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# Sana'a minibus drivers suspend strike

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 25 — Sana'a minibus drivers have agreed to suspend their strike for 15 days while the head of their syndicate negotiates an increase for the minibus fare from YR 20 to YR 30 (about USD 0.13), according to Al-Azi Al-Fadhli, head of licenses for the public land transport authority.

The syndicate will wait to see whether the cabinet committee chaired by Sadeq Ameen Abu Ras decides to increase the salaries of government employees'. If these are increased, perhaps the government will approve a raise in minibus fares, explained Al-Fadhli.

Sana'a minibus drivers went on strike Sunday morning after the state forbade them from increasing the transport fare from YR 20 to YR 30. On Sunday morning in the Yemeni capital, hundreds of people waited on the pavements of the capital's streets and in its empty bus stations for a bus to pick them up.

"I have been here for three hours waiting for a bus to go to work, but there are no buses in the street," Ashraf Al-Safani told Yemen Times, standing at the intersection between Hadda and Al-Zubairi street.

"We were informed by representative of the bus station to increase the fare from Saturday," Abdullah Al-Sayani, a minibus driver, said to the Yemen Times.

Early on Sunday morning, the Sana'a police started seizing the minibus of any driver on strike, according to the drivers.

"The police came to me at around at 11 am and seized my bus, saying that it was because I was on strike," Abu Jamal, another bus driver, told Yemen Times. "I was only going to the petrol station to fill my bus and then go to work."

However the misfortunes of some are the benefits of others, as the strike by bus drivers allows taxis to work more than usual.

Some Yemenis with jobs to get to on early Sunday morning resorted to taking a taxi to work when they found no bus to take them.

"I reached the Bab Al-Yemen bus station and the station was totally empty of buses so I took a taxi to work, but there are many employees who cannot afford to pay for a taxi," said Ismail Al-Ghabri, a reporter at the Yemen Times.

A representative at the General Traffic Authority, contacted by the Yemen Times, said that their duty is only to arrange transportation and not to specify the bus fare.

However, the state has often sought to control minibus fares. A month ago, the General Traffic Authority asked them to allow drivers to raise the mini-bus fare but they refused as the price of fuel had remained the same, according to Al-Fadhli.



On Sunday, the Bab Al-Yemen station was completely empty as minibus drivers went on strike, demanding an increase in bus fares.

# Thousands of buildings in Sa'ada and Amran to be rebuilt

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 25 — The government has allocated USD 67 million to the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund to rebuild buildings in the northern governorates of Sa'ada and Amran, after six intermittent years of war there between the state and the Houthis that ended last February.

Head of the fund Ali Mohammad Mojawar said that the plan aims to re-build 6,205 buildings and farms.

In addition, 123 academic projects, 23 health units, 31 police stations, nine courts, three governmental establishments, three agriculture guidance centers, 200 mosques and nine temporary buildings for governmental establishments are to be rebuilt.

The fund approved re-building damaged houses in Sa'ada. The executive office prepared a general plan to connect the city with public water, electricity and sanitation networks and to re-open parks in the city.

The government, however, has delayed re-building Harf Sufian in Amran governorate, where there had been fighting, until the authorized committee releases an evaluation of the damage in the area.

## Exchange of fire

Tribal sources said on Sunday that Houthis and the army and supporting tribes exchanged fire in Al-Thalh area near the Saudi border.

The army collected the troops supported by tanks and rockets near the Black Mountain in Harf Sufian, Amran governorate.

The Houthis' website, al-minbar.net, mentioned that tribal men, who tried to pass a check-point holding unlicensed weapons, shot at soldiers. Three people were killed in the ensuing battle.

The same source said that the soldiers at check-points take tributes from the passing cars, even those carrying vegetables. At the Noshoor checkpoint, at the entrance of the governorate, soldiers have collected more than YR 53 million in the first part of this year.

## Land mines

According to a tribal source in Sa'ada, mines left from the wars in the area have killed many people or maimed them.

"Fields have become a danger to people and animals who may lose

their lives any moment," the source added. "People are not able to move freely to work anymore, and they live miserably."

Houthi spokesman Mohammad Abdul Salam said on Friday that the

Houthis still wait for the government to fulfill its promise and release 1,000 Houthi supporters.

According to the AFP, Abdul Salam said: "We have 1,000 prisoners in the state prisons waiting to be released as

soon as possible. Dozens of those who were released are not from the Houthis as the government claims."

"The government should fulfill its promise to release the prisoners when the Houthis accepted the six points and

ceasefire," he added. "We released all Yemeni and Saudi prisoners, we no more control the local issues of Sa'ada and have already stopped hiding in the mountains. The state, however, has not taken any step to fulfill its promises."

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## More heavy rain expected in Yemeni highlands

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, 21 April — The National Metrological Center has warned Yemenis of heavy rain and thunderstorms along the western highlands of Yemen, and advised residents to take precautions to avoid being struck by lightning.

Torrential rain on mountainous governorates is forecasted from now until the end of April, Rasheed Al-Ariqi, head of the Weather Forecast Unit at the center told Yemen Times.

Last Wednesday in Dhamar, 100 km south of the capital, heavy rain swept away a 45 year-old farmer trying to stop a torrent from the mountain from reaching his well, according to the Yemen Times correspondent there.

The local authority in Dhamar reported damage to several farms and destruction of several houses caused by heavy rain in recent days.

The rain is expected to fall on mountainous areas in the country from Sa'ada in the north up to Ibb in the south and may extend to reach areas of Al-Jawf and Mareb in the eastern north of Yemen, said Al-Ariqi.

The metrological center warns residents of the possibility of lightning and thunder in these areas, and urged them to take precautions to avoid being struck by lightning.

"We are warning people in the highlands not to go up on to the roof of their houses or walk on open roads and open land when it is raining," said Al-Ariqi.



Water resource management experts have suggested more holes around flood paths to feed underground water during heavy rain.

Holding iron umbrellas and electronic devices out in the open during heavy thunder storm is also risky, he said.

"During thunderstorms, people should stop swimming and be careful not to touch water pipes to avoid the risk of being struck by lightning," he continued.

Torrential rain in uplands leads to low visibility and drivers should be alert while driving and retract all radio antennas on their cars, he recommended.

In the Yemeni highlands, where landslides are more likely after heavy rain, people should be cautious not

to walk immediately after rain stops, according to Al-Ariqi.

The heavy rains in the uplands of Yemen will continue during April and would recur again in August, according to Al-Ariqi.

He said that the heavy rainfall was due to moisture flowing in from the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea. The high temperatures in Yemen's coastal areas lead to cloud formation that break out over the colder mountains into heavy rain with thunder and lightning.

In October 2008, heavy floods hit Hadramout and Shabwa, eastern Yemen and displaced around 3,000 people.

## Employees at Sana'a and Aden Universities to escalate their strike

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, April 25 — The Yemeni Workers Union at Sana'a and Aden Universities threatened to extend their strike into a full strike.

Last Wednesday, employees at Sana'a and Aden Universities started the partial strike from 8am to 11am.

The union issued the statement, calling for the implementation of demands of the technical and administrative employees' complaining from procrastination of the government in achieving their rights.

In the past week the employees from Sana'a University staged a demonstration in front of the cabinet which resulted in the closure of the university with all its colleges and administration.

The union decided to continue the strike according to their plan and confirmed that it will not waive their rights until all demands are achieved.

The union also appealed to the president to intervene in these problems asking him to implement his platform and also indicated that the patience of the employees' has run out and no compromise will be accepted.

Employees at Sana'a and Aden Universities accused the government of omitting the Universities law, especially in article 106 in the law.

This article stipulates that the universities must have an organizational and unified structure for academic and administrative employees.

"The government understands our demands because it's legal and it is as per the law of the Universities," said Ramzi Bamoalem, the head of Yemeni Workers' Union in Aden University.

Aden university has 1,300 employees and 900 contractors and all of them have



a low income, and there is approval from the Cabinet to give 300 posts for our contractors but they are still waiting to achieve this approval, according to Bamoalem.

"We are waiting for the supreme council of Universities to keep its promise in developing our circumstances," he said.

The union warned the university about threatening the employees who are demonstrating, and consider it illegal.

Mohammed Modhesh, head of Sana'a University Workers' Union demanded executive regulation to organize tasks and rights of employees in the Universities. "We are calling for the government to hold its responsibility for all the employees,"

"We have no power inside the university and we want a law that regulates the university and gives us some privileges," said Qasim Dabwan, deputy director of Sana'a University Workers' Union.

He claimed that employees at the

university have fewer privileges than professors. If there was an employee suffering from cancer, he or she would receive only YR 5,000 as compensation, but the professor would receive USD 5,000. And even if the employee has a PhD, his salary remains at about YR 50,000 (USD 250).

