

Amid a relatively calm security situation in Sa'ada Humanitarian situation continues to worsen

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Sept. 21 — The security situation is relatively calm throughout the governorate of Sa'ada while the humanitarian situation continues to worsen, tribal sources from the governorate said on Sunday, adding that people are in need of basic necessities such as water and food, particularly in the worst war-hit areas.

"Water pumps were stolen and wells were filled up," the sources continued. "Displaced residents in refugee camps are also busy searching for good shelters and blankets to protect themselves from the cold weather that has begun with the advent of winter. They are also searching for medicine to fight the diseases spreading in tents as a result of accumulated human and animal waste in each camp."

With regard to efforts to reconstruct the Sa'ada governorate and the obstacles they face, Houthis denied charges attributed to them by Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad Al-Alimi, who accused them of hindering reconstruction efforts, of continuing to build trenches, and of taking over several mountaintop positions although the war has already ended.

A source related to the Houthis' field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said, on



the Houthis' website, that charges made by Al-Alimi were baseless, describing them as "escalating and troublesome." Regarding the release of those

detained over alleged connections with the Sa'ada fighting, many Yemeni civil community organizations welcomed a government's initiative to release 63

detained Houthi loyalists and pressed the government to release other detainees including journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani.

According to these organizations, the release of cleric Mohammed Miftah, the chairman of the Haq Party Shoura Council, Lowai Al-Moayyad, journalist, Abdurrahman Abu Talib, Dr. Jamal Al-Lawzi and many other detainees in the Sa'ada and Hudeidah governorates and in the capital city is a positive step toward erasing the consequences of the war and enhancing the spirit of social solidarity and peace.

In a joint statement, these organizations urged all local, regional and international human rights groups and political parties to communicate with the authorities with the aim of identifying anonymous detainees and releasing them.

The organizations stressed the necessity of releasing all those detained over alleged connections with Sa'ada fighting, most notably those jailed in the Sana'a-based political security prison.

Detainees' relatives protest against government

Relatives of those detained over alleged connections with Sa'ada fighting protested on Tuesday and Wednesday, claiming that responsible authorities in government should implement President Saleh's directions to release the detainees.

The protestors met with Deputy Prime Minister for Local Authority

Affairs Sadeq Amin Abu Ra'as, after Al-Alimi excused himself from meeting them. They confirmed that Abu Ra'as promised to follow Saleh's directions and implement them. He assigned a special appointment to meet them and inform them about further developments.

In a letter sent to Al-Alimi, detainees' relatives urged him to take immediate procedures to order both political and national security organizations to release as many as 131 detainees, who have been acquitted from charges that they were involved in the Sa'ada fighting. These detainees were acquitted according to President Saleh's directions.

With regard to several media reports that Abdulmalik Al-Houthi declared his absolute allegiance to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Parliament member Yahya Al-Houthi, who is currently residing in Germany, said what has been reported by pro-government media outlets about his brother Abdulmalik is nothing more than lies and fabrication.

"These words were produced by Sheikh Faris Mana'a, who is known to be a big liar," Yahya Al-Houthi said. "My brother Abdulmalik believes only in absolute allegiance to God and his prophets, not with President Ali Abdullah Saleh," he concluded.

Publishing of sexual abuse victims' names and pictures unethical

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANA'A, Sep. 21 — The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD, considers the publishing of the names and photos of sexually abused children and women a flagrant violation of their private lives and reputation.

"Publishing the photos and names of [these] people either during evidence collection, investigation or trial processes is considered a flagrant violation of their private lives and reputation," said Abdul Rahman Barman, a HOOD lawyer, adding that this aggravates the problems faced by victims, especially since they live in a traditional and conservative society.

Barman's comments came last Thursday during a symposium on the Media Circulation of the Names and Photos of the Sexual Abuse Victims, which was organized by the Seyaj Organization for the Protection of Childhood.

He also pointed out that publishing photos and names of victims is a crime that leads to their social destruction among their families and communities, emphasizing that the Yemeni constitution stipulates that the state protects motherhood and childhood.

Barman affirmed that criminal and civil responsibilities with regards to violating the right of privacy in Yemeni law represent two sides of the same coin.

Abdul Bari Taher, the ex-president

of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate, spoke of the ethics of journalism and of the legislation and laws related to the civil and political rights of individuals. He stressed the potential effect of media in cases such as rape and harassment, and emphasized the necessity of dealing with such cases with sensitivity so as not to further affect the victim.

The head of the Seyaj Organization for the Protection of Childhood, Ahmed Al-Qurashi, stated that the organization has recently received seven notifications of rape, some of which involve children. In two cases, the perpetrator was the father.

Nasr Taha Mustafa, president of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, highlighted the importance of the media in dealing with such issues as crimes which violate the values, morals and stability of society. "There is a deficiency in the press' dealing with such subjects, and no newspaper is interested in addressing the issue of sexual abuse against children, except from a political angle," Mustafa said, emphasizing the necessity of working on such subjects to protect society and uphold ethical standards.

Mustafa called on psychologists and sociologists to research the harmful consequences of publishing the names and photos of victims of sexual abuse in the media. He also called on media outlets to deal with such issues in a way that adheres both to the profession's ethics and to the morals of society.

Third kidnapping since the beginning of 2008 Security forces sent to release two Colombian engineers and two Yemenis kidnapped in Shabwa

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen Times

ABYAN, Sept. 21 — Local authorities in the Abyan governorate have dispatched security forces to set free two Colombian engineers, a Yemeni driver and another security guard after they were kidnapped last Friday. The engineers, driver and security guard were on their way to work near the Arabian Sea port of Balhaf in the Shabwa governorate, some 450 kilometers to the east of Sana'a, where they were engaged in the construction of a gas-exporting project, when they were abducted.

Ali Al-Ahmadi, governor of Shabwa, told the Yemen Times that the local authorities in the two governorates would deploy joint forces to release the hostages, if the tribal mediation with the kidnappers reached an impasse.

Sources from Abyan said that the governorate's leadership had dispatched security forces to release the

hostages after tribal mediation failed to set them free.

Al-Ahmadi made it clear that the kidnappers' demands were "similar to the demands of abduction operations that took place in the past; either releasing their associates or employing relatives in the gas project".

An official source in the company maintained that the two Colombian hostages work for a Colombian company in charge of extending an oil pipeline for the Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas (YLNG) company based on a sub-contract, and pointed out that the project's administration had informed the security authorities about the incident and was waiting for the investigation's findings.

The same source who preferred to remain anonymous said that the YLNG hadn't received any call from the kidnappers, noting that it had no idea about their demands.

This is the third abduction case this year alone. Security authorities in the

Shabwa governorate set free an Algerian engineer of French origin in addition to two Yemeni drivers working for the YLNG Company less than 24 hours after their abduction in Habban district of the Shabwa governorate last month.

This past March, the district of Asilan in Shabwa witnessed confrontations between the army and citizens who had surrounded the premises of a construction company in charge of constructions for the YLNG project.

This past May, armed men abducted two Japanese tourists in the Mareb governorate and demanded the government release one of their relatives who was charged with murder. Fortunately, tribal mediation resulted in the release of the two hostages seven hours after the abduction.

According to experts, the tribal act of abduction in Yemen aims to "pressure the government to either release prisoners or provide the kidnappers' area with basic services".

In January 2006, an armed group in Mareb kidnapped five Italian tourists and held them in Serwah for six days. Security forces were able to set the hostages free and capture the kidnappers.

In September 2006, armed men kidnapped four French tourists in the Shabwa governorate, demanding that their relatives imprisoned in the Abyan governorate be transferred to a Sana'a prison.

Most abduction incidents in Yemen end in the release of the hostages unharmed. However, in 1998, four foreigners were killed among a group of 16 tourists after the security forces attempted to break into the location where they were being held hostage in the Abyan governorate.

The Yemeni government has recently established judiciary courts specialized in abduction cases against foreigners, and has hardened punishment against kidnappers, which includes death penalty.

Ramadan volleyball tournament concludes

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, 19 Sept — Al-Wahdah Sports Club won first place in the Yemen Volleyball Association (YVA)'s Ramadan 2008 volleyball tournament held in Sana'a this month.

The participating teams were Al-Wahdah Sports Club, the Russian community team and the German community team, the Ma'een district team, Al-Wahdah district team and the Al-Tahreer district team. Al-Wahdah district won second place and the Russian community team third place in the tournament.

The tournament final took place in at Al-Ahli club in Sana'a; the other tournament matches took place at the Ahmed Abdurrahman outdoor volleyball court in Al-Tahreer.

Dr. Suhaib Al-Adeemi, head of Yemen Volleyball Association (YVA)'s Sana'a branch, described the tournament as successful and the level of participation as quite good. "Sport is an ideal method for youth to fill their time, rather than wasting it in carelessness or radicalism," he said.

The recent terrorist attacks on the



American embassy prevented the German and Russian teams from playing in the tournament's final.

"The security situation has affected the tournament and, unfortunately, we were unable to honor the participants from foreign communities in the final match," Al-Adeemi said.

According to Ali Abbas, a volleyball player from the Russian community team, wide participation in such tournaments is important to create a competitive performance and draw more

crowds to the sport. "Maybe security issues are behind the low participation of foreigners in this tournament and other sports activities in Yemen," he said.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports also organized several activities during the Ramadan in a number of governorates including Sana'a and Aden.

Al-Adeemi noted that this tournament has been held for over ten years, with foreign and non-Yemeni Arabs participating every year. The YVA's

Sana'a branch is preparing to organize a volleyball tournament for the embassies in Sana'a. "I hope there will be wide participation from all the embassies in Sana'a," said Al-Adeemi.

This year, the YVA's 2008 tournament ran from 9 to 19 September and included teams from foreign communities as well as districts teams from the city of Sana'a. At the end of the tournament, a presentation ceremony was held to honor the winners and participants who were able to attend.

To whom it may concern,



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In Brief

SANA'A

Yemen received 2220 refugees from Somalia in September

Yemen received during the first quarter of September about 2220 refugees from the Horn of Africa, most of them are Somalians and Ethiopians.

In a statement to the weekly 26 September, security authorities expected the continuation the flow of displaced persons during September and October on a daily basis due to of the unstable security situations in Somalia.

Yemen, GTZ discuss technical education cooperation

Technical Education and Vocational Training Minister Ibrahim Hajri discussed on Thursday with a delegation of German technical cooperation agency (GTZ) ways of developing technical education and vocational training in the country.

