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New attack on Marib power station

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, May 30 — On Sunday, "sabotage elements" attacked an electricity cable at the Marib 1 power station in Marib, northeast of Sana'a for the third time in a week, according to the Ministry of Defense.

The day before, on Saturday, "sabotage elements" attacked an electricity cable as technicians were repairing one damaged by an attack on Monday, according to an informed source at the Ministry of Electricity.

The source told the Yemen Times that the team on Sunday finished repairing the cable damaged in Monday's attack.

For a week now, as a result of the various attacks, power cuts throughout the day have disrupted life at home and at work for residents in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz.

Tribesmen are said to have been shooting at cables from the new gas-run power station, after a military attack targeting an Al-Qaeda instead killed Sheikh Jaber Al-Shabwani, the deputy governor of Marib.

The tribesmen also reportedly blew

up an oil pipeline and are threatening to attack the natural gas pipeline from the gas fields in Marib to the Balhaf port in Shabwa.

The newly constructed power has been attacked at least seven times since its trial run last September, in an area where tribesmen are known to attack projects to press the government to respond to their demands.

"The transformation 400 KV line was targeted by sabotage elements," said Muhareb Abu Ghanem, spokesman for the Ministry of Electricity and Energy about Monday's attack.

He said that the minister demanded the concerned security bodies to guard the power station and transport cables because these are strategic projects serving the whole nation.

Yemen has never seen power shortage like this, according to Yemenis. Residents are complaining that repeated power cuts have damaged their home appliances and workers in shops say that they have hindered their work.

Blackouts disrupt business

There have been more than 12 hours of power cuts a day in Sana'a, say resi-

dents. Between every two hours of electricity on, there are three hours of electricity off.

"The sudden power cuts have damaged my appliances," Ali Al-Ba'dani, a barber in Sitteen, Sana'a, told the Yemen Times.

"Over there are my fridge and my washing machine," he said, pointing to a repair shop nearby.

Meanwhile, Ali Al-Rafi', owner of a shop for cutting glass told the Yemen Times that his work is interrupted as he cannot work without machines that need electricity.

"Sometimes I order my sons to work during their break when the electricity is on to make the best of it, and sometimes our work is hindered," said Al-Rafi' who has three sons working with him.

Residents in Taiz, where over two million people live, say the situation there is worse.

"The power in Hawban, Taiz, is off most of the time, for up to 12 hours," said Hisham Saeed, a carpenter who has a workshop in the area.

"We depend on our generator to operate the workshop most of the day,"



The Marib power station was attacked three times in one week by armed tribesmen.

he said. "If we did not have this generator, we would suffer a lot."

"When the president was here for the last two weeks, we did not have blackouts but, when he left the governorate, the power cuts returned," he said.

The power shortage has also affected

the hotter coastal cities, despite a decision by the Ministry of Electricity not to cut electricity in these.

"Since last week, there have been irregular power cuts in Aden city, especially in critical times such as from 1:00 to 2:00 am when people go to

bed," said Wiam Al-Sururi, a journalist in Aden.

On average, blackouts in Al-Sheikh Othman, the crowded city center, are three times a day for three hours maximum each time, she said.

She said that the weather is very hot right now in Aden. To cope with the heat, people go outside and women spend the night on their balconies.