He demanded to have a relative privilege for employees and threatened to resort to a full strike if their demands were not met.

He indicated that the teaching at the university has been affected by their partial strike as their strike includes closing classes and offices in addition to professors' strike.

There are about 2,000 employees at university who are different from the teaching staff and their duties are administrative and technical, according to Dabwan.

It is not the first time that employees of the university go on strike as they went on a strike in 2008 for the same reasons, but their demands were neglected.

## Yemeni anti-unity prisoners on hunger strike

SANAA, April 20 (Xinhua) — Up to 30 Yemeni political prisoners arrested over anti-unity counts went on an open hunger strike, protesting not being released, security officials said Sunday.

The prisoners began an open hunger strike on Saturday to press local authorities to free them upon a pardon granted by the country's president early this month, according to a statement signed by the relatives of the detainees.

A provincial security official said the prisoners, held in a state prison in Mukalla, the capital city of southeastern province of Hadramout, have been held for their "involvement in riots and arson against private and public properties."

The official added that all prisoners had been released, except those involved in violent acts during the few past months.

"Security authorities here have taken legal measures in accordance to the Yemeni Constitution to expedite

their trial proceedings as the court proved them guilty of criminal counts, including participating in illicit acts organized by illegal separatist (Southern Movement)," the official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to media.

Families of the prisoners, however, said in the statement distributed to media that "their jailed relatives were first put in trials on charges of anti-unity acts only, they were not accused of other criminal charges."

"So they should be granted pardon upon directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh that made on April 8 during his visit to the province," said the statement.

In the statement, the families of political prisoners said "their jailed relatives will continue the hunger strike until they are set free in accordance of President Saleh's directives."

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh made orders on April 8 to free

anti-unity prisoners in the province of Hadramout, official Saba news agency reported.

"President Saleh ordered to set free those jailed people due to outlaw acts, especially those misled, in order to allow them the opportunity to prove good faith," said the state news agency.

Meanwhile, Saleh directed security apparatuses to refer perpetrators who committed arson and murder into justice to undergo legal procedures, Saba added.

Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries, is facing growing voices in the south, calling for disengagement from the north and the restoration of the southern state after 20 years of unification between the two parts.

Political Southern Movement publicly leads demands to secede southern Yemen from the north over complaining of economically discrimination against the south, the home of the country's most oil installations.

## Dhamar University to qualify teachers of special needs students

By: Yemen Times correspondent  
For the Yemen Times

DHAMAR, April 25 — Dhamar University is the first university in Yemen to have opened a department to train teachers for students with special needs. These are estimated at 6,900, in Dhamar governorate alone.

In its last month's session, The Supreme Council for Yemeni Universities approved the proposal by Dhamar University asking for the establishment of such a department.

Ahmad Al-Hadharani, the Head of the university, said that the department and curriculum will be ready by the academic year 2010-2011.

He explained that the course duration will be four years. The curriculums in the first two years will be general and in the third and the fourth years much



more specific.

There will be departments qualifying teachers for students with hearing, sight and learning difficulties, notably to encourage their creative abilities. Bachelor's degrees will be awarded to the graduates. Many associations for the disabled have established courses for children with learning difficulties to enable them to join the mainstream

education system, but they complain that they lack both money and staff.

In Dhamar, the number of associations helping disabled students to enrol in primary and secondary school has increased.

In cooperation with the Social Fund for Development, these associations have successfully helped many disabled students to enrol in public schools.

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The deadline for submission is Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Those selected to submit a full proposal will be provided with additional information by email and will be asked to submit a full proposal, including financial proposal by Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

## Yemeni Jews stand up for Palestinian prisoners

By: Yemen Times correspondent  
For the Yemen Times

DHAMAR, 25 April — Yemeni Jews were among those who publicly supported Palestinian prisoners on Palestinian Prisoners Day, last Wednesday, at the University of Dhamar, 100 km from the capital Sana'a.

Sa'eed Al-Otba, formerly a prisoner in Israel for 32 years and now a representative of the Palestinian prisoners, attended the ceremony organized by the Yemeni Kan'an Association for Palestine, and was honoured by its participants.

In his speech, Al-Otba greeted all the participants, including the Jews, and said that Palestinians do not hate Jews but rather Zionists. Al-Otba, 58, was first arrested when he was 26.

The Yemeni Jews participating in the event condemned the brutality shown by Zionists against Palestinians, but wanted to remain anonymous, in case they were ever to travel to Israel.

Yehya Al-Amri, governor of Dhamar, said that the participation of the Jews in such an event highlights their condemnation of the massacres and oppression of the Palestinians.

The Yemeni Jews stressed that they were Yemenis and, as such, part of Yemeni culture. They said that they



want to show solidarity with their Muslim brothers because they believe that all religions are opposed to such oppression and violence.

The Palestinian Ambassador to Yemen, Basem Al-Agha, expressed his thanks to the Jews in Yemen on this day.

"In the past, Palestinians used to live peacefully side by side with Jews," Al-Agha explained.

During the event, The Head of the Kan'an Association, Yahya Abdallah Saleh, Rector of Dhamar University, Ahmad Al-Hadharani together with representatives of civil society

organizations, stressed the importance of supporting Palestinians and spotlighting their issues on the international stage.

At the end of the event, the Kan'an Association awarded the governor a medal to appreciate his contribution in helping the association achieve success.



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## Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed and the National Awareness Authority celebrate World Teacher Day

On the occasion of World Teacher Day, 400 teachers were honored during a celebration held in Sana'a on April 21.

The celebration was sponsored by Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed and the National Awareness Authority under the patronage of the prime minister Ali Mohammad Mojawar. Another 400 teachers were honored in other Yemeni governorates.

During the celebration, Mojawar expressed the importance of celebrating this occasion saying that teachers are the back bones of a society's development and play a significant role in developing it.

He added that honoring teachers is acknowledging their effort to raise children to love Islam and their united country and to discard extremism and radicalism.



Mojawar encouraged teachers to deepen values to enable students to hold moderate and logical dialogues, respecting the other side.

He also asked them to be models for their students and to embody diligence, handwork, good appearance, manners and commitment to rules and the law.

Abdul Salam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, confirmed what Mojawar said and added that teachers are honored because they are moderate wherever they are. Moreover, they inspire creativity and love in students' minds and hearts.

The deputy of the minister of education, and the head of the committee of the celebration preparation, said that

teachers have an exalted mission.

"Considered to be the heir of prophets, their message aims at enlightening and lifting up their societies," the deputy said. "They teach the young generations knowledge, science and skills to make them ready to face their world and able to develop their societies in all terms."

On behalf of the ministry, he expressed his regards to Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed represented by its general manager, Mohammad Al-Anesi, for sponsoring the celebration.

During the celebration, the ministers of Education, Youth and Sports and Telecommunications honored the departed minister of Education, Ahmad Jaber Al-Afif and the National

## Their News

### MTN charity presents 30 laptops in teachers honoring event

MTN charity presented 30 laptops at the honoring teachers' event last Tuesday where 71 teachers were recognized from all around the capital secretariat for their distinguished efforts in teaching.

This support comes within MTN strategy to support the special projects and humanitarian initiatives in education, health and environment.

In the awarding ceremony state minister Sana'a city Mayor Abdulrahman Al-Akwa' commended the efforts of various companies that supports education in Yemen aiming to assist the creation of moderate educated generations.

Director of the education office in Sana'a praised MTN's work and

thanked it for its support for teachers. At the end of the celebration which included songs and art programs deputy minister of education Abdullah Al-Hamidi and general secretary of the capital Amin Juma'an presented MTN's representative Mohammed Al-Himyari with a shield of honor in appreciation for MTN's support for teachers.



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The Centre for Graduate Studies at Taiz University (CGS) seeks to recruit a qualified and experienced Director to manage its Centre and programs.

The Centre's mission is to provide excellent innovative engineering and IT graduate education that will foster among graduates, professional excellence, scholarship, responsible citizenship and service to society. The Center was established in a cooperation agreement between Taiz University and Delft University of Technology (TUDelft) of The Netherlands, with funding from the Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening in Higher Education (NPT).

The Center will operate as a financially and administratively autonomous unit of Taiz University and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives of Taiz University, the Hayel Saeed Anam Group and the Public Telecommunication Company (PTC). For the Management of all Master's Degree Programmes under the CGS, the Board invites Taiz University staff to apply for the following position:

**Position title:** GRADUATE CENTRE DIRECTOR (Male or Female).  
**Duration:** One year (renewable).  
**Place of Work:** Centre for Graduate Studies (CGS), Taiz University.