The two sides discussed future partnership between GTZ and the private sector.

The meeting confirmed the necessity of benefiting from GTZ experience, specially in its project in cooperation with the private sector to train the technical cadres and develop technical programs.

For his part, Hajri praised GTZ projects in Yemen through implementing a

number of technical education projects.

The German delegation has confirmed readiness to train Yemeni cadres through in the German institutes, pointing out that the GTZ will supervise to help typical institutes in Yemen succeed

Regional network for human rights suggested to established

Experts and activists in the field of human rights in the Arabian peninsula has affirmed the importance of establishing a regional network for activists of human rights.

In a workshop organized by Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in this regard, member of the Supreme National Anti-corruption Authority Iz al-Deen al-Asbahi made clear that the workshop represents a first step in order to put active suggestions on how to achieve the idea of a regional network for human rights and how to activate it to face possible challenges at the legal, administrative and local level.

Director of HRITC Tawfiq al-Buthajji said that the workshop, concluding Saturday with the participation of 25 individuals from the Arabian Peninsula, aims at evaluating steps of the center during the past years in implementing a number of special activities on reinforcing awareness of principles of human rights in the Arabian

Peninsula countries.

MAHWEET

Al-Alimi opens development projects in Mahweet

Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad al-Alimi opened and laid down foundation stones for 89 development projects in Mahweet governorate at a total cost of YR 4.4 billion.

The projects are in fields of roads, health, education, agriculture, electricity, telecommunication, sport and youths.

Then, al-Alimi headed a meeting for members of the local council and officials of the executives offices in the governorate.

The meeting focused on issues associated with the needs of the governorate from development projects and means to enhance performance of the executive offices.

TAIZ

President opens Yemen International Hospital in Taiz

President Ali Abdullah Saleh opened on Saturday Yemen international hospital in Taiz governorate of Hayal Saeed Group.

President Saleh listened from the officials of the hospital about its sections

and health services presented for the patients.

The capacity of the hospital is 121 beds in its first phase and 175 in its second phase at a total cost of \$ 30 million.

President Saleh expressed his happiness to open such health facilities, expressing thank you for the Hayal Saeed Group for its investments in key sectors such as health. He called on private sector and businessmen to invest in such sector and other development fields.

LAHI

President visits Lahj cement factory

President Ali Abdullah Saleh visited on Saturday cement factory of national company for cements in Lahj governorate, one of Hayal Saeed Companies.

During his visit, president Saleh listened from the officials of the factory about its activities and production.

The capacity of the factory is 80,000 cement bags per day and 1,600,000 bags yearly. The total cost of the factory is \$ 250 million.

ADEN

SC chairman launches works in Anma Mall project in Aden

Chairman of Shoura Council Abdul Aziz Abdul-Ghani laid down foundation stone on Friday for the project Trade Anma Mall and project of extending housing units of Anma company in Aden city.

The total cost of the mall project is \$ 14 million.

Abdul-Ghani listened from officials about contains of the projects.

On the other hand, the chairman of Shoura Council paid a visit to the safe motherhood center in Mualla where he listened from the director of the center for the services presented to the children in the center.

HAIJAH

Child trafficker captured in Yemeni-Saudi borders

The Security Authorities have managed to arrest a child trafficker (45) in the border district Haradh of Hajjah Governorate along with two children, aged of 9 - 11 years, in their way to Saudi Arabia.

The security authorities sent the two children to the Childhood Protection

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Their News

Car Trading Center lucky draw AMTC

A lucky draw took place at the Car Trading Centre on Monday September 15 2008. After opening the ceremony with a Qur'an Recital and Ramadan advice, Mr. Saeed Bamshoos, the sales manager, presented the prizes to the participants that had bought their cars from one of the Trading Centre's branches.

Some prizes were ten thousand dollars in cash, free fuel, as well as free

car maintenance.

Mr. Abd Al-Gawi Tuaman won the prize, which was presented to him by Mr.

Bashmoos. The last lucky draw will take place Thursday, September 25 2008 at 9:30pm.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ إِذْ اصْتَضَىٰ لَهُ الْوَالِدُ ذُرِّيَةً وَأَنَا الْيَاقُوتُ
بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي
وأصدق المواساة القلبية
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سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه
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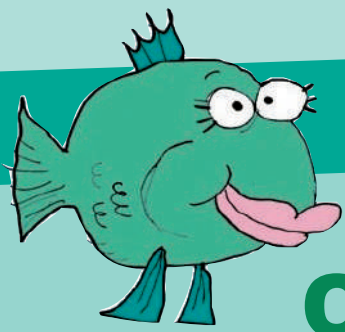
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FRANNIE LEARNS A LESSON

Last Chapter: Frannie got caught fighting at school. Mrs. S moved Frannie's desk away from her friends.

Chapter Five: "Frannie's New Friends"



In celebration of this year's World Literacy Day, the Yemen Times will be publishing, in collaboration with the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), an eight-part story entitled 'Frannie Learns a Lesson' in the next issues. The story is a short adventure for parents and children to read together, or individuals to read on their own, as a gesture of continued appreciation for the value of the written word in our world today. We hope you enjoy it, and don't forget to look out for the next chapter next issue!!

Frannie tossed and turned in her bed, moaning loudly. "Oh! Oh!" she yelled. "My stomach hurts so bad! Oh, I don't feel well!"

Frannie's mother rushed into the room.

"What is it? What hurts?" she asked.

"My stomach. I think I'm getting sick. I shouldn't go to school today."

"You wouldn't happen to be faking it because of what happened yesterday, would you?" her mother asked.

"No..." Frannie paused. "But I have to sit in the corner alone, not that it matters, because none of my friends will talk to me anyway. They think I'm trouble," Frannie blurted.

"Well, honey, you know that you're not trouble, right? But, you also know that what you did yesterday is wrong. I think that if you talk to your friends about it, and show them that you've changed, they will forgive you. That's what friends do, they forgive each other."

"You're sure?"

"I'm sure" her mother said.

After she finished her normal morning routine, Frannie swam around outside, nervously waiting for the bus. She was scared that no matter what she did, her friends would still be mad at her. "How can I let them know how sorry I am?" she thought.

As the bus came to a stop, Frannie got on. She wondered if there would be anyone she could sit next to today. Maybe she could make a new friend. She scanned the bus for someone familiar, when one face stood out in the crowd. It was Bonnie, the fish she fought with yesterday! Frannie stopped swimming down the aisle for a minute, paused in shock. "Should I find another seat? Should I try to say something to her?" Frannie wondered. Then Frannie remembered what her mother had told her.

Frannie went and sat next to Bonnie.



"I just want you to know that I'm sorry about yesterday. I didn't mean to hit you with the pearl, and I didn't mean to get us in trouble yesterday after school," Frannie said.

"Why are you being so nice to me?" Bonnie asked. "I started a fight with you, got you into trouble, and made your friends mad at you."

"It was my fault, too" Frannie said. "I should have tried to talk to you instead of fighting. I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry, too. Do you want to be friends?" Bonnie asked, her eyes looking sad.

"I would like that," Frannie said.

Frannie and Bonnie talked the whole way to school. Frannie didn't even notice her old friends staring at her the entire time.

Just before class started, Frannie's old friends stopped her in the hall. "So when did you and Bonnie become best friends?" Suzy asked.

"Yeah, what's that about?" Carter began, "You'd rather hang with the big bad blowfish?"

"I thought you guys were mad at me," Frannie said. "I wanted to show you that I'm not trouble, and that I can be friends with Bonnie, even if we had a rough start."

"We're sorry we ignored you yesterday," Tommy said. "We thought you'd get us into trouble too."

"But it seems like you've learned your lesson," Suzy said, "and that's great!"

"Yeah, Bonnie's actually really nice; we're going to sit next to each other at lunch. Of course, you're all invited to sit with us, too" Frannie said.

"Sounds great!" said Suzy, Tommy and Carter.

"I am really sorry about yesterday," Frannie said. "Do you guys forgive me?"

"Of course we do!" her friends all hugged her.

Morning class couldn't go fast enough. After what seemed like an endless lecture on land animals, it was finally time for lunch. Frannie and her friends from class went to meet Bonnie.

"Hey guys, this is Bonnie." Frannie introduced her new

friend. "Bonnie, this is Suzy, Tommy and Carter."

"Hi," said Bonnie.

"Hi," said Suzy, Tommy and Carter.

The group sat down and started talking about the land animals they learned about in class. Bonnie gave them advice about what they needed to remember for the third grade. They were getting along great, and Frannie realized how important her friends were to her, and how lonely it is without them.

Frannie looked around the lunchroom, trying to find the clock. The lunch period was almost over. Out of the corner of her eye she saw a jellyfish, sitting alone at a table by the door. She knew that jellyfish were sometimes dangerous, but she also didn't want anyone to be alone. Frannie wondered what she should do.

Next Chapter: "Jordan the Jellyfish"

Using the newspaper

1. Write: "What makes a good friend" on the top of a sheet of paper. Look for pictures or words that show examples of what makes a good friend. The opposite can be done, searching for samples of what does not make a good friend.

2. If you had to pick one person out of today's newspaper to be your friend, who would it be? Write the person's name or paste the person's picture on a sheet of paper and list at least four reasons why you chose him/her.

What will happen next?

How do you think Frannie's friends will treat Jordan?

REAL LIFE & VALUES: Conflict resolution

Highlight in the chapter what Frannie did to solve her conflict with Bonnie. Share with your class when and how you have solved a conflict with another person.

To do and think about ...

1. Draw a picture of your best friend. Show it to your class and tell them what you like about him/her.
2. Imagine you are the author and decided to include a conversation between Suzy, Tommy and Carter as they rode the bus and watched the interaction between Frannie and Bonnie. Write the conversation so that it fits in the chapter.
3. Using the word FRIEND, create an acrostic poem using each letter as the start of a new line.
4. Complete the chart below:

Character	How was she/he feeling in the bus?	Sentence from story to support your description

More activities...

www.wan-press.org/Frannie

World Association of Newspapers

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Price hikes deprive Yemenis of Ramadan foods

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

Yemeni citizens complain that due to sky-rocketing food prices, they are unable to afford many of the items they are accustomed to consuming during the fasting month of Ramadan. A typical Ramadan meal would include a wide variety of foods including pasta, dates and many types of deserts.

