding to be capable to keep pace with every thing in our life.

Then, we come across another question which is what our spiritual heritage is or rather what the soul of the skeleton or the body of our life is. Certainly, it is our faith. It is the system that leads our life ahead, answers our inquiries, and finds out all the mysterious matters in this material world.

Further, it is the thing, once it is lost inside anyone of us, we may drink, move, eat, and do several things but in reality we are dead. These are some of the colors and the musical tones - bread, knowledge, relationships, love, security, and faith - of the rainbow of our life.

Will you let me choose!

By: Ahlam Abdu Awad
Sana'a University
Faculty of education

The small child cried,
He tried and tried,
Who will be kind
With me or who as me a child?
Will you let me to choose!
My heart or my soul.
I will choose my heart,
But will I be without hurt!
Oh, no I will choose my soul,
Though I will be poor.
Oh, I can't breath.
Where's my heart to make me
alive.
Do you think I can choose!
Mam and dad I will be sole,
Without you both.

Will you let me choose!?

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فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩
ص.ب: ٥٤٦٥
Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

Haddah st. in front of Al- Komaim Center
Tel: 266375 - 505290
Fax: 267619
P.O Box: 5465

مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - الحي السياسي - الأضحى - بيت بوس
سيار: ٢٨٥٥٠٢٣٨٠ - مكتب: ٢٧٩١٦٦

للإيجار
دورين وملحق في الدور الثالث بمدينة الأضحى الجديدة
الدور الأول: ٤ غرف ، حمامين، صاله ومطبخ مجهز بالدواليب
الدور الثاني: جديد ، ٤ غرف، حمامين ، صاله كبيره ، مطبخ مجهز بالدواليب.
الدور الثالث: جديد ، ٣ غرف كبيره ، حمام وسطوح.
حوش يسع ٣ سيارات - قريب جداً من شارع الأربعين "المفروشات"
الإيجار الشهري: ٧٠٠ دولار. \$700.00

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نسعى لتقديم الأفضل والأحسن في مجال الإستثمار العقاري

ناصر محمد علي صالح الخولاني -
برقم ٥٧٣٢٦٧٥
يرجى على من يجد البطاقة
أو الجواز الإتصال على الرقم
التالي: ٧٧٧٤١٩١٤٩
فقد جواز سفر هندي بإسم:
Mr. ANITYAANAND
رقم الجواز: B1991595
يرجى على من يجده الإتصال على
الرقم التالي: ٧٣٤٢١٦٧١٣

مفقودات

فقدت بطاقة شخصيه صادره من
الأمانة بإسم : رمزي عبده محمد
النجار. يرجى على من
يجدها الإتصال على الرقم
التالي: ٧١١٢٠٨١٠٠
فقدت بطاقة جامعيه تابعه
لجامعة الإيمان (سنه أولى)
- قسم الطالبات - بإسم
الطالبة: منال محمد علي
صالح الخولاني. كما وفقد
جواز سفر يماني بإسم :

وبرمجة شبكات الحاسوب -
يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة
ونطقاً.
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٠٤٥٥٨

• بكالوريوس محاسبة - تقدير جيد
جدا - من أوائل الدفعة - خبرة في
الحسابات والمراجعة والإدارة المالية
في شركات معتبرة وبتروولية - نظام
محاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) -
قدرة على التعامل مع أنظمة محاسبة
آلية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - قدرة
علي التعامل مع الحاسب الآلي
والمراسلات عبر الإنترنت - يرغب
في العمل في مجال تخصصه.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩١٣٢٠٩

• شمسان الرصاص - يجيد اللغة
الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - سنة ثالثة في
كلية الآداب - قسم إنجليزي - خبرة
في استخدام الكمبيوتر والتعامل معه
- حاصل على رخصة قيادة - يرغب
في العمل في أي مجال.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٣٠٤٢٣

الانظمة تهتمك
IMPORTANT Numbers

للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على
تصويبة ٢١١ ٣٦٨٦٦١

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مع قسم الإعلانات والتسويق
على رقم 268661 خويبة 211

باحثون عن وظيفة

• شوقي أمين - ثانوية عامة - سنة
ثالثة تجارة (قسم محاسبة) - جيد
في اللغة الإنجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية
كمبيوتر - خبرة في مجال المخازن
لمدة ست سنوات (أمين مخازن -
مراقب مخازن - مشتريات متابعه)
نوع المخزن (مخازن مستشفى -
مخازن مصنع - مخازن الكترونيات)-
يبحث عن عمل مناسب.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢

• بكالوريوس برمجة (جامعة -
SMU - الهند) - يجيد اللغة
الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - مراسلات عبر
الإنترنت - حاصل على شهادات (PC
hardware - networking -
mcse-oracle - يبحث عن عمل
في مجال تخصصه.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩٩١٣٩٩

• متخصص في إدارة المكاتب
والمراسلات التجاريه والبنكيه -
يرغب في العمل مع شركة ممتازة أو
بنك.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٤٨٨٨٥

• دبلوم برمجة حاسوب (جامعة العلوم
والتكنولوجيا) - حاصل على شهادات
CCNA1, CCNA2, CCNA3
- عمل لسنوات في مجال تنصيب

DHL : 441099/8/7/6
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٢١٣٤٨٩: ت
٢١٩٦٤٣: ت

شحن وتوصيل
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١-٤٤٤٥٥٠٤٤١٩٣٥: ت

النسيم للشحن والتوصيل
ورلد لينك

مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة : ٠١-٢٤٩٦٦٧-٦٦
مستشفى الجمهوري : ٠١-٢٤٩٨٧٨/٧
مستشفى حدة الأهلي : ٠١-٤١٣٨١
مستشفى الاماني الحديث : ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠-٦٠٠٠٠٠
فاكس: ٤١٨١١٦
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق فرساي : ٠١-٤٢٥٦٧-١/٢
فندق شيراتون : ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠٠
فندق موفيك : ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
فندق تاج سبأ : ٠١-٣٧٣٧٣٧
فندق ريلكس ان : ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
فندق وأجحة الخليج السياحي : ٠١-٦٠٣٥٥٠ - ٦٠٣١٥٥/أ

معاهد

معهد يالي : ٤٤٨٠٣٧/٣٧-٤٤٨٠٣٧
معهد اللغة الألمانية : ٢٠٠٩٥٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر : ٣٦٦٣٣٣
فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥
معهد كاروكوس : ٥٢٣٤٣٤/٥
معهد ليكس : ٣٦٥٥٧٧
٥١٠٦١٢ - ٤٤٠٨٣٣

شركات للتأمين

الوظيفة للتأمين : ٣٧٣٧٣٧/٣٧٣٧٣٧
مأرب للتأمين : ٢٠٦١٢٩/أ/١٣
الشركة اليمنية للإسليمية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين
صنعا : ٣٤٨١٩٣
عدن : ٣٤٤٢٨٠
تعز : ٣٥٨٨١
شركة اليمن للتأمين : صنعا : ٣٧٣٨٠٠/٣٧٣٩٦١/٤٣
عدن : ٣٤٧١١٧
تعز : ٣٥٠٣٤٥

مدارس

مدرسة رينبو : ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٣٤-٤٣٤
مدارس صنعا الدولية : ٣٧٠١٩١/٢
مدرسة الزكية الدولية : ٤٤٨٥٨٥/٩
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية : ٢٠٦١٥٩

سفرات

النسيم للسفرات : ٧٧٠٧٠٠
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة : ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

مطاعم

مطعم ومخبزة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون : ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٥٢٩٠ - فاكس : ٢٦٧٦١٩

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج : فاكس: ٣٦-٨٢٤-١٦٠-٩٦٧
فرع عدن : ٢٣٧٨٢٩ - ٢٣٧٨٢٩ / فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٤
البنك التجاري : ٣٧٣٣٤ : فاكس : ٣٧٣٣٤١
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل : ٣٦٤٧٥٣٤٧-٢ : فاكس: ٣٦٤٧٥٣٤٧
بنك اليمن الدولي : ٠١-٤٠٧٤٠٠
البنك العربي : ٠١-٣٧٥٥٥١٢
بنك التسليف الزراعي : ٠١-٥٣٣٨١٣
البنك المركزي: ٠١-٣٧٤٣٤

تأجير سيارات

زايو (Budget) : ٣٠٩٦١٨٠٥-٦٣٣٣ : فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
يورب كار : ٣٧-٧٥١ : فاكس: ٣٧٠٨٠٤
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعا : ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون : ٥٤٥٨٥٥
عدن : ٢٠٢٤٥١٣٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية)
شهادة ايزو ١.
صنعا : ٠١-٤٣٨٣٠٥
فاكس : ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩
عدن : ٢٠٠٣٧١٩٩
تعز : ٤٠٢٥٠٣٤٣
المكلا : ٥٠٣٠٧٤٩٣