#### Main Responsibilities:

- He/she will be responsible for the management of all Master's Degree Programmes under CGS and the day-to-day management of the Master's Degree Programme, including, marketing, procurement, staff recruitment, public relations, project management, supervision, and quality assurance of its programs and activities;
- Other tasks will include the drafting of internal regulations and procedures for the Master's Degree Programme for approval by the CGS Board overseeing the implementation of policies, strategies, and plans approved by the CGS;
- Candidate will also prepare the annual budget for the Centre in accordance to the guidelines and priorities set by the Centre Board and will be responsible for the recruitment of Centre staff and teaching staff;
- Candidate will also serve as the official representative of the Centre with all internal and external parties on all matters related to the Centre in accordance with the mandate accorded the position by the Centre board.
- The Centre Director will report to the University Rector and the Centre Board.

#### Qualifications

- PhD degree from an accredited institution
- Minimum 5 years senior management experience.
- Experience in working with international projects.
- Excellent communications and presentation skills.
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- Ability to work in complex environments.

For general information about the Center, interested candidates may visit the Centre's website at [www.taizu-cgs.net](http://www.taizu-cgs.net). Interested candidates are required to submit their application with their CVs and supporting documents, to the office of the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, **Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sabri**.

Deadline for submission application: **2 June 2010**.

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



*Saudi women make cracks in the glass ceiling*

# Young Saudis take the lead in the kingdom's slowly changing gender roles



**Benjamin Joffe-Walt**  
The Media Line

**S**audi Arabia is not often described as the feminist epicenter of the Middle East.

Women have never been permitted to vote in Saudi elections. Women make up five percent of the Saudi workforce, the lowest percentage on earth. Women cannot enter Saudi banks without their husbands, nor can they set up an individual account without their husband's permission. The vast majority of Saudi institutions are segregated by sex, often with unequal access for men and women. When in public, Saudi women and girls must wear the hijab, a traditional Muslim head covering for women, and an abaya, a full black cloak. Women are not permitted to drive a car, motorbike or ride a bicycle. Women are forbidden to ride public buses in most of the country and, where it is permitted, they must sit in the back. Indeed, a number of analysts have likened the state of women's rights in the kingdom to a kind of 'gender apartheid', with unequal access to jobs, property, education, legal rights and the freedom of movement.

But a new study by the Vienna-based Women Without Borders casts a different light on the transformation of gender roles in the kingdom.

The study, "Bridging the Gap", found that the majority of young Saudis support promoting the status of women in the country.

"This is actually a rapidly changing society," Dr Edit Schlaffer, Director of Women Without Borders told The Media Line. "While the change in gender roles is very slow in Saudi Arabia, there is a driving force for change among young, educated people."

Conducted over one and a half years, the study is based on interviews with 4,455 male and female university students across Saudi Arabia.

Sponsored by the Austrian Fund for Research and Science, the study found that 78 percent of female undergraduates plan to have a "successful career" rather than stay at home.

Hardly planning to stand in their way, the study also found that 83 percent of young Saudi men want women to pursue careers.

"The young men now all look for women with a career," Dr Schlaffer said. "In the international context more and more women are getting into higher education, outnumbering men and also leaving them behind in terms of accomplishments. We wanted to see how Saudi society will respond to this upcoming talent pool of women."

"These women are ambitious, well educated and are making very interesting changes in Saudi Arabia," she said. "For example there are 150 people in the Shura Council, now including 12 highly capable women pushing for recognition of domestic violence."

Contrary to popular belief, the study found that most Saudi youth see unemployment and not gender roles as the most significant barrier to young women getting jobs.

The study found that while only 21 percent of the women interviewed expect to find a job after graduation, the figure was also low for men.

"Beyond unemployment, what we see is that women's competence leads somewhere but the confidence is missing," she said. "In addition, women are more eager to get into the job arena, but for them it's obviously much harder. Men have more access to jobs but they look at jobs as connected to prestige. Men are less likely to take a less prestigious job in the lower ranks of a company and the Saudi economy is held back a lot by this attitude."

Dr Schlaffer said gender transformation in Saudi Arabia is complicated by an abundance of external criticism of Saudi social norms coupled with a scarcity of internal criticism.

"There is a considerable lack of self-reflection in Saudi society," she said. "It's very seldom that you find open criticism or public reflection on cultural shortcomings and one of the challenges is that there is no platform for critical debate and critical thinking is not encouraged among women."

"We in the West criticize ourselves all the time," Dr Schlaffer continued. "It is inherent to Western thinking to constantly question ourselves, our shortcomings. This is something that is not inherent in Saudi society. For example the question 'Do you believe in god?' is not even worth asking, as faith is not questioned."

"Saudis are also very careful that everything they do can't be branded as coming from outside," she said. "83 percent of the females said that it upsets them when others criticize their country, and 79 percent of men say the same."

"So on the one hand Saudis don't want to be criticized from the outside, but at the same time they are not at all satisfied with their culture as it is and the majority want to see significant cultural change," Dr Schlaffer said. "The young generation is very eager to develop their own brand of modernization, but in a very careful manner."

"In this society, gender is still linked with power in a very traditional sense,"

she continued. "Men are in the driving seat, in every sense, and they want to keep driving."

"At the same time, they want to modernize, so it's a very ambivalent situation, and we see a lot of ambivalence in people's answers," Dr Schlaffer said. "Young men are reluctant to openly support gender transformation. They are living in a land where gender segregation controls every aspect of their lives and have never known anything else other than this gender-based privilege. So it's hard for men to grasp why they should even consider giving that up. It takes a huge personal transformation to grasp that a fair-share model might be better."

Eman Al Nafjan, an influential Saudi female blogger, said that while gender dynamics were clearly changing, there were limits as to which aspects of life were opening up to young women.

"I'm not surprised," she told The Media Line. "The phenomenon is totally different than it was 20 years ago when women who worked would never get a marriage proposal."

"Today women who are not employed don't get a marriage proposal," Al Nafjan said. "But the question is what kind of career, so they should have looked into what kind of jobs we are talking about. I bet most of these men who approve of women having jobs had education on their mind. They would never let their wives or daughters go into other fields but we can't have all women in education."

But Wajiha Al-Huwaidar, a Saudi businesswoman and women's rights advocate, said the study was encouraging.

"The results are very surprising but they are great indications," she told The Media Line. "We are returning to reality and heading towards more of a national investment in women. With the changes to the Saudi economy and the entrance of many foreign companies into Saudi Arabia, there will be many more openings for women. This will lead to all kinds of changes, as when women start working they will have to be able to drive to work."

Al-Huwaidar argued that the transformation of gender roles in Saudi Arabia was largely a product of the Internet.

"Saudi Arabia is still in the dark ages, and to me the Internet is playing the same role in Saudi that the wide distribution of the bible had in Europe," she said. "The church was in control of most of Europe during the dark ages. Back then the bible was only accessible to religious authorities. When the bible was printed and widely translated, people began to develop different points of view so the church lost its power."

"Because of the Internet and satellite channels, the younger generation hears much more than the official side of the story," Al-Huwaidar continued. "So the Internet opened many doors for young people to see and learn and grow, and as a result I believe the religious institutions are slowly losing a lot of their power."

"There is no turning back," she said. "Young people are very open minded and want to live a normal life but they are waiting for the moment it will happen."

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## Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



## OUR OPINION

## Moving the capital to Aden

There have been rumors that, because of water scarcity and overpopulation, a thought has been given to moving the capital of Yemen to Aden - especially in response to complaints from the people of Aden, as in other southern governorates, of being ignored.

The area of the governorate of Aden is 8,321 square kilometers with approximately 800,000 people, compared to Sana'a city's 928 square kilometers and two million people or more. Aden has a lovely beach, modern urban planning, less pollution and definitely less noise.

At the same time, there are no water problems and as it sits on the Arabian Sea, desalination is very possible. Aden is home to the free zone which, if invested in well, could make Yemen one of the richest countries in the world in a short time.

Then why not? What is the real cost of moving the capital city? Not necessarily in the political sense, but rather in the economic sense such as the difference between Washington DC and New York city? Why must the political capital be the only place where investment takes place? Why must attention and development projects be mostly in Sana'a where they are not needed the most? And why invest in huge residential projects in a place where there is water scarcity and that is already over-crowded?

There is a master plan for Sana'a 2030 which includes giving the houses numbers and the alleys and side streets names. In Sana'a, homes are built then they are numbered. Streets are paved, then they are mapped. Aden, thanks to the British is more developed and organized in a civic way.

Probably the only problem with Aden is that, since it is a coastal city, it is hot. But I would trade the lack of oxygen of Sana'a for the humid breeze of Aden's coast any day.

There is a policy to decentralize Yemen and allow various governorates to administer their official processes locally. Although the plan is taking longer than should, it is still a step in the right direction.