Abdu Humaid Mujali says that he can't provide a variety of food for his family this Ramadan because of high prices. "We can hardly provide necessary food this year due to the increase of prices. There are therefore various typical dishes missing on our Ramadan table."

Hussein Eidhah Al-Matari said that when he goes shopping in Ramadan he finds it difficult to buy all sorts of food as in the past. "Amid this price hikes, we cannot afford to buy many items

that we used to eat on a daily basis during Ramadan in the past years," says Al-Matari. "For example, many items are now consumed on a weekly basis rather than on a daily basis as in Ramadan during previous years."

People of limited income are the most to suffer from high prices because they consider Ramadan as a time during which they eat many sorts of food that they don't usually eat throughout the year, according to Ali Al-Harazi. "People provide foods such as meat, pasta and sweet dishes every Ramadan, but this year they can't because prices are very high," says Al-Harazi, adding that "even vegetables and dates have become difficult to get to as their price have increased two-fold."

Owners of food stores maintain that the demand for food products has decreased this Ramadan compared with Ramadan of the previous years. Mohammed Al-Raimi, owner of a grocery, says, "In the past, we would provide many food items special for Ramadan including pasta and ingredients of sweet dishes. The demand for these products was very high. This year, the demand is very low for these items as their prices are high."

Mujahid Ghalib, owner of a grocery store, says he is certain that the reason behind the low demand for food items this Ramadan is the high prices. "A packet of pasta cost YR 80 in the past and now it is YR180. The case is the same with other items like milk and rice," he said.

Ghalib added that people are unable to provide their families with essential food items such as flour, bread and milk, and this reflects in the low



People of limited income are the most to suffer from high prices because they consider Ramadan as a time during which they eat many sorts of food that they don't usually eat throughout the year.

Ramadan is 35 percent, maintaining that 28 percent of families resort to borrowing and 15 percent sell their personal property in order to cover Ramadan expenses.

The poll, which aimed to discover the purchasing habits of Yemeni families during Ramadan, showed that 54 percent of families allocate a financial budget especially for Ramadan whereas 46 percent of them don't.

According to the poll, 22 percent of people don't check the manufacturing date of food. The government's monitoring performance on the food products has notably improved although 36 percent of people included in the poll believe that the government's efforts in this regard are non-existent.

Mustafa Nasr, director of the CSEM, stressed the importance of raising consumer awareness among citizens particularly given that 48 percent of Yemeni families don't know whether the products sold on the streets are healthy and usable or not.

demand on the sorts of food special for Ramadan. "A loaf of bread is YR 20 as a 50 kg sack of flour is YR 6500 compared with YR 2500 last year" he added.

Although price hikes in Yemen are attributed to the global food crisis, Mohammed Mosleh, owner of a wholesale grocery store, believes that the reasons behind high prices of vegetables are the increase of demand on one hand and poor agricultural guidance on the other. Thus, "vegetables are available on the market only in specific seasons and not throughout the year. Agricultural guidance can help farmers grow vegetables in different times to be available throughout the year."

An opinion poll undertaken by Center of Studies and Economic Media (CSEM) showed that poor living standards in Yemeni families are getting worse, especially during Ramadan. The poll revealed that the average increase of expenditures during

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- 2- In Practice tests: what are the levels you can practice at?
- 3- In Beat the Clock: what is the first topic?

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العميد/ عبدالرحمن أحمد محمد الأصبحي
الحاج/ عبدالله أحمد محمد الأصبحي
الأستاذ/ ياسين أحمد محمد الأصبحي
الأستاذ/ سعيد أحمد محمد الأصبحي
الأستاذ/ محمد أحمد محمد الأصبحي
لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى
الحاج/ علي أحمد محمد الأصبحي
تغمده الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأسكنه فسيح جناته وألهم أهله ونوحيه
الصبر والسلوان... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
الأسيفون
جميع موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز

Words of Wisdom



One issue that is so crucial that I can't exaggerate its importance is the need to catch up with the world in computers. I know it looks stupid to call for computer training and education when half the population is illiterate. But, we can't wait to become fully literate to start looking into computers. We can actually embark on multiple parallel efforts.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Why the clamp down on terrorism is not working in Yemen

Since a very young age, we have been taught in schools that the Yemeni revolutions of the 1960s were created to eliminate the three most threatening obstacles to our country's development: poverty, illiteracy and disease. Today, two more have been added to the list of major problems preventing Yemen from prospering: corruption and terrorism.

Yemeni people by nature are kind and friendly. Most foreigners who have visited Yemen would agree to this. If so, then how come the same nation is said to be a haven for terrorism? Is it Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups? And why can't the authorities control what is happening, despite all their efforts and the help they get from other countries?

The problem with Yemen is that its demographic, geographic and economic conditions are unique, and very difficult compared to the rest of the Arabian Peninsula. We have over 23 million people surviving on a weak oil-driven economy. As a country, we do not have much industry to sustain our non oil sectors, and even agriculture -once one of our greatest assets- is today dying because of qat plantations and water shortages.

Over 23 million people live in Yemen in small settlements. Other than the four or five main cities, the rest of Yemeni towns are more likely to be classified as villages rather than cities. Even some of the most basic infrastructure such as water networks, electricity and roads is non-existent. In some very remote settlements, people go home by climbing up a rope or scrambling up a mountain. Despite this, Yemen has one of the highest fertility rates at 6.1 children per women.

Outside the main cities, most Yemenis are not educated, particularly women. Their daily life rotates around the field, their children and local social activities. They have no means to education, especially beyond the basic level. And when they do, there are sometimes other cultural or stability factors that prevent education from being a priority, especially for girls.

There is no adequate healthcare, even in the main cities. For difficult surgical operations and the treatment of major diseases, Yemenis who can afford it travel outside the country. Those who don't have the money have to surrender to the local 'trial and error' medical system and hope to survive. Obviously, there is no such thing as regular check-ups, even for pregnant women. They seek medical help only if they are really sick, and then only if it is possible.

This has been the scenario for many years now. Some improvements do take place here and there, but nothing really significant or on a national level. The challenges are so big and the demands so huge that whatever resources this country has cannot make a drastic difference.

And yet, there is so much corruption -at times driven by need, but mostly by lack of accountability- that even if we had the resources to help Yemen's development, we would not be able to use them. The oil revenues, for one, seem to disappear into a mysterious black hole within the walls of the Ministry of Finance.

After all this, we wonder why there is terrorism in our country and why the government can't eliminate it. There is no easy way. We can't sit back and work on development issues while terrorist groups blow up foreign embassies, the very representatives of most likely donor countries. And it would be futile to spend all our efforts in arresting suspects, when terrorists are breeding all over the country.

Yemen needs a really good development strategy and one that is implemented by people who really want the best for their country.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Democracy in the face of backwardness

By: Mohammed Ahmad Abdulghani

Certainly, the triangle of poverty, illiteracy and illness is the ground, which the nightmare of backwardness depends on to establish its concepts and deep-root its bases, and consequently build its oppressive and totalitarian projects. All such projects are built at the expense of Yemen's future and the right of Yemeni citizens to lead a free and luxurious life.

It is widely known that severe poverty, poor living standards, deteriorating education and poor healthcare are the result of rampant corruption and irresponsible corrupt

officials, who exhaust all the available material and spiritual capacities in the nation. These officials behave this way in order to maintain control of power, loot the country's resources and distribute them to irresponsible officials claiming to be loyal with the government.

According to consecutive international reports on the economic and political conditions in our homeland, corruption has broken a record in embezzling public funds and property. Corruption is observed to have been controlling demeanor of the government until the extent that the phenomenon left no distinction between the system of governance and corrupt officials.

No chance that corruption can be deflected from the government

under the case of full integration and indifference on the part of citizens who turned to associate any talk about the standing government with corruption. They also believe that any talk about the government has to do with corruption.

The relevant studies attribute the growing phenomenon to the evasive ruling elite that are never committed to building the modern state and enhancing the principles and concepts of democracy. Yemeni people are living under a fragile system of governance that has only weak components and structure.

The ruling elite only care about strengthening their positions at the expense of building a strong state and a strong community. Such a fact necessarily led to weakening the

state and society as well.

Having realized that their political legitimacy is expiring, the ruling elite turned to boost role of the tribe in order to protect them from potential public wrath. And, the government stopped updating the tribal situation and halted developing the social constituents under an allegedly logical frame aimed at enhancing concepts of the modern state and contributing to the establishment of its constitutional institutions.

As a result, Yemen's system of governance is based on an unbalanced equation between the tribe and state. The government attempts to improve its image in the eye of people via raising deceptive slogans, exploiting official media outlets to deceive people, practicing

news blackout and instigating public opinion against protests criticizing illegal practices by its authorities.

Under such an unbalanced equation that destroyed all the instruments, rules and systems of modernity, Yemeni citizens found themselves living under the cover of a formal state that manages the nation's issues according to contradictory policies. They realized that their government attempts to dedicate the principle of contradiction as a reality for depicting the current relation between people and the state, on the one hand, and among people as groups and individuals, on the other.

Source: Al-Ahali Weekly

Independent judiciary helps the nation avoid turmoil

By: Abdulwahid Al-Sharafi

Although the Law stipulates independence of judiciary, this authority is still weak and frail, thus contradicting confirmations made by lawmen in various texts. In order to inform the readers and observers of the poor judiciary lacking the required independence, we here list three similar cases of victims being arrested over practicing their religious rituals while marking the Ghadir Day or helping others learn about the Zaidi Sect.

All these cases are related with the freedom of intellectualism and sectarian pluralism, ensured by the Constitution and Law, as well as the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the International Convention for Civil and Political

Rights. In addition, Yemen's Attorney-General has given directions to the relevant authorities to release those detained over exercising their religious and political rights, but these authorities refused to do so.

The Attorney-General directed security officials to free the religious Shiite cleric Mohammed Meftah, Chairman of Haq Party's Shoura Council, who was arrested a few days ago following his participation in celebrations of the Ghadir Day in Bani Heshaih areas, northeast of Sana'a. Also, the security authorities refused to hand the detainee over to the relevant prosecutor, in obvious defiance of the judiciary. In the same context, Security Department of the First Area in Sana'a refused to release the eight detained children, who have not attained 14 years of age, defying orders given by the

Attorney-General.

The security department captured them under the pretext that they had been reserving historic information about Ghadir Kham, which was distributed to participants at the Ghadir Day celebrations in the Old Sana'a City-based Nahrain Mosque. The detained children were said to have taken part in marking the religious occasion.