البريد السريع

صنعا : ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧
الحديدة : ٣٤٨٢٣
إب : ٤١١٨٨٨
المكلا : ٣٠٣٢٤١
شوه : ٢٠٣٣٦٦
سيئون : ٤٠٢٤٢٩

Infnit Education T: 444553
NIIT تعليم الكمبيوتر : ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

كوبون للاعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)

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عنوان التواصل:

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 Tel.: 00967 - 1 - 418545/6/7/8
 P.O. Box: 16183
 Fax: 00967 - 1 - 418549 - 418564
 E-mail: Shammerhotel@hotmail.com

Bukhatir: Music veils the message behind the words

By: Nisreen Shadad

Despite heavy rain, a large crowd of Yemenis from different governorates gathered for the Ahmed Bukhatir festival held on August 8 at 8:00 p.m. in Al-Sabeen garden. Bukhatir's sweat voice resonated in the Yemenis' hearts and overshadowed the evening's resilient thunder.

The Emirate chanter Bukhatir began his musical career in 1989 and his albums achieved worldwide fame very quickly. Bukhatir's first solo album was released in November 2001. His albums Fartaqi and Samtan had very high sales in many countries and he participated in various concerts and festivals. Bukhatir memorized the Holy Qur'an and participated in the Al-Qur'an Al-Kareem competition in Um Al Quwein in 2003.

One of Bukhatir's biggest concerts was held through a festival sponsored by the Sharjah Charity Organization. He has become very popular in the Arab world and seeks to spread Islamic thought through his nasheeds.



The Emirate chanter Bukhatir singing for Yemeni crowd.

Bukhatir through others' eyes

"I liked him so much before he came, and I am proud of him being my brother in Islam," Ali Ghubari, coordinator of the Bukhatir festival in Yemen, stated. For 10 years, Bukhatir

sang in silence and the first time that he shared his voice with the public was by chance.

Bukhatir used to practice chanting at home, however, no one encouraged him to do so. One day while Bukhatir was with his brother Salah in the

cassette recording store reading a book, he came across a beautiful poem of Ilya Abu Madhi, a famous poet. He was eager to record his voice, not to release it but merely to practice. He insisted that his brother record his voice while he was

chanting and his brother eventually complied with his requests. After some time had passed, another chanter who was preparing a cassette for release stumbled upon Bukhatir's recording. He was moved by Bukhatir's voice and asked Salah to introduce him to his brother. Bukhatir was featured on the chanter's album Intasaf Al-Lail, and the album's success was due in part to Bukhatir's chant.

Bukhatir's brother is deputy of his administrative council. He is a reciter of the Holy Qur'an and likes to support art that complies with Islamic principles. Salah stated, "Bukhatir is selective. He does not seek money, but he has a supreme message to convey through his art. Bukhatir has only three solo albums released. He took his time to select the words and the tune that can effectively reach the listener's heart."

Bukhatir does not desire to use music, but instead utilizes the tone of his voice to reach listeners. He wants those who listen to his songs to feel his words and be affected by them. Ali Ghubari, director of Ghubari Investment Group, believes in this type of art. "We have heard a lot of songs, however usually we are affected by the music and forget the words."

The obstacles

Any experience carries with it positives and negatives, according to

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Ali Ghubari. The main difficulty in putting together the Bukhatir festival was financial support. "As there are many festivals held in the summer, it is difficult to find sponsors. Therefore, I opened the door for participation. The total cost of this festival was about \$60,000, but I got from the participation \$15,000," Ghubari stated. The Minister of Tourism, Nabil al-Faqih, was Ghubari's last hope. "He told me, 'Do your best of collecting money and I am responsible for the rest.' He included Bukhatir's festival in the 2007 Sana'a Summer Festival."

Ghubari launched a big media campaign in 10 Yemeni governorates, leading to a huge turnout for Bukhatir's concert.

Those who don't thank people don't thank Allah

The success of Bukhatir's festival was due to the efforts of many

unknown soldiers who worked day and night. From amongst them are the Minister of Tourism, Nabil al-Faqih, and the Minister of Media, Hasan al-Lawzi, who vouched for a media group of 27 people to cover the festival without any payment, according to Ghubari. He credited the interaction of distinctive characters in the government with the festival's success.