Giving more attention to this beautiful city and drawing the attention of businessmen to this great business opportunity would allow for peace and stability in the southern region and decrease the rate of poverty.

Am I over simplifying the situation? "It's too complicated than that!" men in decision making position often say. I think it is about priorities and making serious plans to achieve them. It is about making use of available resources in the optimum way to save our country and help our people.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## The challenge of Yemen

By: Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.)

For most Americans, Yemen is a distant and forbidding place, intruding upon our lives only in the context of terrorism — be it the bombing of the USS Cole, its status as Osama bin Laden's "ancestral homeland," or the attempted Christmas Day 2009 bombing of Northwest Flight 253. But while this parched, impoverished land at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula is unknown to many, it stands at the center of the struggle against al Qaeda.

Thousands of dedicated Americans throughout our government are focused on preventing another major attack on America that many believe will be masterminded from Yemeni territory.

As home to al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, a separatist movement in the southern part of the country, and the Houthi insurgency in the northwest along the Saudi border, Yemen commands American attention and assistance. But, as I came to appreciate during a recent visit to Yemen's capital, Sana'a, the country faces three additional challenges: a young and chronically underemployed population, a severe water shortage and the depletion of the country's oil reserves. These three factors — demography, environment and economy — threaten Yemen's survival and could foster further instability in an already unsteady region.

As we flew over Yemen, the country's geography revealed itself as an additional challenge. Twice the size of Wyoming, Yemen is geographically diverse and sparsely settled outside of major cities and towns. It is easy to disappear there, as there are only 7,705 kilometers of paved roads in the entire country (neighboring Oman, by comparison has more than 16,000 kilometers of paved roads, but is only 60 percent as large as Yemen). Yemen's lengthy land and maritime borders are also porous and difficult to defend. While much of our attention in recent months has been focused on the government's fight against Houthi rebels based along the western part of the frontier with Saudi Arabia, the longer-term threat emanates from Yemen's proximity to and longstanding historical ties with Somalia, whose present could be Yemen's future. Both countries have become a sanctuary for al Qaeda leaders who have been flushed from their redoubts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The al Qaeda threat in Yemen has not gone unnoticed by American policymakers over the past decade. In the wake of the Cole bombing and the 9/11 attacks, our counterterrorism cooperation with the Yemeni government increased markedly. That effort has now moved to a new stage as economic and security assistance to Sana'a has been greatly increased in the past

couple of years (the Obama administration has requested \$63 million in fiscal 2011, a 20 percent increase over the previous year) and American and other allied nations are training Yemeni security forces.

Ultimately, however, this cannot be America's fight alone. Our military has been stretched by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; we cannot afford a new, large-scale financial commitment given our budgetary crisis; and the goal of resuscitating Yemen is better left to regional players, who cannot be so easily portrayed as anti-Muslim imperialists looking to broaden American hegemony in another Islamic country.

There are encouraging signs that Yemen's neighbors have come to appreciate the danger in their midst. In December 2009, the United Arab Emirates pledged \$650 million in aid. Saudi Arabia pledged a billion dollars in aid in 2006 and was drawn into the Yemeni government's fight last fall with the Houthi rebels, a tacit acknowledgement that, as the Kuwaiti newspaper al Watan opined last month, "The security of Yemen means the security of the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf." This year there have already been two international conferences on Yemen. A January meeting in London, sponsored by the British government, drew Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other world leaders, who discussed how best to counter the disintegration of the Yemeni state as well as ways to counter radicalization there. This was followed up by a donors' conference in Riyadh at the end of last month, at which the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the European Union, the United States and international financial institutions continued to hammer out a rescue plan for Yemen.

Leaving Yemen, I concluded that the threats to the country cannot be solved by counterterrorism assistance and training alone, but will require sustained, multilateral engagement that relies on Yemeni and other regional players to assume the lead role. Time is not on our side, however, as Yemen's dwindling oil and water supplies will put even greater pressure on Sana'a's ability to reassert control over its own territory and people. America has a crucial role in helping our Arab allies in Yemen. Our technical expertise, military power and intelligence capability will play a vital role in helping to stabilize the country. Our ability to coordinate large-scale development projects will help to inform a multilateral aid program that may give Yemen's impoverished millions — 45 percent of whom live on less than \$2 a day — a chance at a better life, while bolstering our own security.

Schiff is a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

## Tony Blair's testimony: Lessons not learned

By: Marina Ottaway  
Islam Online

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair's testimony in front of the Chilcot Commission on January 29 was a polite affair unlikely to provide clear answers to the difficult questions concerning Britain's participation in the Iraq war.

The Commission was set up in July 2009 to draw lessons from Britain's intervention in Iraq, in order to prepare the government to better handle future challenges. The commission was thus set up to avoid mistakes in the future rather than to establish whether mistakes were made in the past or, worse, whether the British government acted improperly or illegally when it decided to go to war in Iraq.

The terms of reference drawn up by Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the House of Commons were designed simply to throw light on how the government handled its policy in Iraq from the summer 2001—before the September 11 attack on New York's twin towers—until the end of 2009, when the commission started holding hearings.

## Changing Attitudes

The high point of the hearings was expected to be Tony Blair's testimony on January 29. Yet, it was a low key testimony, notable not because it provided new information, but because it showed that neither the commission nor the general public are anxious to reopen the bitter debates of 2003.

Although the small room where hearings are being held was packed to capacity with spectators—reportedly for the first time since the commission started its hearings in November—demonstrations outside were small. Britons may not feel more favorably about the war in Iraq but no longer appear angry enough to mobilize.

Not surprisingly, during the hearings Blair defended both the political wisdom of the decision to go war and the legality of the intervention. He reiterated the position that intelligence reports at the time suggested that Saddam Hussein controlled weapons of mass destruction.

He denied accusations that such evidence was deliberately fabricated or that flimsy information was presented as confirmed facts, although he admitted that the information turned out to be incorrect.

But he also went further, arguing, as he has done repeatedly since the beginning of the war, that the invasion was justifiable even in the absence of weapons of mass destruction because of the danger the regime posed for its citizens and more broadly the international community.

He also insisted that the intervention was legal under international law—this was an issue hotly debated in Britain at the time. When the possibility of a military intervention was first broached in March 2002, Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith warned that such action would not be legal under international law, because there was not sufficient evidence of imminent danger to the UK.

A Blind Rush into War

## Future Mistakes in Yemen?

This reluctance to reopen the Iraq war dossier, while understandable, is also unfortunate. While that particular experience is now in the past, with the last British combat troops having been withdrawn from Iraq in April 2009, Britain, together with the United States, faces a situation in Yemen which could lead to a new military intervention. Yemen is a country under siege both on the economic and the political level.

The government is challenged by the Houthi rebellion, the Southern Movement, and al-Qaeda. The country is running out of oil and, most tragically, water. The government's capacity to provide solutions to this onslaught of problems is limited; in fact, the government has contributed to creating many of the problems.

Britain has invested heavily in the development of Yemen through its department for International Development, as have many other countries. But as the problems mount and become more urgent, economic development will look as an increasingly inadequate, slow answer to imminent crises that threaten the country's stability and, as seen in failed attempt to blow up a US airliner last December 25, the security of other countries as well.

It would be all too easy for Britain and the United States to slide toward military action, defending an intervention on the ground that, as in the case of Iraq, they need to protect their security.

The Yemen government has made it clear that it intends to handle the problem of security on its own, without the help of foreign troops, but the resolve may not last if the situation worsens.

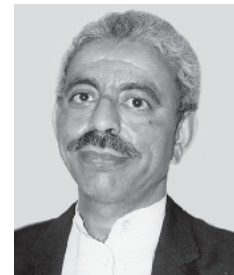
At that point, the British and US government, and the public in both countries, will need to think long and hard about the implications of sliding again into some form of military action. The lessons of Iraq will no longer be about history, but about the present and future.

## COMMON SENSE

## Arab democracy

## Your vote is our vote

Most people of the world have a humanistic understanding of democracy as "Government for the people, by the people and from the people". This understanding somehow deteriorates when one is trying to explain the Arab World's rendition of democratic practice.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The mind boggling question then arises, why do Arab rulers from the Atlantic to the Gulf insist on changing the word "people" by "us rulers" and carry on with very expensive, time wasting and ridiculous theatrics, which their very expensive prop[aganda] machines wish to convince us as genuine democratic practice.? If not to make their people seem like obvious fools, then they surely open up a broad avenues by which their notoriously corrupt machines continue to bleed the government treasuries. One only has to look at the homes of senior election officials in most of the Arab countries that profess to have democratic practice and elections. These lavish palaces, which would make Haroun Al-Rashid turn in his grave, certainly did not come out of their civil service salaries or other public service benefits. If that is not enough, then one might delve into the various bank accounts in all the hard currencies of the world that many of these officials maintain in the major money markets of the world.