Fault Lines: Tracking armed violence in Yemen

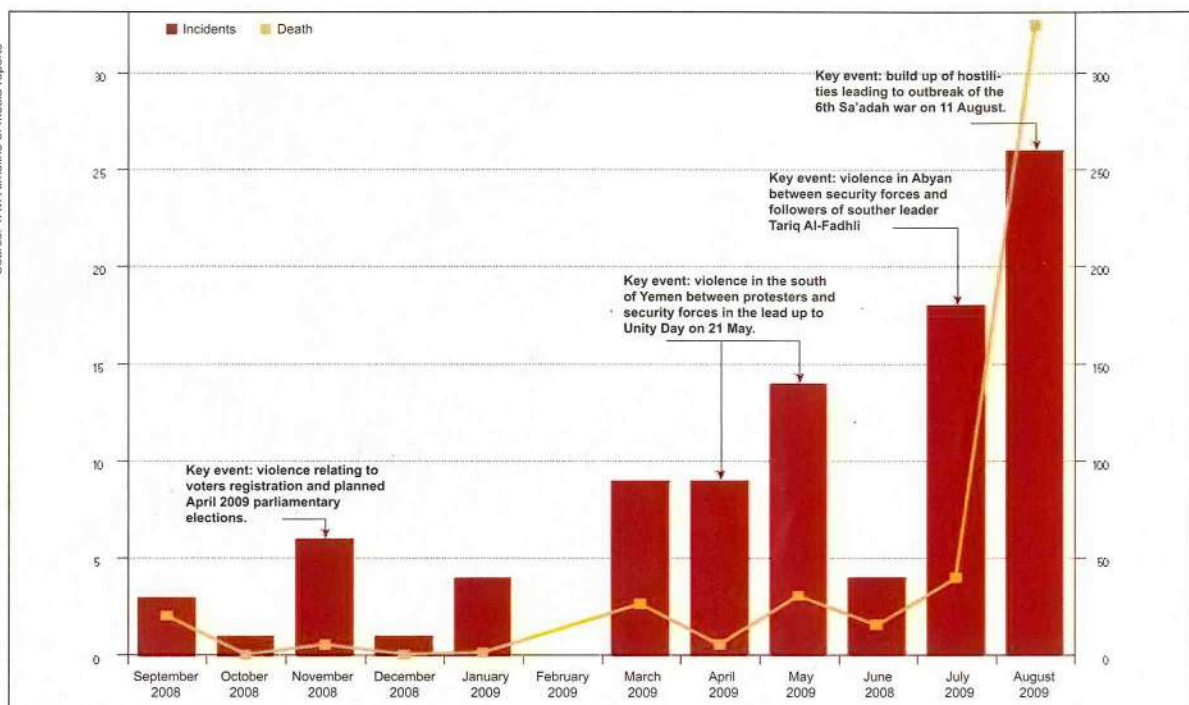
The Small Arms Survey's Yemen Armed Violence Assessment (YAVA), started in 2008, comprises a multi-year field-based project designed to generate quantitative and qualitative analysis of the drivers and dynamics of armed violence in the country. "Fault Lines: Tracking Armed Violence in Yemen" is the first issue in series published by YAVA which reviews reported incidents of armed violence over the 12-month period between September 2008 and August 2009. Here is what the report concludes.

Report summarized by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, May 30 — A total of 199 individual incidents involving armed violence were reported in the media in one year between September 2008 and August 2009. The incidents included 728 reported intentional deaths, 12 unintentional deaths, and a further 734 violence-related injuries. The police or other security forces were reported to have been involved in some capacity in 93 (47 per cent) of all the reported incidents.

"It is important to stress that the incidents included in the timeline drawn up from the media review capture only a fraction—probably about 10 per cent—of the total burden of armed violence in Yemen. Nevertheless, they are instructive to illustrate trends and patterns," said Gavin Hales, an independent British researcher behind the creation of this issue of YAVA.

Hales who has a background in criminology, particularly researching armed violence, illegal drugs, and policing in the United Kingdom, has been living in Sana'a, Yemen, since November 2007.



Incidents of political violence in Yemen, September 2008–August 2009

Drawing on domestic Yemeni and international news accounts, the Issue Brief introduces a typology for analyzing armed violence in the country.

It sets violence in its proper historic and socio-political context, providing valuable background for understanding the country's current instability

and its domestic, regional, and international impacts. Editorial and substantive support was provided by Emile Le Brun and Robert Muggah.



Guns stored at a checkpoint on the road from Lahj to Aden.

"There are serious methodological challenges to interpreting findings from media incident reporting. For example, geographical coverage of news reports often displays an urban bias, owing in large part to readership, but also the political and logistical challenges of reporting from areas outside of state control or subject to ongoing conflict," said Hales.

According to the report, political violence was the predominant type of armed violence in Yemen in 2009, with 95 incidents, resulting in 475 dead and 518 injured. Social conflict was the second most commonly reported, particularly in terms of the numbers killed (in both absolute terms and per incident), followed by criminal violence. This fits with a general sense that Yemen experiences comparatively low rates of crime, as reflected in the official crime statistics.

Continued on page 2

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The full report: 'Fault Lines' can be downloaded from:
www.yemen-ava.org.

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Protests in Aden over frequent power cuts

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 30 — On Saturday evening, people protested in Aden over power cuts three times a day for the last two weeks. The power cuts caused electrical appliances to break down.

People who damaged electricity cables in Marib caused the frequent outages.

In Aden, the hot weather was intensified with the power cuts.

The hot weather has been known to cause people with high blood pressure and heart disease to die in the governorate. Last year four people died during the summer and more than 24 people died three years ago.

Local sources in Dar Sa'ad, Aden, said that people cut the main road between Dan Sa'ada and Sheikh Othman district. They also threw stones at policemen. The Dar Sa'ada chief of police was injured as a result.

The sources said that dozens of people in the Sheikh Othman and the Crater district protested.