When scandals multiply

Another scandal putting blame on the weak judiciary is that of the tragedy of ten people detained in Dhamar's Political Security Jail since February of 2007. The victims were arrested over allegedly having connections with the Sa'ada events, however, they know nothing about Houthis and their fight with the government troops. Some of these detainees suffer from chronic diseases and health

problems like what happened to Abdullah Al-Dailami, whose condition worsened because of continued imprisonment.

The Attorney-General directed the concerned authorities at the Political Security to release the inmates or refer them to Prosecution in case they are found guilty of any crime, but they showed no response to the directions. Moreover, they prevented a group of rights activists, among them the MP Ahmad Saif Hashid, member of the Parliamentary Rights and Public Freedoms Committee, and media personnel from visiting the prisoners, however, such visitors were carrying a court verdict to the political security officers in order to allow them have access to the jail. Repeated appeals by civil community organizations, rights groups and political parties failed to free the detainees. They faced obstacles and

difficulties like those posed to efforts expended by the Attorney-General.

Nevertheless, it is not logical to urge citizens to respect judicial verdicts and decisions and remain voluntarily or forcibly committed to them in exercising their rights and daily activities whereas the government agencies don't consider any of the judicial directions and therefore appear to defy them.

The consultative board for implementing platform of President Saleh has to be reminded that nothing of the item concerned with independence of the judiciary, which occupied a larger space in the platform, was implemented. Cases of these victims constitute live evidence of what we are saying and the ordinary citizen seems to have lost his/her trust in the government.

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly.

Opposition: Between participation and boycotting

By: Muneer Al-Mawri

Loud voices amid the Yemeni opposition community have called for boycotting the upcoming parliamentary election, scheduled to take place on April 27, 2009. Despite doubts on the possibility of conducting the election on its determined date amid standing tension over political detentions and oppressive practices, the issue of participating in the election or boycotting it deserves thorough discussion to know more about any positives and negatives resulting from an option Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) are due to adopt, particularly as they represent the strongest opposition parties in the nation.

Have begun discussing "boycotting the election", those, who call for boycotting, build their calls on the comic electoral game. They also attempt to prevent the regime to enjoy a legitimacy that it doesn't deserve, and at the same time realizing that the regime will not stop rigging the votes and committing other numerous frauds by employing multiple means.

Although my opinion agrees with those who call for boycotting the upcoming election, I don't think that participating in the election is the appropriate option due to the following reasons.

First, it is possible for the opposition to combine between participating in the election and at the same time

depriving the regime of enjoying a legitimacy, which it has been dreaming of for long time period. I think that the opposition's refusal to name its representatives for membership of Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) was enough to scandalize the regime that the opposition parties don't accept to be perjurers in the election.

Regardless of the various procedures due to be taken by the ruling party to cover the potential electoral violations, the results of its procedures will be easily challengeable since they are based on individual and moody decisions in which the opposition was not involved.

First ever rejected republican decree

The opposition should realize that it has taken a great step when its former representatives in the SCER excused themselves from implementing a republican decree regarding their reappointment to the commission. This is the first ever republican decree rejected by a certain party in the nation throughout the history of Yemen.

As long as it is not usual for the ruler to see that its decisions are rejected, the effect of the slap will be so great until the extent of refraining from going to ballot boxes.

The second reason is that if the opposition boycotts the election, it will mean that the opposition will be deprived even of the minimum presence in Parliament. Consequently, the opposition parties gambles by refrain-

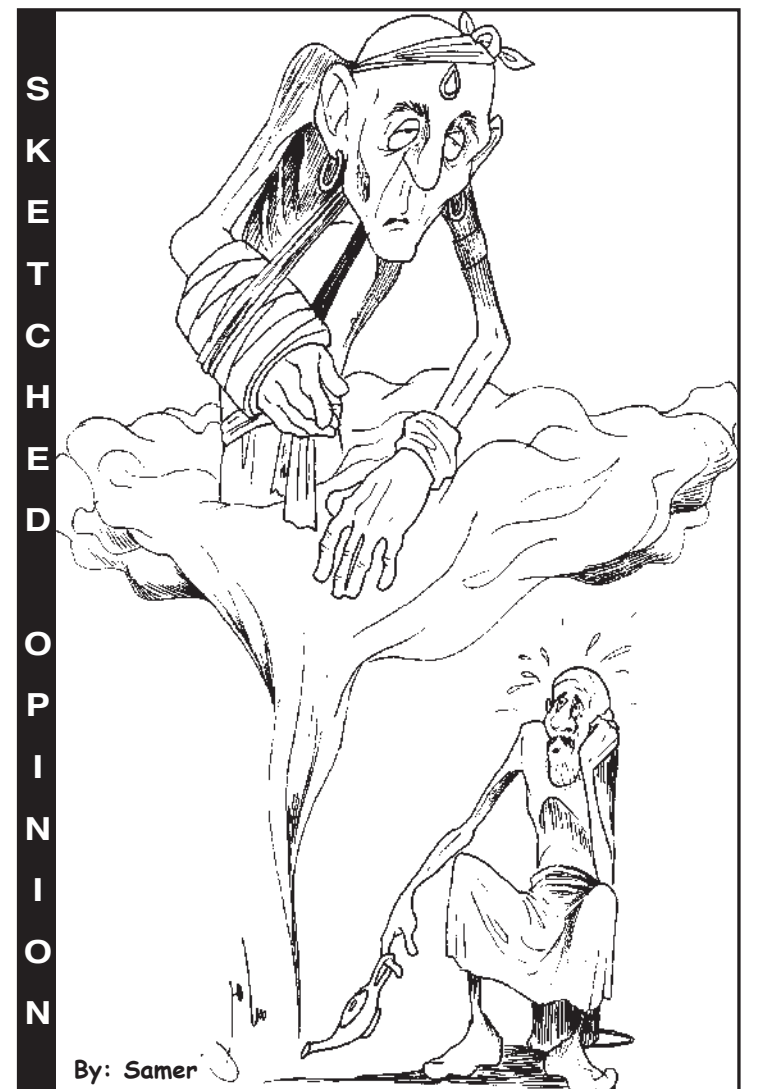
ing to select a candidate to represent them in the presidential election since presidential nomination needs a recommendation by at least 10 percent of both Parliament and Shoura Council members.

Islah Party: Main factor behind Bin Shamlan Nomination

Without the Islah Party's bloc in Parliament, the opposition parties could not have named Faisal Bin Shamlan the JMP presidential candidate in 2006 elections. We still remember the trial of Yemeni Socialist Party in 1999 when it failed to nominate its Secretary General Ali Saleh Abbad Muqbil due to lack of required recommendation. Therefore, the ruling party selected Najeeb Qahtan Al-Sha'abi as a formal candidate in a manner not posing any threat to the permanent candidate (Ali Abdullah Saleh).

Third, boycotting the election in principle means that opposition parties must resort to the public. Consequently, these parties will gradually change from an opposition to resistance. This is the only option that may help return the regime to the right path. Before such takes place, opposition leaders should ask themselves whether they are ready to do this or not. They also should question themselves whether they are ready for jails, fighting with their jailers and sacrificing their interests and experiences or it is not yet time to take such a strong step.

Source: Al-Masdar.com



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Yemen Press Review



NewsYemen.net, an independent News Website
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008

Top Stories

- Political party leaders stand in solidarity with jailed journalist Al-Khaiwani and Comedian Fahd Al-Qarni
- Amid worsening living standards, citizens prefer streets to shops to buy goods to escape skyrocketing prices
- Government refuses to grant entry visa to IFJ President, YJS denies

Press reports said early last week that Yemeni authorities have refused to issue an entry visa to President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Jim Boumelha, due to jailed journalist Abdul-Karim Al-Khaiwani an award given by the Amnesty International, the website reported in its lead story.

In a press release, President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) Nasr Taha Mustafa wondered about such reports and said that the syndicate received an email from the Middle East coordinator in IFJ Muneer Zarour and an IFJ expert telling him about their visit to Yemen to hold a workshop for Yemeni women journalists as well as moderate a debate on Press Code of Conduct, the website went on to say.

Mustafa said that he also asked about the possibility of giving an entry visa for Boumelha to deliver the prize for Al-Khaiwani, but he said Yemeni

authorities refused the request of Boumelha to visit Yemen for such a purpose.

Mustafa noted that IFJ has expressed later its understanding of the government's step, therefore confirming that YJS is following the issue of Al-Khaiwani to get him released.

According to the website, Yemeni journalist Abdul-Karim Al-Khaiwani was chosen as one of winners of the Amnesty International's Special Award for Journalists under Threat. IFJ supported the jailed Al-Khaiwani and called on journalism organizations to support him.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General people Congress (ruling party)
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2008

Top Stories

- Al-Eryani: Internet constitutes the most prominent obstacle to electronic media
- Sixty thousand Yemeni scripts are available in Britain, official sources say
- Official source denies authenticity of reports on tension in Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations

An official source at the Yemeni foreign ministry denied Tuesday false allegations that there is tension in Yemeni Kuwaiti relations over what some newspapers published about

Kuwait offering \$20 million to some secession elements living abroad, the website reported in one of its main stories.

It went on to say that the source said this news is fabricated and groundless, calling on the various media outlets to observe accuracy and credibility in what they publish and to keep away from publishing inauthentic and incorrect stories.

The source affirmed that the Yemeni relations with Kuwait are fraternal and that after 17 years of the reunification of Yemen, the Yemeni unity is as firm as mountains and no person whoever can harm it.



Nasspress.com, an independent News Website
Wednesday, Sept 17, 2008

Top Stories

- Taiz Governor returns Comedian Al-Qarni to Prison
- Yemeni families sell assets to cover Ramadan expenses
- Al-Barakani: We will neither regret JMP absence from the election, nor fear its presence

The news conference, organized by the ruling General People Congress (GPC) two days ago, did not bring anything new with regard to the political crisis between the ruling and opposition parties, nor did it suggest workable solutions to end both sides' disagreements over the upcoming parliamentary election, the website

reported.

The news conference, which gave the chance only to GPC Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Sultan Al-Barakani to speak before attendees, proved to be nothing more than a reproduction of GPC's positions and efforts to direct the horse alone toward the upcoming parliamentary election.

This came after the ruling party's majority at Parliament annulled proposed election law amendments and formed the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) from ruling party staff exclusively.