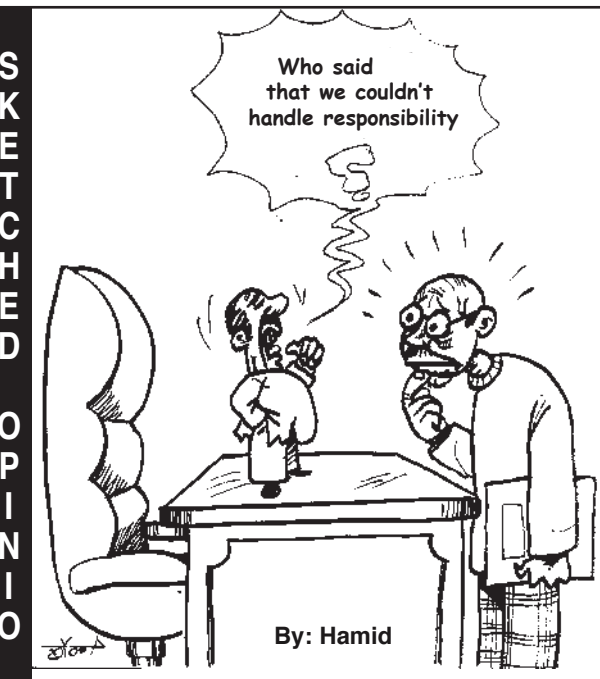
Democracy in the Arab World is a farce from Yemen to the Sudan to Egypt to Mauritania to the half way decent states of the "Constitutional Democracies" of the aging monarchies that spread throughout the Middle East (Morocco, Jordan and Kuwait). Then there are the admittedly unconstitutional countries like the Persian Gulf states, especially the ultra autocratic and magnificently rich Saudi Arabia. In the final analysis, one can see that for most of the citizenries of the Arab World, there is a lot to be desired in terms of achieving modern Government and governments that display any semblance of transparency and accountability. In most of the Arab World the citizens lack the faintest idea as to what real modern democratic governments mean, because the subject matter is barely touched on in the school curriculums at all educational levels from Kindergarten to the University. Thus, when people are fed all the gibberish about the great democratic inclinations of their divinely ordained rulers, they are forced to almost believe that any thought of different varieties of democratic practice will send its advocates to hell (they even have their own Gulags for the hell they wish to send their opponents to).

The recent elections in the Sudan are like the ones in Yemen and the soon to be carried out elections in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Needless to say, in the latter the Government is already purging supporters of likely Presidential candidates, who could pose a genuine threat to the archaic regime that has held sway some three decades back. Yes, there are democratic elections, or so they tell their constituencies. But one should have no thought of ever wanting to remove the exaggerated idolatrous portraits of the great leaders that pollute the scenic walls of Arab capitals from Sana'a to Damascus and from Bahrain to Nouakchott.

Why does this ridicule of genuine modern governance continue to distort the political realities of the region? How long can it continue to fail to find a restful place in the minds of most libertarians in the Arab World? In other words, how long must the Arab people continue to be the laughing stock of most of the world as the leaders of most Arab countries drive their peoples from their offices and schools to wage "campaigns of support for their eternal God-sent rulers"? As if the people's will has been disowned and transferred to their leaders to use as they wish and for the most part without any consideration as to the aspirations and desires of their people. Even support for genuine Arab causes like Palestine is only subject to the designs and token manifestations of such support deemed appropriate by their leaders.

Back to elections! The observer cannot help but suggest to the leaders of the Arab World to grow up and start thinking about more realistic and plausible ways to enrich their owned officials. They can start by teaching these cutthroat officials that elections without the interests of their voting constituencies in mind are a farce and the biggest rip-offs in the political history of mankind. In the final analysis, these dictators and fraudulent users of democratic practice would do better by packing their bags and leaving their countries to let their people decide freely for themselves, who God would prefer to hold "gently" the reins of authority in these overtly overexploited lands. Only then can there be any hope of seeing any real democratic practice prevail in the Arab World.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. He may be blogged at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>



By: Hamid

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# عالم الصيدلة pharmacy world

صحتك قمننا..

## Safe medicine dispensed by qualified pharmacists

Taking a look at the pharmaceutical industry in Yemen we note that there are more than 4000 pharmacies of which 1350 are in the capital secretariat. This number does not reflect a positive progress in the pharmacy industry in Yemen but it compounds the problem considering that only 20 percent of these pharmacies are owned by actual pharmacists while the rest are run by businessmen who rent the pharmacy licenses. The percentage of actual pharmacists working in the pharmacies does not exceed 5 percent.

The amount of smuggled medicines comprises at least 20 percent of the total medicines locally despite the fact that the Yemeni market is open to medical and drug companies since 1994.

There are 15,000 categories of medicines registered with the Yemeni supreme drug authority while in Egypt, Jordan and most of the gulf countries the categories don't exceed 5000. Moreover, there is a continuous brain drain of Yemeni chemists who are going abroad, and in Saudi Arabia there are at least 300 Yemeni pharmacists who are working in the most well-known pharmacies, these should have been working in Yemen instead.

However this factor among others leads to deteriorating the pharmacy industry in Yemen and the lack of qualified professionals to run those pharmacies, which in turn jeopardizes the safety of the consumers. Moreover, the lack of adequate funding does not allow the pharmacy owner to hire a qualified pharmacist to help and so they give these jobs to their unqualified relatives to give a hand in the store.

This financial problem also pushes some pharmacies to using smuggled medicines instead of those imported through legal channels to save money on the cost and be able to compete. Moreover, there are no qualifying courses and training for working pharmacists and no obliging regulations by the authorities to have such training. Pharmacy World... a service to the community

Realizing this difficult situation and



ensuring the consumer's health safety Natco of Hayel Saeed Companies Group started off a chain of pharmacies known as the Pharmacy World. The Group is one of the most establish business tycoons in Yemen and one which is known for its support of the society and carrying out many communities services.

Pharmacy World chain has started in the capital secretariat as a first stage and will expand to other governorates around the country. Today there are ten branches of Pharmacy World in Sana'a providing consumers with best medical drugs services in high international standards according to the World Health

Organization.

Pharmacy World is not just a classical chemistry; it is a qualitative move which will direct the pharmaceutical industry towards a new dimension that was not there before through providing the best qualified medical cadre and well mannered services as well as enhancing the image of Yemen for both diplomatic visitors and tourists.

Distinguished goals

As soon as it was launched, Pharmacy World carried out intensive campaigns targeting pharmacists and citizens and warned them from using fake or smuggled medicines and how they



could be extremely dangerous to their health. This campaign comes from the fact that this chain of pharmacies was not launched as an excellent business idea only but more as a community service and a manifestation of social responsibility commitment of the Heal Saeed Group in general. Obviously in addition to its commitment to high professional standards in the medicinal field and the urgent desire to provide consumers with best services living up to the principle that the clients safety and satisfaction come first.

Pharmacy World aims to raise the bar high in the pharmaceutical industry in Yemen and push the industry to compete with the world. Also it aims to contribute to the fight against smuggled drugs and health equipments which harms the consumers' health. Pharmacy World trains its staff extensively not only on professional and pharmaceutical issues but also on customer care and dealing with consumers.

In addition to all this, Pharmacy World is distinguished for having the following merits and services:

- A flexible automated system maintaining the clients data and the

medicines they consume

- Pharmaceutical consultation for all visitors
- Warning system for when there is a conflict between any of the medicines prescribed to one patient
- Issuing health educational leaflets and newsletter for the society
- Conducting advanced scientific courses for all those in the medical sector

And considering this great success and distinction of this new pharmaceutical chain, Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar awarded Pharmacy World with an distinction award in recognition for its services to the community and its fight against smuggled drugs.

Dr. Nabeel Atif deputy general manager of Pharmacy World Company says, "We are at war with the fraud medicines mafia on more than one front in order to install new principles and concepts in the medicines market in Yemen, which is drowned in smuggled goods since an early time. For some irresponsible pharmacists, distinction translated to providing toxic smuggled drugs to the patents and this has unfortunately attracted some unaware consumers because of the cheap prices. Although some claim that they have the smuggled goods just to show the clients the difference between what they should buy and the smuggled kinds."

He mentioned another challenge which is finding qualified pharmacists who are professional enough to live up to the company's standards. He adds that finding the right people is the corner stone to fighting fraud and smuggled medicines and this is why the people working with Pharmacy World are of high qualification including those working at the central warehouse and the company's management premises.

"We hope that all Yemenis realize that we are fight on the same side and that our good efforts will not materialize without God's blessing and their support in our campaign to restore the medical values and pharmaceutical marketing principles against the wrong practices," Atif said.