In Al-Tawila, Crater, protesters closed off roads and took two cars belonging to the Electricity Corporation because the electricity had been off for 15 consecutive hours. They however gave the two cars back to the corporation when the corporation turned electricity back on in the area.

In Wade' Haddad, Al-Mansoorah, Aden, protesters burned car tires on the main street.

Human rights clubs in schools

Six schools from the Sana'a, Aden, and Hodeida governorates have established human rights clubs supported by the UNDP and Yemeni Human Rights' Ministry to educate primary and secondary students about basic human rights.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

"Right to freedom of expression, right to health, and right to decent life," said posters held up by young female students during the launch of a new program for human rights clubs in schools last Wednesday.

"We must protect our children by giving them a good education and guaranteeing them a good future," said Amal Al-Jaifi, female student from the Fatima Al-Zahra School in Sana'a.

Al-Jaifi called for the protection of orphans complaining about the absence of proper housing and clothes for them. She urged the government to provide children with healthy food.

"The country, not the streets, must be a safe haven for homeless children," she added.

"This project was developed to improve the awareness of human rights

and to create justice and tolerance among students," said Mohammed Al-Nasari, deputy manager of UNDP in Yemen.

Al-Nasari said that the project team went to Morocco so that the country could benefit from the project.

"We have planned to set up these clubs to young students in Yemen," he added.

The 2010 report issued by Human Rights Watch, an international non-governmental organization, noted war crimes and cases of human rights violations in Yemen.

"We have a big project aiming to integrate human rights concept into curricula," Rami Al-Yusufi, the head of awareness department at the Human Rights Ministry told the Yemen Times.

These curricula will contain lessons on the status of women and international conventions that were ratified by

Yemen, according to Al-Yusufi.

"Yemeni students must obtain the right to freedom of expression in class because these students may be the leaders of the future," Abdulwahab Al-Badani, teacher at the Ibn Majed School, told the Yemen Times.

Al-Badani complained that initiatives like these are absent in Yemeni schools, although they are very important for student to develop their minds.

"Unfortunately, we use students for specific purposes like election days and governmental festivals exposing them to the strong sun," he explained. "These behaviors are unacceptable and inhumane."

Al-Badani confirmed that human rights clubs will change students' minds for the better and will give them new positive behavior. The integration of basic human rights into the curriculum is a serious and important step.

He also urged the government to provide students with computers and equipment for sports, adding, "We want to eliminate technological illiteracy."

Families of Sa'ada detainees wait outside prison



The families of Sa'ada detainees have been queuing every morning in front of the Political Security Prison, waiting for the amnesty declared by Saleh to become reality.

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, May 30 — After the president's pardon of all Sa'ada detainees on May 22, Zaynab Hashem was elated that her husband Ali Yahya Ibraheem was finally coming home. But, a week later, he has still to be released.

Hashem's family is one of many that are waiting for their loved ones to be set free. The relatives of Sa'ada detainees have been queuing for a week in front of the Political Security Prison in the capital waiting for them.

Zaynab's husband was a clerk in a court in Sa'ada and when the sixth Sa'ada war broke out in August 2009. He, Zaynab, and their three children fled to her parents' house in the old city of Sana'a. He was arbitrarily arrested in the street in Sana'a on October 22, accused of supporting the Houthis in the Sa'ada war.

"Now for over seven months, my husband has been detained without

charges, except that he is from Sa'ada," Zaynab said.

"I and other families go every morning to the Political Security Prison to see if they will free our detainees," said Zaynab, who has continued to live with her parents.

The prison's administration has been refusing to release the detainees, either saying that it has not yet been instructed to free the detainees or that release procedures have not yet been completed, according to Zaynab.

Ali Al-Dailami, executive director of the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, told the Yemen Times that the president declaring amnesty for all political prisoners was a brave and good step in maintaining national unity.

Al-Dailami said that there are over 206 Sa'ada detainees in the capital, of which around 125 are being tried by the Specialized Penal Court. He said that families like Zaynab's go to the

Political Security Prison every day to follow up the amnesty declaration by the president.

He added that the release process has started in the governorates of Sa'ada and Hajja, but not yet in the capital.

He hopes that the government releases all the political detainees, and not just some of them.

Most Sa'ada detainees were arrested from streets, mosques, schools and universities in arbitrary arrests and disappearances, according to Al-Dailami.

Al-Dailami said that the step of releasing detainees would reduce what he called the "culture of hatred," because when detainees stay longer in prison and are tortured, they come out hating the state for what was done to them.

Yemenis from all walks of life have been arrested throughout the different stages of the conflict in Sa'ada between the Houthis and the Yemeni government that started in 2004.



School students will now learn about human rights in Yemen.