During the conference, Al-Barakani said that GPC cares about conducting the upcoming parliamentary election on due time, as stipulated by the Constitution. "We will not accept to postpone the election even if the entire world comes to Yemen," he said, pointing out that GPC did not face any pressures from international organizations and donors, which Al-Barakani said, are more careful to hold the election on due time.

The ruling party official added that the recent statement of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) recommending that Yemen should understand and implement EU recommendations, which followed 2006 elections, doesn't mean that the Europeans don't back conducting the upcoming parliamentary election, scheduled to take place next April.

Al-Barakani renewed his call for the newly formed SCER, which he declared during his meeting with EC Representative in Yemen last week, to contain EU recommendations as part of its essential tasks. He indicated that it is possible for the commission to contain

most of these recommendations and any required constitutional amendments will be discussed in the days to come.

According to Al-Barakani, the proposed election law amendments, which were annulled by Parliament after being agreed upon by both the ruling and opposition parties, go beyond the EU recommendations, adding that GPC accepted these amendments since it cares for political partnership with JMP. He renewed his party's blame on JMP, accusing it of foiling the agreement between both sides.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2008

Top Stories

- YJS condemns authorities denying JMP's access to jail to award Al-Khaiwani
- JMP ends a week-long tribal siege in Al-Jawf governorate
- Al-Qarni attributes his release to what he described "sincere JMP's efforts"

Popular comedian Fahd Al-Qarni was freed on Tuesday from a Taiz security prison, the same prison he was returned to on Saturday, after he refused to sign a pledge not practice political activities once again, the website reported.

The website's reporter, based in Taiz,

said that a huge popular rally has been warmly waiting for Al-Qarni at the prison's gate and then accompanied the released popular comedian to the Islah Party's office in Taiz city. Following his arrival to the Islah Party's office, Al-Qarni expressed that he is ready to undertake any hard tasks to be delegated to him by the Islah Party.

In a statement to Al-Sahwa.net in the wake of his release, Al-Qarni expressed his deep gratitude to all those who backed him along with other jailed colleagues. He attributed his release to what he described as "hard and sincere efforts expended by Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)". He also urged human rights activists to exert precious efforts to free other detainees, mainly Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani.

"I decisively refused to abandon one of my political rights guaranteed by the state-constitution, and preferred to stay in jail" Al-Qarni was quoted as saying following his incarceration once again after he was released last week by a presidential pardon.

Al-Qarni had been released and moved to the office of Taiz governor Hamould Al-Sofi who asked him to sign a written pledge that he would not practice any political activities.

Al-Qarni was arrested on April 5 by members of Taiz political security while he was on his way to a festival and was charged with inciting against Yemeni unity and insulting the Yemeni President.

Meanwhile, many local and international human rights bodies had considered, in statements, that al-Qarni was arrested as a result of his work to promote democracy and campaign against corruption in Yemen.

Gazan phone squad pushes for Obama

By: Felice Friedson
The Media Line

"Hello, I'm calling from Gaza. I want some of your time. We are supporting Barack Obama..."

For the past seven months, a group of 24 students and young professionals have gathered in the Gaza Strip nightly to phone random telephone numbers in the United States, urging the voices at the other end to "vote for Barack Obama."

Although only American citizens can actually cast a ballot in the election, this Gaza-based effort is a forceful demonstration of how Internet technology opens the door for anyone, anywhere to take an active role in U.S. politics. Even if they have never even been to the U.S.A.

Far from utilizing a state-of-the-art call-center of the sort that have become a mainstay of American political marketing, the Gaza callers are amateur volunteers who meet in a local Internet café or in a stark room at a local youth center equipped with little more than desks, chairs and outlets for the personal computers through which they will make their calls. That -- and the desire to see Barack Obama become president of the United States.

The bare-bones décor belies the fervor with which the callers go about their task. Organized and led by Ibrahim Abu Jayyeb, a 23-year old student of media at Al Aqsa University, the group's effort has taken on the flavor of a well-organized campaign -- complete with title: "All This for Peace."

Ibrahim is a self-described political junkie who says he has been following events closely and hopes that Obama will win the presidency. He says he finds the Illinois senator "the kind of person who when he says 'I will change America' will do what he says."

Ibrahim relies on his colleagues and friends to make the actual phone calls because he feels his own command of English is not up to the task. His knowledge of technology, however, very much is. Utilizing Voip and

Skype, Ibrahim has crafted a system of politicking that runs on almost no cost in dollars (or shekels), but requires a great deal of patience and persistence. According to Ibrahim, 19 out every 20 calls his group makes ends with an unceremonious "hang-up."

Ibrahim told The Media Line that during the past seven months his group has reached between 5,000 and 6,000 Americans. If his assertion of 1-out-of-20 completed calls is accurate, 120,000 calls have been placed. Asked how he could weather such mass rejection, he replied, "It's worth it."

When pressed about how a politician five thousand miles away who was relatively unknown to his own constituency before the campaign began is able to evoke such monumental dedication among people who can't even vote in the election, Ibrahim replies simply that, "I believe that Barack Obama will achieve peace in the area, in the Middle East and Palestine, between us, the Palestinian people, and the Jewish people."

Could such gargantuan efforts on Obama's behalf lend credence to accusations that he has closer ties to Islam than he is willing to let on? Ibrahim insists that, "Barack Obama is definitely not a Muslim. It had never even crossed my mind to support him because of his Muslim background -- which I doubt even exists."

Without exception, the Gaza phone-callers insisted that their efforts are "independent without ties to any organization or government." They say the Obama campaign has never contacted them, and they have not contacted the Obama organization. Sources in the Obama campaign confirmed to The Media Line that the group is unknown to them and that "no such group has been authorized to solicit on behalf of the campaign."

Moatz Twael, a Gaza pharmacist who makes phone calls with Ibrahim's group says that although he never visited America, he "visited Israel many times before 2001" and harbors no optimism on reconciliation between the two sides in the conflict.

"Some people don't believe in peace," Twael contends. "But these are the same people who are preventing

it." He says that listening to Obama persuaded him to encourage Americans to vote for the Senator. "He's a good man to achieve the goal [of bringing peace between Israelis and Palestinians]."

Like all of Ibrahim's telephone volunteers, Moatz claims no affiliation with any Palestinian faction in Gaza. "We don't want to live in war, in siege. Many want peace," he said. "I think people in the world don't understand Gaza very well. They think that all the people here are terrorists; not educated. We want to persuade them that we can live like any other people in the world."

Twael claims that listening to English channels and watching American films is the basis of his love of the English language. It's also the reason that he is involved in Ibrahim's campaign to enlist voter support for Senator Obama. "From television and film, I learned to love democratic life."

Despite Twael's own involvement with American culture and democracy, he doubts there are many others like him who are able or inclined to become involved in the American campaign on either side. When asked whether there are Gazans who would do the same for Republican John McCain, Twael was quick to reply that,

"If Gazans don't know about Barack Obama -- and most Gazans don't know -- how would they know about McCain?"

Asked whether he believed race is an issue in the American campaign, Twael was up front about what attracts him to Obama. "He's black. And he's better than [President George W.] Bush."

Ibrahim also sees a historic imperative inherent in American politics. He says, "historically, it was the Democrats who achieved peace between [Palestinians] and the Israelis," citing the Oslo Accords as his proof.

Ibrahim also sees a historic imperative inherent in American politics. He says, "historically, it was the Democrats who achieved peace between [Palestinians] and the Israelis," citing the Oslo Accords as his proof.

Despite the group's exercise in democracy, the specter of Hamas -- declared terrorists by the United States and iron-fist rulers of the Gaza Strip -- hangs over the callers' activities. Asked whether he worries that Hamas might put a stop to his efforts on behalf of Obama, Ibrahim replied, "Personally, I fear some about this."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position within its project "Implementation of Public Financial Management Reform Action Plan".



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- Maintain update project inventory records
- Prepare request for direct payment, quarterly financial reports, and maintain updated expenditure control and managing the financial bookkeeping and filing
- Organize meetings for the project management and participate in organizing in-country workshop and other related training activities (including study tours and workshops abroad)
- Perform other tasks related to the project assignment by project management.

Qualification:

- Possession of BA degree in Commerce with at least not less than three years of experience is a minimum requirement
- Knowledge of UNDP rules and procedures in finance, procurement and personnel related matters will be an asset
- Good communication skills
- Ability to use word processing and excel
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written)
- Accounting skills

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term 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.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 11 October 2008
UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Tender Advertisement no. (7 / 2008)for 1st Time (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The [Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - Port of Aden] here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (7) for supplying [One New Twin Screw Survey Boat for Port of Aden] which will be financed from: **Government sources.**

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to [Tender committee Secretary] to receive Bidding Documents for an amount [150 USD] non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at [Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - Port of Aden]
Tel : 00 967 02 202669/ 202083
Fax: 00 967 02 201541/205805
Email : planning2050@yahoo.com
YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye and e-chairman@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on [15 October 2008]
Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the **Chairman of the Board Executive Chairman**. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (60.000 USD for one Survey boat) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.
The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be (Tuesday) at [11:00 Am] on [22 October 2008]. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.. Bid Opening will take place at [the Office Chairman Executive - Headquarters] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period 27 days starting from advertisement.

Yemen LNG Company



الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال

Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: HR Assistant - Ref No. 203
Reports to: Payroll Officer
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Assist payroll officer in producing the monthly payroll for Yemen LNG (direct hires) and distribute monthly payslips.
- Assist with maintaining the monthly records of payroll data and all other documents related to payroll such as increases, deductions, overtime, allowances etc.). Ensure fully auditable documentation exists to support payroll actions.
- Track Medical expenses for all employees and implement the necessary deduction and reimbursement process in the monthly payroll.
- Assist the Payroll Officer with the Social Security process for all new recruits. Initiate the process and enrol new hires in the Social Security scheme, obtaining social security cards whenever appropriate.
- Assist with the launch and administration of the company Savings Plan via payroll, administer all the related contributions/ deductions and deliver monthly reports to management and colleagues.

Qualifications Required:

- Educated to degree level in a relevant subject (desirable, but not essential).
- 3 years' experience of Payroll and Social Security / Tax matters.
- In depth knowledge of Yemeni Labor law as it relates to payroll activity.
- High level of numeracy and computer skills especially in Microsoft Office and HR administration systems.
- Strong awareness of the need for confidentiality and a well developed ability and willingness to communicate with all levels of staff, in order to be able to explain payroll and savings plan issues.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic also highly desirable.