# Manakha residents say their water is unsafe



The water from the Al-Jau spring in Manakha city is stagnant.

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi  
For the Yemen Times

Hussein Al-Aqel, a resident of Manakha lying 80 kilometres to the northwest of the Yemeni capital Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that some members of his family are sick because of the water they drink.

His wife has an amoebic infection. This kind of bacteria thrives in warm fresh water and is contracted through drinking it. One of his sons has bilharzia, a freshwater parasite transmitted through the skin. He is convinced that the rest of his family suffers from the amoebic infection too.

His family drinks water from the water trucks. With his meagre salary, he can barely afford to feed his family, let alone afford to buy mineral water for them, he told the Yemen Times.

"My salary is just YR 22,000, and YR 500 is not enough to buy mineral water for 10 people every day," he told the Yemen Times.

Hussein's family is one of many in the Manakha governorate complaining that they have caught waterborne diseases from unsafe water, but who are unaware about how to treat this water to make it safe.

Residents are catching diseases because their drinking water, sourced either from trucks or wells, is not sterile without a little added chlorine, said Dr. Yahya Qatina, director of Al-Wahda Hospital in Manakha.

He explained that another reason for diseases is the use of unsafe water from pools and dams for washing dishes and even vegetables, because there is no water in the pipes. Abdullah Al-Medai, director of the health office in Manakha city, told the Yemen Times that typhoid fever, transmitted through water con-

taminated by the faeces of an infected person, has affected an estimated 20 percent of all residents in Manakha city and the areas around it.

He also said that up to 15 percent of residents are infected with malaria, transmitted by mosquitoes breeding in standing water, and another 15 percent are infected with bilharzia -a parasite that can be transmitted through the skin merely by walking barefoot through contaminated water. In addition, more than 30 percent of Manakha children have diarrhoea, according to Al-Medai.

The government should sterilize well water, and supervise the cleaning of the water network, Dr. Murad Shujaddin, a renal specialist who works in the Kuwait Hospital in Sana'a, told the Yemen Times.

But the Manakha governmental water branch doesn't have the proper equipment to chlorinate the water, said Eng., Najib Al-Maktari, Program Coordinator in the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Chlorine is not added to the water piped to Manakha residents and the lo-

cal water corporation does not have any alternate equipment to treat the water, Ali Sunbul, Director of the public water network in Manakha city, told the Yemen Times.

Waterborne parasites are killed when 5mm of chlorine is added to every 1 litre of water and left for 30 minutes, at a temperature of no less than 5 degrees and with a pH of 6-7, Dr. Salma Abdulfatah, Environmental and Vocational Medicine Specialist, told the Yemen Times.

Chlorine should be enough to kill the germs, and to destroy both the organic and inorganic matter present in the water, she said. Waiting 30 minutes is very important to ensure that the water is safe to drink.

The Ministry of Health and Population is in charge of raising awareness about safe drinking water in the media and schools in concerned areas, Abdulkhakim Al-Kuhlani, General Director for disease control and epidemiological surveillance, told the Yemen Times.

However, although the local authority in Manakha city should follow up their problems with the ministry, it is not happening. If people in Manakha and the surrounding areas must use the contaminated water, they should filter or boil it to make it safer, he said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) cannot act independently, but only as a result of reports from the governorates and Ministry of Public Health and Population, Dr. Ahmed Al-Sufi, Director of Neglected Epidemic Diseases at the WHO, told the Yemen Times.

The Ministry of Health and Population can also ask the WHO to conduct surveys to find out the reasons for the spread of diseases in any area, he said. According to the level of urgency, a strategy is defined by the WHO to offer suitable medication, notably to school children.



Manakha residents use the water from the Qism Baa'a dam for washing their clothes, for example.

## HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and Naturopathy are his passions.

## The Kiwi: Nature's boon to health



The kiwi fruit is one of nature's perfect foods. It owes its name to the bird "kiwi", native of New Zealand. Indeed, in many regions of Europe, North America and South America, kiwi fruits are generally referred to as "kiwi." Kiwi fruits are native to China ("Chinese Gooseberry"). They were unknown to the western world until as late as the 20th century!

This delicate fruit is brown and fuzzy on the outside, green and zesty on the inside surrounded by a cute little ring of tiny black edible seeds.

### The kiwi fruit is the 'Powerhouse' of all fruits

Nutrition-wise, kiwi fruits contain about as much potassium as bananas and a high amount of Vitamin C, more than oranges, and a good amount of beta-carotene and fiber. It is also rich in Vitamins A and E, flavonoids and minerals. The kiwi fruit actually has twice the Vitamin E of an avocado, but has only 60% of the avocado's calories. It ranks higher than spinach and all other fruits and vegetables, except yellow corn, for its lutein content. In addition, this fruit is an unusual supplier of some valuable trace minerals including manganese and chromium.

Kiwi fruit oil which is obtained by crushing its black seeds is a very rich source of Alfa-Linoleic Acid which is an important Omega-3 essential fatty acid.

### The kiwi fruit protects the respiratory tract

Studies in Italy, performed on 6-7 year old children, have demonstrated health benefits to the respiratory tract. Children fed 5-7 portions a week of citrus and kiwifruits had 44% less incidence of wheezing compared to children eating less than once a week. Breathlessness, night time cough and runny nose were all reduced. There were fewer incidences of severe wheeze and chronic cough. These results are not only traceable to the content in Vitamin C or Potassium, but in substances which are still largely unknown contained in the kiwi fruit.

### The kiwi fruit safeguards against cancer

It is important to note that kiwi fruits contain a remarkable amount of Vitamin C, E flavonoids and A which are valuable antioxidants. Vitamin C is a water-soluble antioxidant that has been proven to protect our body from free radicals, dramatically improving the health of individuals who consumed it regularly against all kinds of disease, from cardiovascular problems to cancer and obesity. Vitamin E is complementary to Vitamin C. Leutin contained in the kiwi help protect our cells from oxidative damage, protects our DNA against cancerous changes. The high fiber content in the kiwi binds to toxic compounds in the colon and helps us expel them. Thus it protects us against colon cancer.

### Though sweet, it's low in calories

With a glycemic index of 52, the kiwi is a fat-free, low-carb fruit that's safe for diabetics and a smart part of any weight-loss diet.

### Protection from Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD)

A series of studies published by the Archives of Ophthalmology have proven that consuming 3 or more servings of fruits per day (including the kiwi) can reduce the risk of developing Age Related Macular Degeneration, which is the primary cause of vision impairment in the elderly. Lutein, the antioxidant present in kiwi may decrease the risk of advanced age-related macular degeneration.

### Kiwi fruits have high fiber content

The kiwi provides both soluble and insoluble forms of fiber (16% USRDA), providing more than a serving of bran flakes and four times that of a cup of chopped celery. Soluble fiber appears to play a protective role in heart disease and diabetes, while insoluble fiber aids in prevention of constipation, diverticulosis, hemorrhoids and some forms of cancer.

### A delicious way of enjoying cardiovascular health

Eating a couple of kiwi fruits everyday may significantly lower the risk for blood clots and reduce the amount of fats (triglycerides) in the blood, therefore helping to protect cardiovascular health. The fiber content of kiwi has also been proven to reduce cholesterol levels, improving the conditions of patients with cardiovascular diseases and lowering the probability of heart attacks

Vitamin C, polyphenols, vitamin E, magnesium, potassium, and copper may function individually or in concert to protect the blood vessels and heart. In one study, human volunteers who ate 2 to 3 kiwi fruits per day for 28 days reduced their platelet aggregation response (potential for blood clot formation) by 18%. In addition, kiwi eaters' triglycerides (blood fats) dropped by 15%.

### The kiwi is a natural antacid

The kiwi offers soothing relief to the uncomfortable feeling of acid indigestion after a heavy meal. The various digestive enzymes which are present in the fruit give an instant cooling sensation to the stomach.

### Kiwi fruits for pregnant women

This fruit provides a good amount of folic acid, or folate. Folic acid is essential to the reproduction and formation of red blood cells. Lack of folic acid can contribute to some problems of anemia and it is especially important for expectant mothers to protect against birth defects.

### A word of caution:

Rarely, do individuals develop allergic reactions to the kiwi fruit. The most common symptoms of allergy include itching of the mouth, lips and palate or wheezing. People with latex allergy should avoid eating this fruit.

### Eat the versatile and delightfully delicious kiwi today

The kiwi fruit is loaded with nutrients that helps fight off disease, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, boost energy levels and keeps you hale and hearty.

Eat a kiwi a day and enjoy health all the way!