Army refuses to end siege in south

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam and Fuad Mus'ed

ADEN, May 30 — Three soldiers were killed last Friday when an armed group belonging to the Southern Movement ambushed a military group and truck in Balah, Lahj, southern Yemen.

As a result, the security forces blocked the main road in Al-Habeelain, Lahj, and commodities, such as food and oil, have run out, according to locals.

Clashes between the armed group and the security force reached houses and shops in the surrounding area.

Merchants planning to sell their goods in Al-Dhale' and Yafe' were stopped, according to the locals in Lahj and Al-Dhale'.

They said that security forces and the army had spread from Sanah, in Al-Dhale', in the north, to Al-Anad in Lahj, in the south. The forces denied people from using the main road and

stopped people from these two governorates from getting into the market.

The security forces wanted to close off the road to prevent the Southern Movement members from getting into these two governorates, according to the locals. Local Council members condemned the clashes between the security forces and the armed group. They demanded that the government end the siege imposed on the governorate.

They called on regional and international society to intervene, to visit the areas and end the suffering in Radfan.

"We cannot stop the security forces as we used to do with the people who had closed off roads for their own interests. We cannot keep silent for long," said Ali Al-Oud, member of the management authority at the Local Council in Al-Dhale'.

"Radfan will never accept the siege and will use weapons if necessary," said Naser Al-Khubaji, a member of

the Southern Movement last Thursday in a protest. The Ministry of Interior mentioned, on its website, that the security forces are pursuing the "out-laws" that had earlier made an ambush on two cars belonging to the military and killed three soldiers and injured another 11 in Al-Milah last Thursday.

According to a security source, another ambush was carried out against a car belonging to the army in Al-Raha district. Two soldiers were killed as a result and another 11 were injured.

In related news, three journalists who had covered a Southern Movement event were released last Saturday.

The journalists are Fuad Rashed, Salah Al-Saqladi, Ahmad Al-Robaizi and former member of parliament Ahmad Ba Mu'alem, according to the media. Last Thursday, the former three journalists were released, but they refused to leave until their friend, Ba Mu'alem, was too.

Continued from page 1

Fault Lines: Tracking armed violence in Yemen

The distribution of all types of violent incidents by geographic location (governorate) and type of armed violence. The clearest patterns relate to political violence, with incidents concentrated in Sa'dah, where the war between government forces and Houthi rebels has raged periodically since 2004. Political violence is also common in Lahj (and neighboring areas, including Aden and al-Dhale), where much of the violence relating to the southern secessionist

movement has occurred. Finally, political violence flared in Abyan, where a different cluster of insecurity has persisted between government forces and jihadi groups, including the militia of Tariq Al-Fadhli, a jihadi veteran of the Afghan-Soviet conflict and high-profile figure in the southern secessionist movement.104 Despite the diversity of underlying issues, a clear upward trend is seen, culminating in the outbreak of the sixth round of fighting in Sa'dah in August 2009.

The report concludes that armed

violence in Yemen is shaped by a host of factors, including social change and the progressive erosion of customary norms, weak governance, weapons proliferation, competition for scarce land and water resources, growing rivalries between different schools of Islam, Jihadism, and chronic poverty and underdevelopment. It is likely that these factors will worsen before they improve.

"In general, armed violence can be placed on a continuum that runs from discrete interpersonal disputes to widespread collective action," said Hales.

COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: Deputy Chief of Party

DIVISION: Civil Society

LOCATION: Yemen

EXPECTED START DATE: June 30th 2010

RESPONSIBLE TO: Counterpart-Yemen Country Representative

Founded in 1965, Counterpart International is a diverse, non-profit, international development organization dedicated to helping people in need in the areas of civil society, food security, private enterprise, environmental resource management, humanitarian relief, and healthcare. Counterpart does this by building the capacity of local partner nongovernmental organizations, lenders, businesses, governments and other institutions to solve their own self-defined economic, ecological, political, and social problems in ways that are sustainable, practical, and independent.