Ghubari Investment Group was established in 2004. It has carried out numerous activities in the commercial field, investment, contracting works as well as development tourism, sales and marketing, education, and public utilities and services. Additionally, the group held the first Investment and HR Development Conference in 2005, the first shopping festival in Al-Hudaida in 2006, and also were the first to host the international Islamic scholar Omar Abdul Kafi.

Oddly enough news

Blind man arrested for driving car

Police in the Baltic state of Estonia stopped a man who was driving erratically at the weekend, only to find he was blind.

The 20-year-old was driving in the southern city of Tartu early Sunday -- helped by instructions from his 16-year-old passenger.

"At first they thought he was just drunk, but the man kept missing the tube for the breath test, then they realized he was blind" and arrested him, Tartu Police spokeswoman Marge Kohla said Monday.

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a baby..

A New Zealand couple is looking to call their newborn son Superman -- but only because their chosen name of 4Real has been rejected by the government registry.

Pat and Sheena Wheaton say they will get around the decision by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages by officially naming their son Superman but referring to him as 4Real, the New Zealand Herald newspaper has reported.

The Wheatons decided on the name after seeing the baby for the first time in an ultrasound scan and realizing their baby was "for real."

They decided 4Real was the best way to write it, but the name was rejected because the registrar said a name had to be a sequence of characters.

Pat Wheaton said he was considering appealing against the decision through the courts, but whatever happens he won't be budged on his choice.

"No matter what its going to stay 4Real," Wheaton told the Herald, "I'm certainly not a quitter."

A spokesman for the Department of Internal Affairs, which operates the registry told the Herald discussions with the Wheatons about their son's

name were continuing.

The baby is now two months old, after the Wheatons first applied to register his name in later June.

Crocodile falls 12 floors in escape bid

A crocodile survived a fall from the 12th floor of a Russian apartment block after making an escape bid through a window, emergency services said on Wednesday.

Diving out of the window has become a habit for the crocodile, called Khenar, with concerned neighbors saying it was the third time he had used that method to flee, Moskovsky Komsomolets daily reported.

The crocodile lost one tooth in the latest fall but was otherwise unscathed, said a spokeswoman for the emergency ministry in the Nizhny Novgorod region of central Russia.

"It seems the owner was not at home when the crocodile came out of the window," she said.

Emergency services put the crocodile in a local aquarium to recover from his fall. Within a few hours his concerned owner came to pick him up and the crocodile was last seen lying on the back seat of his owner's car.

No more crispy duck served at toilets

Food stalls attached to Beijing's public toilets will be removed in good time for next year's Olympics, state media said Saturday.

Complaints over toilets with poor sanitation and toilet operators turning them into commercial operations led to the ban, which comes into force in October.

"It is not proper to sell soft drinks or snacks right at the toilets," the Beijing News said, citing sources within the Beijing Municipal Administration Commission.

"The city authorities also plan to publish a toilet guide, provide toilet

information over the telephone and the Internet and erect more road signs to help toilet users."

Billboards near toilets will also be banned, Xinhua news agency said.

Notoriously polluted Beijing is cleaning up its act before it hosts the Olympics. It has also announced crackdowns on spitting and smelly taxis.

Do I have to draw a map for you?

As many as 11 million British motorists are unable to read a basic road map, according to a survey released Monday.

The poll revealed over three quarters of British drivers were unable to identify the motorway map symbol, while only one percent of motorists would pass the Cub Scout Map Reader badge test.

"It's pretty embarrassing the majority of Cub Scouts have better map-reading skills than the majority of the adult population," said Colin Batabyal, head of underwriting and business development at eSure, which carried out the survey.

Sixteen percent of British drivers have become so heavily reliant on satellite navigation systems that they have given up keeping a map in their car.

"It's time for motorists to take a refresher in map-reading skills," said Scott Sinclair of national mapping agency Ordnance Survey. "Technology is great but the batteries won't run out on a paper map."

"No serious hill walker would rely totally on a GPS device in case the power goes or the signal is lost, so it should be the same for the motorist," added Sinclair.

The survey -- based on a poll of 1,000 UK drivers -- estimated Britons' poor map-reading skills resulted in 36 billion wasted miles being driven each year.

Source: Reuters

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