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## Vacancies for Yemeni Nationals only

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### Cost Engineers: Sana'a

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Develop Generic Project Cost Structure and Cost Account Codes Directory under Standard Work Breakdown Structures.
- ▶ Maintain invoice controlling against existing Contracts.
- ▶ Prepare 'Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled' (or Spent Profile), discuss and agree with the functional leaders.
- ▶ Assists the Financial Controllers with preparation of cost and progress reports.
- ▶ Generate weekly and monthly cost reports in tabular and graphical formats for Drilling Project.
- ▶ Facilitate and provide information to Accounts Department for accrued invoices at required frequency or predetermined project payment milestones.
- ▶ Implement a "Drilling Cost Handbook" and define financial KPI's.
- ▶ Participate in contract bid commercial evaluation.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ Bachelor Degree in Engineering or Financial with 7 years experience, out of which 5 years as a Cost Engineer within the Oil and Gas industry. Drilling background is a plus.
- ▶ Well versed in MS Office.
- ▶ Good team player with proactive and flexible attitude, and able to work in a challenging project environment with minimal supervision.
- ▶ Fluent in English language, written and oral.

### Drilling Engineers: Sana'a

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Responsible for carrying out assigned work with particular emphasis on HSEQ performance and cost-effective delivery.
- ▶ Follow up OMV Well Engineering Management Process.
- ▶ Liaison with completion engineers on completion requirements and prepare drilling/completion programs.
- ▶ Support OMV and Drilling Contractor personnel on all technical aspects of drilling program.
- ▶ Notify and discuss with Drilling Manager any deviation from drilling program.
- ▶ Tracking and controlling cost of all drilling-related operations and their compliance with budget and AFE.
- ▶ Prepare and conduct invitations to tender for service and equipment contracts.
- ▶ Optimize activities of service providers and assess their performance.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ An Engineering degree with minimum of 4 years experience in drilling (engineering/operations).
- ▶ 2 years experience in a field operations position.
- ▶ Experience on international and/or remote drilling operations.
- ▶ Proven track record in applying performance drilling concepts.
- ▶ Proven ability to quickly adapt to new environments.
- ▶ Fluent in English language, written and oral.

### Drilling HSEQ Field Engineers Field

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Promote and coordinate the implementation of the OMV HSEQ Management System.
- ▶ Define and keep track of the execution of OMV HSEQ training plans and drilling contractor personnel on site.
- ▶ Provide HSEQ training on the site for contractors and Company personnel.
- ▶ Organize and plan the Rig daily and weekly HSEQ meetings.
- ▶ Advise company man in ways and means of identifying and minimizing risks and the impact of activities, especially for simultaneous operations or in downgraded situations.
- ▶ Take part in, execute or direct HSEQ studies and risk assessments undertaken for rig activities.
- ▶ Implement the Company reporting system on incidents, accidents, anomalies and ensure the follow-up and execution of actions.
- ▶ Define and procure all the specific HSEQ prevention materials and equipment (PPE), check on their availability and maintenance.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ An Engineering degree with minimum of 4 years field experience in drilling/HSEQ.
- ▶ Proven track record in applying performance drilling concepts.
- ▶ Fluent in English language, written and oral.
- ▶ Promotion of HSEQ through personal leadership and active participation.
- ▶ Implementation HSEQ plan, as per OMV Strategy.

### Production Geologist: Sana'a

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Provide subsurface analysis and construction of geological models.
- ▶ Analyze, interpret and integrate geologic data to establish and update geologic frameworks and models for oilfields.
- ▶ Undertake geological studies of the reservoir to optimize field development plans.
- ▶ Establish standards and process for all geological and quality testing.
- ▶ Develop and maintain geological records of all OMV data.
- ▶ Assist with compilation of resource reports to OMV standards.
- ▶ Execute the exploration plan for investigations to achieve project deliverables.
- ▶ Manage testing programs to the project schedule and budget requirements.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ University degree in Geosciences with 7 years experience, out of which 4 years as Production Geologist.
- ▶ Must have worked on mature producing fields where integration of production data has been used to constrain their maps and interpretations.
- ▶ Knowledge of reservoir characterization methods.
- ▶ Experience in structural geology and fractured reservoirs.
- ▶ Fluent in English language, written and oral.

### Junior Petroleum Engineer: Sana'a

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Perform (under supervision) data analysis from pressure, production, well test, artificial lift by using nodal analysis and surveillance engineering techniques, etc to support the reservoir management.
- ▶ Warrant an effective daily field data gathering.
- ▶ Assist in preparation of Testing/ Completion/ Development concepts and strategies.
- ▶ Assist in planning and design well completions.
- ▶ Perform all work in compliance with HSEQ policies.
- ▶ Contribute in all artificial lift designs and optimization by participating in integrated teams and studies.
- ▶ Provide constant well surveillance in order to support the workovers and well optimization proposals.
- ▶ Contribute to reporting daily production and reservoir engineering activities using the production system.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ University degree in Petroleum or Reservoir Engineering.
- ▶ 1-3 years in the E&P industry (Reservoir or Petroleum Engineering position).
- ▶ Knowledge of Production, Operations and Reservoir Engineering.
- ▶ Basic knowledge of Oilfield equipment, API Specifications and relevant industry standards.
- ▶ Fluent in English language, written and oral.

### IT Engineer - Drilling: Sana'a / Field

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Ensure that Rig Pc's and all related hardware and software are functional and reliable.
- ▶ Ensure Communications systems including redundant systems on the Drilling Rigs are functional at all times
- ▶ Provide technical support during Rig Moves to start up IT/Communications as fast as possible.
- ▶ Keep OMV drilling reporting system (IDS) functional and provide support for enduser.
- ▶ Provide training and support to the Drilling Team for the optimum use of systems and Network
- ▶ Provide new Communication solutions
- ▶ Assist in Software selections
- ▶ Information distribution
- ▶ Minimize Costs by proper selection of new Communication Hard and Software.
- ▶ Prepare and follow up Purchase requisitions for IT Equipment for Drilling Rigs.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ University degree in Computer engineering.
- ▶ 8 years in data systems design and maintenance.
- ▶ Strong knowledge of PC support and Active Directory & Exchange

### Applications Administrator – E&R Sana'a

#### Your responsibilities:

- ▶ Develop in-house software solutions
- ▶ Setup and configure applications on both end users desktops and application servers.
- ▶ Attend applications problems and provide the necessary technical support.
- ▶ Ensure stable running of the business applications by deploying patches, fixes and updates.
- ▶ Administrator the business cooperate applications and customize them to fit business requirements.
- ▶ Develop in-house programming solutions to collect/manage data according to company standards.
- ▶ Administrate and maintain database management systems
- ▶ Implement application security procedures of the company.
- ▶ Prepare the technical requirements for any new application.

#### Your profile:

- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Computer Engineering or other professional related qualification.
- ▶ Minimum 5 years experience in applications/databases support field.
- ▶ Administration knowledge on Oracle and MS-SQL Databases
- ▶ Experience on Microsoft SharePoint Server
- ▶ Capability of developing web based application.
- ▶ Proven software programming skills (Java, Microsoft Visual Studio .Net or any equivalent language)

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# Extraordinary Muslim women (Final part)

The voices of Muslim women of all backgrounds are repeatedly silenced in today's headlines and within our accounts of history. Their achievements are often forgotten, or worse, never known. The Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) marked the international day for women by celebrating some extraordinary Muslim women leaders of our past and present. Highlighted below are a few of the countless Muslim women that have shaped the world.

The Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) is a program of the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA) and the Cordoba Initiative (CI). ASMA aims to elevate the discourse on Islam and foster environments in which Muslims thrive through interfaith collaboration, youth and women's empowerment, and arts and cultural exchange. The Cordoba Initiative works to improve relations between the Muslim World and the West by offering innovative, viable, and sustainable solutions with concrete outcomes. The mission of WISE is to build a cohesive, global movement of Muslim women that will reclaim women's rights in Islam, enabling them to make dignified choices and fully participate in creating just and flourishing societies.

## Shirin Ebadi

**Known For:** First Muslim woman and Iranian to Receive the Nobel Peace Prize  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1366 – Present AH  
Common Era: 1947 – Present AD  
**Country:** Iran

The first Iranian to accept a Nobel Peace Prize, Shirin Ebadi has spent her career pursuing social justice as a judge, lawyer, and author. She studied at the Faculty of Law at the University in Tehran, obtaining her law degree in three and a half years. Soon after passing her entrance exam with the Department of Justice she began her career as a judge at the age of 23, the first female judge in the Iranian justice system. While serving as a judge, she continued her studies and received her doctorate in private law in 1971. However, soon after the Iranian Revolution of 1979, she was removed from her post and given clerical work in the same courtroom over which she had hitherto presided. Frustrated with this situation, she submitted an early retirement request, which was accepted.