SUMMARY:

Counterpart International is seeking a Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), a Yemeni National for 5 year Responsive Governance Project in Yemen. With the support of Headquarters staff, the DCOP will support the Chief of Party (COP) in their overall project and staff management responsibilities, including financial oversight, donor relations and effective partnership development with local and international organizations. The DCOP should have a fluency and experience in the project areas of: institutional capacity; good governance and transparency; public participation; civil society promotion; advocacy; training program design and delivery; and grant-making.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Through close collaboration with the COP, the DCOP will:

- Manage day-to-day operations of a USAID-funded national civil society assessment and strengthening program.
- Support the COP in oversight of all administrative, contracting, hiring, recruitment, financial and logistical aspects of the program.
- Oversee the identification of additional internal and external resources (e.g. consultants, training materials, books) for capacity building, organizational development and training.
- Create, implement and manage organizational development, trainings for staff/local partners, and capacity building activities.
- Guide and ensure in ensuring the highest quality of project monitoring, evaluation, reporting and communications.
- Assist the COP in the Coordination of activities between office in Yemen and Washington D.C. headquarters.
- Assist the COP in the design of procurement processes and competitive selection of local program partners, consultants and service providers.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of 7 years experience working on international good governance, institutional capacity building and advocacy development programs
- A Masters Degree in International Development, Political Science, Public Policy or a similar field.
- Previous USAID-funded program experience, preferably in the Middle East.
- Minimum of 5 years of work experience in the Middle East region.
- Previous work experience in Yemen and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the country.
- Technical areas of expertise including policy formulation, implementing transparency initiatives, grant making, civil society promotion, training program design, and public-private partnerships.
- Excellent public speaking and writing skills in English.
- Fluency in Arabic.

"Counterpart International strongly believes in equal opportunity for all, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, sex, veteran's status, age, marital status, sexual preference, disability or any other protected personal characteristic."

TO APPLY:

Individuals interested in working with Counterpart International on this project, should send their resumes and salary requirements to Yemen@counterpart.org. Deadline for the application is June 15th, 2010.

In Brief

SANA'A UNDP fishing projects in Yemen discussed

Minister of Fisheries Wealth Mohammed Shamlan held talks on Saturday with the UNDP regional director over fishing projects which are being funded by the UNDP in Yemen.

The total cost of these projects is \$ 4 million which aim at supporting efforts of the Yemeni government to build capacities of the workers in the fishing sector.

The minister valued efforts of the UNDP to finance project of fisheries quality lab in Hodeidah province.

\$ 186000 in more French aid to IDPs in north

The information attaché at the French embassy in Sana'a said on Thursday that the French government had appropriated \$ 186000 in aid to internally displaced persons IDPs in northern Yemen.

The statement said the sum would be given for the non-governmental Triangle Organization to help it finance its project called 'urgent aid for the war-refugees at the Almezraq Camp in Hajjah province.

The sum would be used to protect the livestock of the refugees which are deemed the main source of income for the people, it said.

The statement also noted that the sum had demonstrated France's commitment to improving the humanitarian conditions of Yemeni internally displaced persons IDPs.

France has provided since 2009 \$ 426000 for the displaced people in the far north.

Health Minister opens radiation therapy section

Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul-Karim Rase'a inaugurated on Saturday a radiation therapy section at the Tumors Treatment Center in the Republican Hospital in Sana'a.

Rase'a listened to an explanation by the Secretary General of the National Commission for Atomic Energy, Mohamed al-Hada, on the work of the section and the importance and the role of the radiation therapy device, which is the first device in Yemen to treat the cervix cancer.

The cost of the device amounts to USD 0.5 million, as an assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On another hand, Rase'a discussed here with the representative of UNICEF in Yemen, Geert Cappelaere, relations of cooperation in the areas of health and means of boosting them, especially in the field of immunization and primary health care sector.

Firefighters control major blaze at Eagle Tourist Restaurants; no casualties

Firefighters in the Secretariat Capital have controlled a huge fire that ravaged a large part of the Eagle Tourist Restaurants located at the New University Area.

No casualties were reported and other losses were estimated at YR 13 million.

An electrical fault was to blame for the blaze that occurred while workers were welding a power generator.

The generator then caught fire leading to the blaze ravaging a big store that contained equipment and foodstuffs.

Oil Minister discusses with "IBR" investments in oil, gas areas

Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir al-Aydarus discussed during his meeting on Thursday with Deputy Executive Chief of "IBR" Companies Group investment opportunities in the areas of oil and gas.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed the opportunities allowed to the company and other companies under the promising investment climate in Yemen, and the advantages and facilities provided to the companies operating in the oil, gas and minerals sectors.

During the meeting, the IBR's official voiced the company's willingness to participate in any competition on open oil blocks

Yemen releases most-wanted list

[The Interior Ministry released on Thursday a list of most- wanted terrorist and criminal suspects.

The list was circulated to all police administrations in the governorates that were ordered to distribute it to all police stations and checkpoints inside and outside the cities.

The list included the names and photographs of the wanted suspects and came as hunting for those posing threats to the public security and stability is continuing, the ministry's Information Center reported.

It also contained new and important information about the most wanted in the country that can help the security authorities capture them and paralyze their movement among cities.