Job Title: Translator - Ref No.204
Reports to: Legal Manager
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Reporting to the Legal Manager, undertake translation of wide variety of documents between Arabic and English and vice versa.
- Ensure that a fully auditable record exists of all documentation processed, using the Company Electronic Document Management System.
- Exercise a high degree of discretion at all times due to the sensitivity of the documentation which may be handled and decline to discuss material handled outwith the departmental chain of authority.
- Demonstrate personal flexibility by undertaking other tasks and roles commensurate with personal ability, potential and business needs, as and when required.
- Participate in Emergency Response training and actual events as the situation requires.

Qualifications Required:

- Educated to degree level in English and holding professional qualifications in translation between Arabic and English and vice versa.
- High level of interpersonal skills and good computer skills especially in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Resourceful, demonstrating willingness to undertake unscheduled tasks which improve the effectiveness and reputation of the company.
- Self motivation and excellent organizational skills.

Job Title: Corporate Planner - Ref No. 205
Reports to: Corporate Affairs Manager
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Produce and review on a monthly basis updates for the long term centralised activity Plan for Yemen LNG. Analyse the Plan, identify potential conflicts and propose possible optimisations.
- Coordinate and run the monthly Corporate Planning update cycle in close co-operation with all department managers. Ensure consistency with the rolling Yemen LNG 18 month activity plan.
- Contribute strongly to the development and maintenance of the Business Continuity Plan.
- Coordinate reporting across Yemen LNG activities including the production of the monthly shareholder report.
- Prepare necessary documentation for review and approval of top management at the quarterly Corporate Planning meeting.
- Provide on a monthly and 'as required' basis, activity long term planning to both the LNG Production forecasting and Cost forecasting functions.

- Own and administrate the centralised planning database of the company. Evaluate and propose improvements to the Corporate Planning process and database tool/structure.
- Ensure the quality of the Company's planning function.
- Perform certain cost analyses as directed, and maintain a working knowledge of the Yemen LNG economic model.

Qualifications Required:

- Educated to degree level in Engineering or an appropriate discipline.
- 6-8 years' relevant experience in operational or business development environment.
- Strong planning experience. Able to understand how to integrate multi-departmental / multi discipline plans into a global view of the entity's performance against its objectives, identifying potential threats and clashes in order that risks can be mitigated.
- Highly experienced in use of corporate planning tools and techniques. Ideally with some knowledge of risk management, business continuity planning and cost control.
- Excellent communication skills, together with a high level of numeracy and computer skills.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic also highly desirable.

Job Title: Shipping Operations Officer - Ref No. 183/2
Reports to: Shipping Manager
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Analyze performance of Yemen LNG Company's chartered vessels and verify their compliance with charter parties and instructions given (speed at sea / laden & ballast, time in ports for loading and discharging, consumption of boil-off gas and fuel, etc).
- Monitor the status of the Senior Officers and marine personnel on board, ensuring that availability, periods of leave, courses, certificates obtained, ranks held, etc. are satisfactory.
- Liaise with Sales Administration in issuing Annual Delivery Programs and Voyage Instructions in accordance with schedules, and determining off-hire periods for vessels.
- Liaise with marine department and agents in Balhaf for smooth turnaround of the vessels; liaise with agents, cargo surveyors and Yemen LNG superintendent in port of discharge.
- Monitor bunker levels and prepare technical checks of invoices and port disbursement accounts received from Agents prior to transmission to Shipping Administration.
- Ensure that Head Owners apply and obtain COFR (Certificate of Financial Responsibility) documentation and liaise with US Coast Guards to obtain Tank Vessel Examination Letters.
- Contribute to defining the budget of chartered vessels, compare and analyse operational expenditures against budget. Analyse specifications prepared by Head Owners and agree on the choice of the ship yard.

Qualifications Required:

- Seafarer with Mate's or Engineer's certificate for Ocean Going Vessels.
- Either 4 years' experience on tanker (Oil or Gas) vessels as Officer or Mate, or 5 years of relevant experience in Shipping Operations and tanker fleet management.
- Sound understanding of marine transportation related issues.
- Excellent managerial and interpersonal skills with the capability of operating in a multi-cultural environment. Strong understanding of the need for confidentiality.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic also highly desirable.

Job Title: Cost Controller - Ref No. 153/2
Reports to: Head of Financial Reporting
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Supervise the cost control team's activities and manage its analysis of reports.
- Monitor expenditures against the authorised budget and communicate to the management any budget overruns or any significant variances between the budget and actual costs.
- Act as focal point for queries on budget preparation and expenditure coding.
- Assist in the preparation of monthly accruals by collecting and compiling data from controllers and forwarding to the Operations accounts team for input.
- Produce schedules and ad-hoc corporate cost reports as required under the supervision of Head of Financial Reporting.

Qualifications Required:

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in accounting and finance positions, preferably within the Oil and Gas industry.
- Well developed supervisory skills and experience.
- High level of analytical and presentational skills.
- Excellent knowledge and experience of computerised accounting systems.
- Self-motivated and capable of meeting established deadlines.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic also highly desirable.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: 15 October 2008

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال
Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: General Services Supervisor - Ref No. 045/2
Reports to: Head of General Services
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Supervise the efficient sourcing, rental, refurbishment, furnishing, cleaning and safe and hygienic maintenance of company accommodation and premises, ensuring that all works carried are executed in a timely and cost effective manner.
- Tender, select and supervise subcontractor personnel capable of executing tasks to the satisfaction of the Company and to the safety and technical standards required. Ensure that the quality of service is maintained.
- Supervise effectively the General Services team, comprising Reception, Utilities, Mail, Cleaning, Catering and general office assistance activities, ensuring that optimum service is provided.
- Develop a prioritised task tracking system, to ensure the speedy and effective recording, costing, execution and payment of all works required.
- Ensure that consumables and spare parts are available in optimum quantities and that reordering processes are streamlined and effective.
- Ensure that supplier / subcontractor service are correctly requested and that all invoices are accurate and are paid on time.
- Ensure that staff and subcontractors are aware of safety and security best practices, are correctly briefed in respect of Company policy, are issued with appropriate PPE and work to accepted safety standards.

Qualifications Required:

- A recognised craft apprenticeship (electrical, carpentry, building etc.) or a higher professional qualification
- Minimum 5 years' experience in managing teams of subcontractor catering and cleaning personnel and skilled craftsmen, in a high quality office environment.
- Well developed supervisory skills and experience.
- Knowledge and experience of computerized task-tracking and ordering / payment systems. Familiarity with SAP is an advantage.
- Self motivated, observant and capable of meeting deadlines.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic also highly desirable.

Job Title: Industrial Transport / Handling Supervisor - Ref No. 180/2
Reports to: Head of Logistics - Balhaf
Work Location: Balhaf

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Working with the Head of Logistics and other Maintenance & Logistics Supervisors, develop company Industrial Transportation policies and strategies to optimize the safe and effective use of the site vehicle fleet, manpower and equipment.
- Ensure that company and shareholder HSE policies are fully applied and implemented, with particular reference to heavy lifting activities on to and from marine vessels and land transport and the safe movement of hazardous materials.
- Plan and develop strategies for the standardisation, maintenance and control of vehicles, equipment and spare parts, using computerised control systems and procedures.
- Advise and provide technical assistance on all aspects of Industrial transport on and around the Balhaf terminal.
- Prepare annual budget and monthly reports and ensure that approved expenditure is controlled.
- Conduct or participate in investigations of incidents or complaints, and prepare necessary statistical and management reports as required.

Qualifications Required:

- BSc degree or extensive experience in Industrial transport, hazardous materials handling and safe heavy lift operations.
- Minimum 10 years' experience in managing industrial transportation with in-depth knowledge of applicable international regulations relating to lifting operations including marine loading and offloading and the control of substances hazardous to health.
- Very well developed supervisory skills and experience.
- Knowledge and experience of computerized task-tracking and ordering / payment systems. Familiarity with SAP is an advantage.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic also highly desirable.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: 15 October 2008

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM



We invite applications for the following ranks for our Tug Boats to work at the Yemen LNG Gas terminal at Balhaf in the Republic of Yemen.

All applicants must be Yemeni nationals.

Rank	Requirements
Master	Master's License in accordance with STCW II/2 for vessels up to 3000 GRT. Minimum of 2 years' experience as Master on ASD (Azimuth Drive) Tug boats (more than 60 tonne BP) at an Oil or Gas terminal.
Chief Engineer	Chief Engineer holding an Unlimited Licence in accordance with STCW III/2. Minimum of 2 years' exp as Chief Engineer on ASD Tug boats at an Oil or Gas terminal.
Mate	OOW Licence in accordance with STCW II/1 regulations, with experience on ASD (Azimuth Drive) Tugs at an Oil or Gas terminal.
Bosun	Preference will be given to personnel with previous tug experience.
Seaman	Preference will be given to personnel with previous tug experience.

Preference given to personnel who comply with STCW 95 certification and who are able to communicate in English effectively.

Please send your CV with details of your complete experience, and including copies of your relevant certificates, to

" The crewing department, Lamnalco Middle east, PO Box 5687, Sharjah, UAE" ,
alternatively by email to <rdivakaran@lamnalco.ae> or Fax +971-6 5749 090.

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E-mail : autosales@tehama.com.ye



The United Nations Population Fund is pleased to announce the following vacancy:

UNFPA NATIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (NOB LEVEL)

Under the direct supervision of the Assistant Representative and the overall guidance of the Representative and the Deputy Representative, the National Programme Officer is responsible for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNFPA's Country Programme Action Plan 2007-2011 outputs in the area of population and development.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- contribute to evidence-based advocacy and advancing a policy oriented agenda in the area of population and development;
- Manage effectively internal and external financial and technical resources to achieve results. Moving from basic research to programme and project management, to programme design and conceptual leadership;
- establish, maintain and utilise the existing network of relations with existing and new Implementing Partners, as well as with other national and development partners for strategic alliances, in order to keep on top of issues and to achieve the required CPAP population and development outputs;
- provide technical support to Implementing Partners in the preparation and implementation of work plans, and monitors and assesses progress;
- Represent UNFPA Yemen in key meetings and gatherings relevant to the population and development programme areas.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Master degree in public health, health economics, health statistics, population, demography or other related and relevant social sciences;
- at least five years of professional experience in programme/project management in the public or private sector preferably in the area of population and development or related fields;
- demonstrated management skills;
- Fluency in oral and written English and Arabic. Knowledge of a third UN language is an asset;
- initiative and sound judgment, ability to work under pressure;
- interpersonal skills and ability to work in harmony with colleagues;
- excellent negotiation skills, advocacy and public speaking;
- excellent computer skills;
- Yemeni nationality only

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience.