During her time at home, she published multiple books and articles. In 1992, she received her lawyer's license to practice and began a private legal practice. Since then, she has acted as legal counsel in many social justice cases. She has defended women, children, political dissidents, refugees, and those whose fundamental human rights have been violated. She founded the Center for the Defense of Human Rights in 2001 and the Association for the Support of Children's Rights in 1995.

She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her work upholding human rights, especially for the rights of women and children, supporting non-violence, and seeing no con-



flict between Islam and fundamental human rights. Since 2003, she has lectured widely and is currently a professor at the University of Tehran.

## Tansu Ciller

**Known For:** Prime Minister of Turkey, 1993-1996  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1365 – Present AH  
Common Era: 1946 – Present AD  
**Country:** Turkey

In 1993, Tansu Ciller became the first female leader of a Middle Eastern Muslim country.

She was educated in both Turkey and the United States, earning her doctorate in economics from the University of Connecticut. In 1990, she left her career as a professor and entered politics, joining the True Path Party. In 1991 she was elected deputy of Istanbul and Minister of State for Economics within the coalition government of Süleyman Demirel.

In 1993, she was elected the head of the True Path Party and Prime Minister of the coalition government. During this time, she was credited with transforming Turkey's army into a modern fighting force that could effectively handle the threat faced from the Kurdish separatist group, the PKK. She also attempted to liberalize Turkey's economy and increase individual rights for its citizens. In 1996, the coalition government collapsed, terminating Tansu's term as Prime Minister. However, she continued to serve in government as Minister of Foreign Affairs until 1997.

She retired from politics in 2002 and is currently a member of The Council of Women World Leaders.



## Thoraya Ahmed Obaid

**Known For:** Executive Director of UNFPA  
**Country:** Saudi Arabia

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid was the first Saudi Arabian to head a UN agency. She was appointed head of UNFPA in 2001 with the rank of Under-Secretary General of the United Nations. Previous to this position, Obaid was Director of Division for Arab States and Europe, UNFPA.

Obaid was the first Saudi Arabian woman to receive a government scholarship to study in the United States. She has a doctorate degree in English Literature and Cultural Anthropology from Wayne State University in Michigan. She received a B.A. in English Literature and Sociology from Mills College in California.

A few years later, in 1975, Obaid established the first women's development programme in Western Asia. This program helped build partnerships on women's issues between the United Nations and regional NGOs. Between 1984 and 1985, she was a member of the League of Arab States Working Group for Formulating the Arab Strategy for Social Development. From 1992 to 1993, she was Chief of Social Development and Population Division, ESCWA and Social Affairs Office, responsible for the advancement of women from 1975 to 1992. In 1996, Obaid chaired the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender in Amman and in 1997 she was a member of the UN Inter-Agency Gender Mission to Afghanistan.

She lives with her husband and two daughters.



visory Panel Meeting. At the meeting, participants decided to finance small-size projects for women in efforts to combat poverty.

Nur Zahariyah is known for her devotion to children, and not just to the four of her own. A local foundation of the Royal Family distributes milk bottles and breast pumps to mothers. She is the Patron of a Tadika An Nur, a well established public pre-school in Terengganu.

'Higher education centres like Kustem should be fully utilised' -- Sultanah Nur Zahirah, after being conferred with a Honorary Doctorate in Management

## Umm Kulthum

**Known For:** The Arab World's Most Famous Singer  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1321-1394 AH  
**Common Era:** 1904-1975 AD  
**Country:** Egypt

Umm Kulthum is arguably the Arab world's most famous singer. Thirty years after her death in 1975, her music still remains widely popular.

Umm Kulthum was born to a poor family from the Upper Delta in Egypt. When she was a young girl her father, an Imam, dressed her up as a boy and allowed her to perform in public.

In 1923, she moved to Cairo where her fame grew. Her songs, often hours long, centered around love and longing. She was also known for her renditions of classical poetry. After the 1952 Egyptian coup, Umm Kulthum recorded many songs in support of the new republic. After the Seven Days War, she toured extensively to raise money for Egypt.

Umm Kulthum, even at the height of her fame, identified herself as a simple girl from a rural community, reflecting the conservative and familial values of the majority of Egyptians. Her popularity, especially among Egyptians, is unrivaled. During her monthly concerts, the streets would empty as people rushed to hear her on the radio. Four million people attended her funeral in 1975, the second largest public gathering in Egypt.

In addition to transforming Egyptian music, Umm Kulthum changed the face of the middle-class. Her lyrics changed the imagery associated women: poetry was not just about the sheltered daughter of the wealthy; it was about the strong working woman. Her films Sallama and Fatma critique the wastefulness of the upper-class, and highlight the need for women to have strong wills and close friendships. Umm Kulthum was a working-class icon admired by all.



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# Don't chew the tree

## Qat boycott rallies support online

By: Alice Hackman



Over the last decades, the Yemeni nation has become addicted to "the disastrous qat tree," and time has come to quit, says a new group on social networking website Facebook. The group is the latest in a series of youth Web-based initiatives to tackle change in Yemen.

Mutaz Alawi, 18, a Yemeni currently studying in Germany, is behind the recently set-up Facebook page. Like many of his fellow members, he does not chew qat.

"This tree had destroyed most of our youth power and intellect," he writes on the page of "Anti-Qat in Yemen." Today Yemen is running out of water because "we constantly buy and chew this tree on a regular basis."

The anti-qat initiative, that has so far gathered the support of 900 Facebook members, is advocating for a qat boycott on April 29. The date has been chosen because it is a Thursday, a day when most Yemenis gather to chew.

Qat chewers in Yemen, but also in some parts of the Horn of Africa, risk cancer of the mouth, increased blood pressure, insomnia, anorexia, constipation, and impaired sexual potency in men, according to the World Health Organization.

The green leaf has been associated to lower sperm count in chronic male chewers and lower birth weight for qat-chewing mothers, but still many Yemenis continue to chew it because it is part of social customs.

"On Thursday!" exclaimed Walid Al-Qadasi, 30, when approached by the Yemen Times. "But this is the day I chew with my wife..."

"We will chew on Friday," the father of two eventually conceded, adding that Yemenis have started to talk about the role of qat in consuming the country's water resources, but slowly.

Up to 40 percent of Yemen's extracted groundwater for agriculture is used to irrigate qat instead of food crops, but academics say that forcing all Yemeni qat farmers to replace the tree with food crops will be hard.

Qat is a cash crop, more lucrative than tomatoes, grapes and potatoes, showed a recent study co-authored by Dr. Nasser Al-Aulaqi, professor at the University of Sana'a's Water and Environment Center.

But Alawi, the student behind Facebook's latest group, stresses the leaf's role in stalling his country's development.



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"Were the Yemeni people only born to be qat chewers or [were] they born to make a change in the world and be leaders?" he wrote to the Yemen Times.

People waste 4 to 8 hours a day chewing qat instead of trying to educate themselves and develop their country, he wrote. Qat keeps fathers away from their children, and others away from sport, education, and daily prayers.

### 'Tree of the devil'

On the Internet, Alawi's Facebook group is only one of several social networking website-based initiatives against qat.

On video-sharing website You Tube, one user named "lostyemen" has uploaded a song by singer Abdallah Mahrous Al-Khanbashi about the "tree of the devil" that "stops the brain and thought as it congeals the blood."

Qat is one of the policies "to wipe out Yemen's identity, erase its history, destroy its civilization and future," writes "lostyemen" at the beginning of the video, that has so far been viewed

161 times.

As for Alawi, once his anti-qat campaign has reached all cities in Yemen, he only has one wish.

"I would love to see [his] nobleness [the] president take part in this day to boycott qat on the 29 of April," Alawi wrote to the Yemen Times.

Online on Sunday afternoon, 513 Facebook users had confirmed their "attendance" for the boycott on April 29.

## 4 U

To support the April 29 qat boycott, look for the "Anti-Qat in Yemen" group on Facebook.

To listen to a song against qat by Abdallah Mahrous Al-Khanbashi on You Tube, go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqcPLx6y6ZY

## Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (1) of [2010] (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The General Corporation for School Book Printing Press here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no (1/2010)for supplying:

Bids are formed of two groups (A, B):

Group	Machine's Name	Bank Guarantee for a lump sum	guarantee valid for not less than
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- Bidders may apply for the two groups or one group .
- Tender will be financed from : Self-financing

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to:

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to receive Bidding Documents for an amount [ 25.000 YR] non-refundable.

The deadline for selling bidding documents will be on [2/6/2010].

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the above address mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department.

The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- A Bank Guarantee according to the table above
- Valid tax certificate
- Valid Insurance Certificate.
- Valid registration and classification certificate.)
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\* 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 on Wednesday [ 9 /6/2010 ] At 11.00 AM .

\* Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened..

\* Bid Opening will take place at [meetings hall-in the corporation's address mentiond above] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

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