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Oxfam signs a cooperation agreement to empower women economically in five Yemeni governorates

Oxfam - Yemen signed on Saturday, May 29 a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MTEVT) aims at raising the economic level of women in five Yemeni governorates.

The agreement includes a training program for the MTEVT employees aims at making the ministry's budget regardless of gender, women and girls needs.

The agreement also includes a program to train the female inmates in the areas of sewing, embroidery, and food industries in five governorates (Aden - Taiz - Hadramout - Abyan - Hodeidah) to help these inmates to get out of the cycle of poverty and destitution.

Oxfam will also provide a financial and technical support to grant small loans to the graduates of institutions of technical and vocational education in Hadramout and Hodeidah to be able to open income generating projects. As



well integrate the activities of life skills in schools of Hadramout and Aden, especially in the areas of (computer - photography - home management - sewing and embroidery) in order to motivate girls to education.

The agreement also includes implementing a study about the new fields of labor market which can attract girls and implementing an awareness

project in areas of reproductive health and early marriage in the educational institutions in Hodeidah and Hadramout.

The one-year agreement comes as part of Oxfam's efforts to support and assist the governmental institutions and ministries in the areas of development, good governance and empowering women economically.

Al-Rufaqa Orphanage calls on philanthropists



This orphanage was created in July 2009 through donations from philanthropists to accommodate 50 orphan boys. The boys will be provided with academic, health, educational, social and sports care so that they become productive members of the society.

The orphanage management calls on all kind people who wish to donate or sponsor orphan children to come forward and help those boys. There are many projects that could be implemented to support the orphanage and make the boys lives more productive and enjoyable.



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Senior Instruments/Controls Technician: Field

As a Senior Instruments Technician you will prepare and execute the field's Instruments and Controls maintenance work and lead a team of Controls & Instruments Technicians

Your responsibilities:

- Efficient execution of Cal maintenance activities in the field.
- Safe and effective execution of necessary replacements and repairs.
- Assign and control work of Technicians.
- Execute and monitor results of preventative maintenance program with emphasis on improving the field's availability and reliability.
- Ensure reporting requirements on maintenance activities are adhered to.
- Participate in root cause analysis for equipments frequent trips and suggest improvements/modifications.
- Prepare permit to work packages.
- Adhere to the HSEQ systems and procedures in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- Diploma in Instrument/Controls Engineering from a reputed University.
- Minimum of 5 years experience with 3 years in Instrumentation and Controls role.
- Knowledge of maintenance practices and ability to perform pneumatic, logic, digital and processor based instruments troubleshooting and repair.
- Knowledge of HMIs, DCSs, logic development, SCADA and SIL rated ESDs systems.
- Oil and Gas experience would be preferred.
- Basic knowledge of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Risk based inspection (RBI).
- Good knowledge of Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP. Familiar with Root Cause Analysis software.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills.
- Self-motivated, team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

Maintenance Planner: Field

As the Field Maintenance Planner you will provide expert-level planning support mainly for production/maintenance and shutdown activities through close liaison with our Operations, Projects, and Procurement, Logistic, and Contractor teams.

Your responsibilities:

- All block S2 planning activities.
- Develop and optimize our Brownfield/in-fill projects, Maintenance and SD plans including man hours, services, materials and tools.
- Monitor results of preventative maintenance program with emphasis on improving the field's availability and reliability.
- Ensure documentation and reporting requirements on maintenance activities are adhered to.
- Manage the equipments certification schedule.
- Drive the HSEQ systems and procedures implementation in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- 8+ years of shutdowns, maintenance, and / or Brown field project planning in Upstream E&P, Refining or LNG facilities.
- Planning supervisor experience on at least one shutdown/project of >100,000 man-hours within the past 5 years.
- Expert level knowledge of a variety of technical planning softwares especially Primavera (PA).
- Expert in project / Operations/ shutdown schedule monitoring and control.
- Knowledge of Engineering codes, standards and practices is a necessity to evaluate planning requirements for engineering projects.
- Detailed knowledge of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Risk based inspection (RBI).
- Detailed knowledge of Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP.
- Strong interpersonal / coordination skills and the ability to engage multi functional groups.
- Demonstrated ability to handle competing priorities and persistence to overcome obstacles.
- Self-motivated and team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

Asset Integrity Engineer: Field

The Asset Integrity Engineer job function within OMV is to develop and maintain an AI management system, incorporating risk-based strategies, inspection plans, condition monitoring programs aiming to achieve our plant reliability targets.