Please send your application to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a.

Deadline for application: **18 October, 2008.**

Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.

UNFPA is offering equal opportunities however qualified females are strongly encouraged to apply.



JOB OPENINGS

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY ("SEPOC")

SEPOC is the Republic of Yemen's leading national Oil and Gas Company. It is the upstream Operator of Yemen's premier Marib Block (18) and largest and second largest producer of gas and oil in the country respectively.

SEPOC is currently seeking to recruit for the following vacancies talented, qualified and dedicated professionals who desire a fulfilling and rewarding career with a growing and outstanding organization:

1. Job Title: Fire Fighter - Safety Technician
2. Job Title: Marine Loading Master
3. Job Title: Marine Operating Engineer
4. Job Title: Marine Cargo Custody Transfer Coordinator (CCTC)
5. Job Title: Contracts Engineer
6. Job Title: Machinist
7. Job Title: Quality Assurance Specialist/Engineer

Job Details of the above and other positions are posted on 'Careers' at SAFER'S Website: www.sepocye.com. To apply and process your application and CVs for the above positions, please visit SAFER'S Website.

Applications must submitted online no later than **October 17th, 2008**. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

LETTER OF INVITATION TO SUBMIT BEST OFFER FOR TURN KEY DESIGN CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF SANA'A SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT AL-HUSHAISHIYA

Introduction

The Government of Yemen represented by Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation has received a grant from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development / State of Kuwait to finance the Turn Key Job of Design, Construction and Operation of Sana'a Septage Treatment Plant at Al-Hushaishiya Area.

This invitation is open to all Internationally qualified Contractors with sound experience internationally or nationally in the field of Turn Key Projects for Treatment Plants. All qualified Contractors with solid relevant experience are encouraged to associate with local Contractors having experience in the same field of Construction works in reinforced reservoirs, Pump Houses, ... etc

Contract Documents

The Project Contract Documents includes the following:

- Letters of Invitation.
- Statistical General Information to the Contractors
- General Conditions of the Contract.
- Particular Special Conditions of the Contractors.
- Technical Specifications.
- Project Bills of Quantities.

Participation

All qualified and interested Contractors may obtain the prepared documents from the Client (Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation). Against US \$200 non-refundable, however the Contractors should inform the Client, upon the receipt of this invitation with the following:

1. Confirming the receipt of a full set of Contract Documents.
2. Confirming the Contractor's Participation or otherwise.
3. Documenting whether the Contractor will participate alone or in a joint venture.

Time of Submission (within sixty days of Invitation Date)

All Offers including the sealed Technical and Financial offers should be submitted to the

officers of Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation before 12:00 noon of 02/11/2008.

Enquiries

All enquiries which the Contractors may have should be addressed to the following address:

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation

Att: Engineer Abdulla Al-Mut'a

General Manager of (PMU)

For Sana'a Sanitation Network Projects

P.O. box 2659, Al-Hsabah

Sana'a - Republic of Yemen

Fax: +967 237 645

Tel: +967 237 644

E-mail: swslc@y.net.ye

Additional Instructions to Contractors

1. The Contractor who will participate should fill in all forms included within the Contract documents precisely with all details including a complete break down of the main items in order to enable SWSLC to compare the offers received from different Contractors.
2. In case of Associations or Joint Venture cases between International Contractors and Local Contractors, the leading partner should be identified without releasing and other partners from his responsibilities nor his liabilities.
3. The participating Contractors should identify their relevant experience in Turn Key Projects which should be reflected clearly by having a comprehensive detailed offer with a table of contents.
4. Each Contractor should include within his offer a Bidding Guarantee issued by a certified Bank working in the Republic of Yemen for a value of 40,000 US dollars. Offers shall be valid for 120 days from the day of submittal and Bid Guarantee shall be valid for 150 days from the day of the submittal.
5. This Document will be considered as apart of the Contract Agreement.

Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwahi to Yemen Times:

“The problem is not early marriage, it is premature marriage”

Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwahi is the director general of the family health department at the Ministry of Public Health and Population. He believes in giving adequate childcare to children and providing them with an environment in which they can thrive. However, concerning defining a minimum age for marriage, he has a rather controversial point of view that could outrage the women's movement and female activists in Yemen. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Dr. Al-Mudhwahi on the issue of early marriage in Yemen.



Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwahi

You are of the opinion that the focus of the early marriage campaign should be redirected towards premature marriage and not early marriage. What do you mean?

I believe that marriage at the age of 18 or even 20 is an early marriage, although this is not perceived as malpractice. Some organizations are pushing towards issuing a law to prevent marriage before the age of 18, but, if we are taking this from a medical point of view, then we should be preventing early pregnancy. From a health point of view in which we are concerned with social, mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing, we must broaden our view of the issue for a more comprehensive understanding. In this regard, we need to agree upon a scientific definition to differentiate between early marriage after the age of 14, and premature marriage before the age of 13 - not a phenomenon in our national settings.

Are you saying that premature marriage is not as prevalent in Yemen as

Does this mean that girls and boys should be allowed to marry at the age of 16 years old for example and start a family by having children?

It is all about educating people about their choices. If marriage at the age of 16 provides the needed protection for youth against risky behaviors, then it should be encouraged. The most important issue is to raise children in a healthy balanced environment where knowledge constitutes the potential for a better future, without forcing them to follow our desires but respecting their needs.

You are suggesting pregnancy control and not marriage control, but don't you see that your suggestion is not practical, especially as there is no telling what happens behind closed doors? You can't really prevent the pregnancy of married girls before 18 years of age, but you can prevent their marriage. What do you think?

That is why educating people is the main intervention we should implement as a shared responsibility. What might happen behind closed doors in the case of a pregnancy could also happen in cases of early marriage. It would be totally inappropriate to increase people's resistance to laws that don't respect their choices, especially concerning a matter that is not even common according to national statistics. Why create resistance without need? What should be done is to better consider the social determinants of health and respect that families want, and to rightly help them to find a balance between these desires and their actual needs.

What are the other issues that you

feel Yemen should prioritize rather than early marriage?

Primary health care for all age groups must be a national priority. Exclusive breast-feeding for the first 6 months of infants' life would significantly reduce the infant mortality rate. Women and children nutrition is a high priority. Around 46 percent of our children under five are underweight. Moreover, safe motherhood with more focus on family planning, birth spacing and attended deliveries by qualified staff are major issues to be prioritized and efficiently tackled by all concerned sectors including the government, local councils, media, donors, the private sector and NGOs.

The stories of the victims of premature marriages have created worldwide attention. Is this a good or bad thing? And how do you recommend we make use of this attention for the sake of Yemen's development?

If we manage to understand the indicators of problems and redirect our efforts in the right direction, then it will be a positive thing. This widespread attention for the victims of premature marriage should help us to stand up to our responsibility to save many other victims. Victims of artificial bottle feeding, victims of pneumonia, victims of unattended deliveries, victims of diarrhea and victims of malaria all deserve to be saved by us all. Every year, we lose around 80,000 children under five and more than 2,900 women due to preventable illnesses. Our mandate is not to stand beside the riverbank to help drowning people, but to go upstream to prevent them from falling into the water in the first place. So let us refocus upstream. Let us think of health, not of diseases.

Progress made in malaria control, yet burden is enormous

The global burden of malaria remains enormous, but access to malaria control interventions, especially bednets in Africa, increased sharply between 2004 and 2006, says a new report released today.

“With dramatic increases in funding and intense momentum towards reducing the malaria burden in recent years, we have a greater need for reliable information and analysis,” said WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan. “This report begins to answer that need. Progress in malaria control has accelerated dramatically since 2006, especially in the wake of the UN Secretary-General's call for universal malaria control coverage by the end of 2010. We expect these expanded efforts to be reflected in future reports.”

The World malaria report 2008, which draws upon data collected between 2004 and 2006, paints a complex picture. Some highlights are:

- New methods estimate that the number of malaria cases in 2006 was 247 million.

- Small children remain by far the most likely to die of the disease.

- Malaria deaths have declined in several countries, and a few African nations have managed to reduce deaths in half by following the recommended measures.

- As of 2006, more funding resulted in accelerated access to malaria interventions, including bednets and effective medicines.

- In Africa, the artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), which is recommended by WHO, reached only 3% of children in need.

Bednet coverage increasing

The report finds that recent increases in malaria funding were beginning to translate into coverage of key malaria interventions, especially bednets, by 2006. The percentage of children protected by insecticide-treated nets increased almost eightfold, from 3% in 2001 to 23% in the 18 African countries where surveys were held in 2006. Procurement of antimalarial medicines also increased sharply between 2001 and 2006. About 100 million people, including 22 million in Africa, were

protected by indoor spraying of insecticide.

However, much more work remains to be done. In Africa, only 125 million people were protected by bednets in 2007, while 650 million are at risk.

“Malaria is a primary cause of child mortality,” said Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). “If the availability of bednets and other key interventions can be increased, lives can be saved.”

Positive impact

For the first time, three African countries reported dramatic reductions in malaria deaths by 50% or more. Eritrea, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe achieved this result between 2000 and 2006/2007 through a mix of bednet distribution, indoor spraying, improved access to treatment and advances in disease surveillance. Furthermore, significant improvements were observed in other African countries such as Madagascar, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Six more countries reported a fall in malaria deaths by 2006: Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Suriname, Thailand and Viet Nam.

“We know that malaria control interventions work and that we can make rapid progress towards ending malaria deaths,” said Ray Chambers, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria. “Now is the time to expand these results to all of Africa and the rest of the world.”

According to data from national malaria control programmes, Africa had a larger increase in funding than any other region between 2004 and 2006. The investments were led by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and supported by bilateral and multilateral organizations and national governments.

In other regions, sources of funding were highly variable, but national governments provided the bulk of monies. While funding for malaria was higher than ever before in 2006, it is not yet possible to judge which countries have adequate resources and there are still significant gaps.

STC introduces SX4 to the Yemeni automobile market

SANA'A – Sabeha Trading Company, one of the oldest distributors for Suzuki automobiles in the world, has just launched the long-awaited 2009 SX4 4-door sedan version in Yemen. At the same time, Suzuki Motor Corporation, one of the world's largest and leading automobile manufacturers, launched the vehicle in the region marking a new-era in Suzuki's automotive history. The much-awaited stylish 2009 Suzuki SX4 sedan is now available at all Suzuki showrooms in Yemen.