Your responsibilities:

- Ensure all activities are carried out in line with a comprehensive reliability program.
- Carry out analysis of inspection and condition monitoring programs.
- Play a lead role in troubleshooting and apply "Root Cause Analysis" practices to equipment failure investigations.
- Identify potential equipment degradation patterns and behaviors.
- Provide recommendations on risk based preventive maintenance procedures.
- Monitor NDT programs and issue recommendations.
- Evaluate the integrity of equipment and piping through monitoring and inspection programs.
- Support and proactive contribution to effective reliability programs such as; predictive maintenance (PM) and preventive maintenance (PDM) programs.
- Provide leadership in the implementation of reliability practice.
- Drive the HSEQ systems and procedures implementation in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- A Mechanical, Materials or Industrial Engineering degree.
- 8+ years of solid technical experience in reliability, equipment & piping integrity, inspection, materials & welding and/or quality assurance.
- Experience in Reliability – Availability & Maintainability analysis.
- Knowledge in FMEA, RCA, RCM, RBI practices an asset.
- A mixture of 'hands-on' projects and operations in the oil and gas industry is preferable.
- NDT qualifications such as WT, Thermo-graphic inspections and read vibration signatures is an advantage.
- Detailed knowledge of Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP and Root Cause Analysis software.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills with capability to handle multiple assignments.
- Self-motivated, team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

Senior Electrical Technician: Field

As a Senior Electrical Technician you will plan and execute the field's Electrical maintenance work and lead team of Electricians.

Your responsibilities:

- Efficient execution of Electrical maintenance activities in the field.
- The safe and effective execution of necessary replacements and repairs.
- Assign and control work of Technicians.
- Execute and monitor results of preventative maintenance programs with emphasis on improving the field's availability and reliability.
- Ensure reporting requirements on maintenance activities are adhered to.
- Participate in root cause analysis for equipments frequent trips and suggest improvements/modifications.
- Prepare permit to work packages.
- Adhere to OMV HSEQ systems and procedures in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- Diploma in Electrical Engineering from a reputed University.
- Minimum of 5 years experience with 3 years in a senior Electrical role.
- Knowledge of maintenance practices and ability to perform both MV and HV work to international standards.
- Oil and Gas experience would be preferred.
- Basic knowledge of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Risk based inspection (RBI).
- Good knowledge of Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP. Familiar with Root Cause Analysis software.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills.
- Self-motivated, team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

Instruments Supervisor: Field

As an Instruments Supervisor you will plan and execute the Control and Instrument Maintenance work and supervise the site Cal team, in an efficient and a safe manner.

Your responsibilities:

- Efficient execution of Cal maintenance activities in the field.
- Supervise the safe and effective execution of necessary replacements and repairs to promptly restore service in the event of failure or malfunction.
- Assign and supervise work of Senior Technicians and Technicians.
- Execute and monitor results of preventative maintenance program with emphasis on improving the field's availability and reliability.
- Schedule the Cal team activities and provide estimated man hours, materials and tools requirement.
- Ensure documentation and reporting requirements on maintenance activities are adhered to.
- Manage the equipments certification.
- Carry out root cause analysis for equipments frequent trips and suggest improvements/modifications.
- Prepare permit to work packages including JSA / HARC (Hazard Assessment and Risk Control).
- Drive the HSEQ systems and procedures implementation in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- B.S. Degree or four years engineering qualification from a reputed university in a relevant discipline.
- Minimum of 10 years experience with 5 years in supervisory instrumentation and controls role.
- Broad knowledge of maintenance practices and ability to perform pneumatic, logic, digital and processor based instruments troubleshooting and repair.
- Expert knowledge of HMIs, DCSs, SCADA and SIL rated ESDs systems.
- Oil and Gas experience would be preferred.
- Detailed knowledge of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Risk based inspection (RBI).
- Detailed knowledge of Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP. Familiar Root Cause Analysis software.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills with capability to handle multiple assignments.
- Self-motivated and team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

Inspection Senior Technician: Field

As an Inspection Senior Technician you will lead a team of inspectors (NDT contractors) and execute NDT inspections on piping, structural and civil field works

Your responsibilities:

- Site and warehouse materials QA/QC inspection.
- Control of all the NDT inspections within the field including Contractors workshops.
- Establish, evaluate, and improve standards of inspection, quality and workmanship based on International Engineering Standards.
- Provide technical support to the field maintenance staff.
- Perform routine NDT inspections (MPI and WT).
- Establish and maintain acceptable safety standards for the Inspection activity in the field.
- Update equipment history on our CMMS and RBI databases.
- Adhere to OMV HSEQ systems and procedures in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- Diploma in a relevant Engineering discipline.
- Minimum of 5 years experience with 3 years in senior role.
- Experience in NDT - level 2 – and ISO 9000-2000 expertise.
- QA/QC Experience.
- Good knowledge of welding.
- Knowledge of Risk based inspection RBI techniques and ASME / API codes is an advantage.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills.
- Self-motivated team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential on different skills.