Available in a 2.0-litre engine, one of the biggest in its class, the SX4 Sedan's engine is specifically tuned to driving in crowded city streets, and boasts a powerful engine for enjoyable highway cruising. In addition, it offers excellent fuel economy and a smooth shifting transmission to ensure a superb all-round performance, legendary Suzuki characters.

The standard options include full power features, keyless entry system, dual airbags, anti-lock braking-force (ABS) with electronic brake distribution (EBD), and an integrated CD radio player with audio controls integrated into the steering wheel, alloy wheels and fog lamps. Its combined standard features make the all-new SX4 sedan on a class of its own.

The new 2009 Suzuki SX4 sedan has state-of-the-art technology with all the safety features and its low and wide proportions, bold over-fenders, wide treads and rising waistline give it a shape that tugs at your heart and grabs your attention.

Active safety starts with the upright position and the high eye point it gives. From the driver's seat you enjoy a clear all-round view to help anticipate situations.



To assist in emergency braking situations, there's ABS to prevent wheel lockup and help maintain steering control when avoiding obstacles and EBD to vary brake force distribution according to load and prevent rear wheel lockup. Passive safety is built right into the body with a rigid safety space in the cabin while front and rear crush zones crumple to absorb impact energy.

An easy-to-read information display located above the centre panel gives details of time and outside temperature, as well as both average and current fuel consumption. Available steering wheel-mounted audio controls give greater operating ease through audio adjustment without taking your hands away from the steering, wheel the premium audio system with a CD tuner and MP3 capability delivers high-quality sound throughout the cabin.

Specially developed sound insulation materials are widely employed throughout the vehicle to keep noise levels exceptionally low. Vibration damping materials beneath the cabin and around the engine compartment also help to lower noise levels.

A lifestyle vehicle, the 2009 SX4 sedan has a functional yet beautiful and commanding design that is built for precise handling, encompassing rigid suspension mounts, front-strut precision tuning and rear-torsion beam suspension, all to ensure a comfortable drive. The interior bolsters modernity and an ergonomic design.

Its sister vehicle, the SX4 5-door hatchback, has been a very popular alternative to other vehicles in the market in the sports cross-over segment because of its exceptional design, features and price. By the same token, the new 2009 SX4 sedan continues this tradition of perfect balance of bold and refined elements, and is bound to be the preferred car for the truly free-spirited souls.



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Part I

'Ismaili Lunar Calendar': An ideal base to unite the 'Ummah'

The purpose of the following dialogue is to promote tolerance and intellectual understanding among the Muslim community of the global village. The Modern World humiliates the Muslims with the fact that while astronauts have landed the Moon, and other scientists are busy in discoveries of the universe, majority of the Muslims are still following the directions of the clergy, regarding the sighting of the Moon, instead of following the scientific course, upon which religion of Islam is based.

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Origin of the Lunar Calendar: Base of the 'Ismaili Lunar Calendar' is Qur'an: "The Sun and the Moon follow exactly computed courses." [1]

This Ayat lays the foundation on which it is permissible to calculate the emergence of new crescent from a Shariah standpoint, and refutes any claim raised by people of limited-understanding who believe that crescent sighting should be followed; because all such erroneous sightings would contradict the findings of this Ayat and at the same time contradict the 'words of Qur'an', explaining the orderly movement of the Moon and other celestial bodies. The precise laws, made by Allah, governing the Universe, bear witness to Hikmat ilahiyyah and Adal and also of His favours to His creatures.

It was Bani Fatimah who realized the need of the Lunar Calendar, and they introduced it to the world at large, as soon as they established their vast Empire, even spreading across Europe. This Lunar Calendar remained in practice officially for more than 225 years, in North Africa and across the Atlantic Ocean. The same calendar is in prac-

tion officially by the Ismaili Nizaries & Musta'alavis (Dawoodi, Sulaymani, & Alavi). The notable powerful dynasty of the Sumrahs of Sindh (Pakistan) followed the Lunar Calendar from 365(A.H) to 974(A.H) for more than 609 years, and without any alteration. As elites of Sindh, the Sumrahs handled the affairs of Al Dawah al Hadiyah as Aa'mil of the Ismaili Fatemi Imams in Sindh, whose jurisdiction extended up to the 'Attock Fort'. Their relationship continued to remain under the command of Al Dai al Mutlaq, one after the other, during the period of Satar. The Ismailis calculate their months according to this Lunar Calendar and least bother (scarcely depend) on the sighting of the Moon for starting a New Year or a New Month, as they have carried out an accurate scientific research on the movements of the Moon. They have a very rich and valuable literature on the subject of 'Lunar Calendar', the glorious origin of which goes to Amir al Mumineen, Ali ibn Abi Talib through the references of Abi Abdillah Imam Jafar Assadiq. An authentic scientific chart of 'Qaran-e-Saghir' and 'Qaran-e-Kabir' is attributed to Ali. [2]

Calculation of the Lunar Cycle: On an average, a lunar month (or lunation) comprises 29 days 12.73 hours, but it can sometimes be as short as 29 days 6_ hours, or as long as 29 days 20 hours. Fluctuations in length are cyclic. There is a fast cycle averaging about 412 days (which is just under 14

lunar months); which is associated with changes in the eccentricity, or shape of the lunar orbit. This rapid cycle is modified by a slower one whose mean wavelength is 8.85 years (equal to one complete revolution of the axis of the Moon's elliptical orbit). In addition, there are other oscillations, some causing variations extending over many hundreds of years - when it may not even make sense to look for an average wavelength. Other factors too contribute to the Moon's complex behavior.

For instance, a longer than normal lunation tends to occur between October and March because of the faster movement by the Earth in its orbit round the sun. In February and March, this delays the instant when the Moon appears to overtake the sun. Also, the sun lies closer to a newborn crescent than it would if the Earth's speed was uniform - thus postponing the onset of New Moon visibility. In October and November, on the other hand, the sun's position on the ecliptic line is "behind schedule" - so the Moon overtakes it earlier. Occasionally, four consecutive lunation will span more than 119 days. Under these circumstances, it is possible to have four successive 30-day months. When that happens, the Moon only just becomes visible at the beginning of the first month in the sequence, and just fails to do so on the 29th of the 4th month. A predetermined calendar would certainly make it easier to plan events. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to predict that a newborn crescent will definitely be visible or invisible from a given location, because of the wide grey area separating the two categories. This uncertainty is caused by day to day fluctuations in atmospheric water vapor and dust content.

A Few Logical Examples: The Ismailis follows a pre-calculated calendar based on a cycle of 30 Muslim years (eleven of which contain 355

days instead of the more common 354-thus totaling 10631 days). The accumulated error in that calendar is about one hour per century. This, together with the cyclic variations in the behavior of the lunar orbit, can bring the Ismaili dates two (or on rare occasions even three) days earlier than those governed strictly by Crescent visibility. In 1412 (A.H), for example, their Ramazan commenced on the morning of 4th March 1992, whereas throughout much of India and the Far East, Sawm did not start till 7th March. There are of course other ways in which a predetermined calendar might be constructed. Mathematical criteria could be laid down - and adopted, regardless of whether or not the crescent happens to be observed. Such guidelines might be based, for example, on the age of the New Moon at dusk (suitably defined), or the lag between sunset and moonset, or the number of degrees separating the sun and moon as they descend. It is then essential to specify either the exact time at which the criteria are to be applied-or the precise location; for example, Makkah would probably be universally acceptable. [3]

Qur'an says:

"Allah enlightens the sun and effulgent moon and created stations for the moon's movement so that you can keep the counting and records of years". [4]

The Circulation of the Moon around the Earth is described in the Qur'an, and on the basis of it the Lunar Calendar was designed. The 19th Al Dai al Fatemi, Syedna Idris Imaduddin (d.872/1468, Shib'am, Yemen) discussed the issue and proved that the Moon circulates one time around earth in 29_ days and some minutes, and a single circulation is counted as one month. According to calculations, in the Lunar Calendar, a 30 days month is considered complete, and a 29 days month is called incom-

plete. The first month of Muharram is of 30 days and the second month is of 29 days, so according to this, the last month of Zilhajjah will be of 29 days. At the end of 12 months, some fraction is left between the movement of the Moon and 12 months, and as per calculation 11 leap-years are set in every 30 years in the lunar calendar. That means a leap-year will have 30 days instead of 29 days in the last month, which is Zilhajjah. [5]

Shia Ismaili Point of view: Shia Ismailies argue that Rasulullah (S) always observed Siy'am by particular calculations and commanded the Ummah to do accordingly. A valuable reference of Maaz bin Kasir is available in "Majm'a al Bahriyn" which has been transmitted by Huzaifah bin Mansur who asked Abi Abdullah Imam Jafar Assadiq that people say: Rasulullah(S) observed some months of Ramazan for 29 days and some for 30 days. Imam Jafar Assadiq spontaneously rejected this allegation and replied:

"These people are telling lies; Rasulullah(S) has always observed 30 days Siy'aam in the month of Ramazan. From the day Allah created the Sky and the Earth, Ramazan has never ended in 29 Naqis (incomplete) days". [6]

As Muslims of the early era were not familiar with calculations at that time, the day on which everyone observed Sawm, and celebrated Eid, used to be announced. Once when Rasulullah(S) was leaving Madinah for expedition of 'Ghazwah Hunain', people behind him questioned, "We observed Sawm of Ramazan with you, and celebrated Eid with you, as you are leaving, how should we observe it?" Rasulullah(S) guided as follow:

"Observe Sawm of Ramazan by watching Him and celebrate your Eid by watching Him too." [7]

Children of the Ismaili Dawah argue that the meaning behind the word of

Hadith "Ley Ruyate Hee" was Ali, as Rasulullah (S) had appointed him 'Wali al Amar' on his seat, in his place. Similarly, there is no doubt that Rasulullah(S) is the Sun of Nubuwwah while Ali is the Moon of Imamah. Pointing out this divine reality, Syedna al Moayyid al Shirazi (d.470/1078, Qahera, Egypt) says in a couplet, available in his "Diw'aan" as follow:

"Wa Ya Qamaran B'aada Zakas Siraji; Muniran Bada Lid'diyaji Mubira" [8]

(O Moon which appears after the Sun; in order to remove darkness)

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