Mechanical Supervisor: Field

As a Mechanical Supervisor you will plan, supervise and execute the static process equipments and rotating machinery mechanical maintenance in an efficient and a safe manner.

Your responsibilities:

- Efficient execution of Mechanical maintenance activities in the field.
- Supervise the safe and effective execution of necessary mechanical replacements.
- Assign and supervises work of Senior Technicians and Technicians.
- Work closely with planners to facilitate optimum use of resources in managing maintenance workload and meeting goals.
- Execute and monitor results of preventative maintenance programs with emphasis on improving the field's availability and reliability.
- Manage equipments certification.
- Carry out root cause analysis for equipments frequent trips and suggest improvements/modifications.
- Drive the HSEQ systems and procedures implementation in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- B.S. Degree or four years engineering qualification from a reputed university in a relevant discipline.
- Minimum of 10 years experience with 5 years in supervisory role.
- Broad knowledge of maintenance practices and ability to perform mechanical repairs on static equipments (valves, vessels, heat exchangers, etc.) and rotating equipments.
- Expert knowledge of NDT techniques, gas engines technology, power generation and preferably turbo-machinery.
- Oil and Gas experience would be preferred.
- Hands-on experience of working on engine overhaul, adjustment, timing, etc.
- Detailed knowledge of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Risk based inspection (RBI).
- Detailed knowledge of Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP and Root Cause Analysis software.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills with capability to handle multiple assignments.
- Self-motivated team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

CMMS Administrator: Field

As a CMMS Administrator, you will first support the operations staff to implement the company CMMS (SAP Maintenance Data base) and then manage system afterwards

Your responsibilities:

- Develop the SAP maintenance module database functionalities with a SAP developer.
- Prepare (with the maintenance team's support) generic maintenance strategies and specific job plans.
- Administer the CMMS database (SAP Maintenance Module).
- Update Maintenance and Inspection in the CMMS DB.
- Conducts Training Sessions to employees for CMMS.
- Develop and Provide reports to support budget preparation and spare parts optimization.
- Adhere to the HSEQ systems and procedures implementation in areas of influence.
- Deliver support and assistance to all Maintenance staff to solve CMMS problem.

Your profile:

- Engineering degree in a relevant discipline.
- 5 years experience in maintenance planning (preferably in the Oil & Gas Sector) with.
- A strong background in Maintenance and stock management.
- Expertise in MAXIMO, SAP and Primavera
- Excellent communication, organizational, interpersonal and planning skills.
- Proven ability to interact with people and a proactive approach to problem solving.
- Fluent in English.

Senior Mechanical Technician: Field

As a Senior Mechanical Technician you will prepare and execute the field's Mechanical maintenance activities and lead a team of Mechanical Technicians

Your responsibilities:

- Efficient execution of Mechanical maintenance activities in the field.
- Safe and effective execution of necessary mechanical replacements and repairs.
- Assign and control work of Technicians
- Execute and monitor results of preventative maintenance programs with an emphasis on improving the field's availability and reliability.
- Ensure reporting requirements in maintenance activities are adhered to.
- Participate in root cause analysis for equipments frequent trips and suggest improvements/modifications.
- Prepare permit to work packages including risk assessments/job safety analysis.
- Adhere to the HSEQ systems and procedures in areas of influence.

Your profile:

- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from a reputed University.
- Minimum of 5 years experience with 3 years in a senior Mechanical role.
- Knowledge of best maintenance practices and ability to perform mechanical repairs on static equipments (valves, vessels, heat exchangers, etc.) and rotating equipments.
- Good knowledge of NDT techniques, gas engines technology, power generation and preferably turbo-machinery.
- Hands-on experience on engine overhaul, adjustment, timing, etc.
- Oil and Gas experience would be an advantage.
- Good knowledge of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Risk based inspection (RBI) techniques.
- Good knowledge of computerized maintenance management systems (CMMS) - preferably MAXIMO and/or SAP and Root Cause Analysis software.
- Analytical, problem-solving and prioritization skills.
- Self-motivated team player and capable of working in remote locations in a multi-cultural environment.
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic are essential.

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Teaching orphans the art of living positively

Living in an orphanage without the warmth of the family, troubled by the painful memories of the past and struggling to face the difficulties of everyday life, orphan children are under tremendous stress. And this stress can affect their ability to live positively.

Recently some of the orphans from Sana'a Orphanage, have been learning the "art of living." According to the Art of Living Foundation, living a healthy, calm and stress-free life is an art, which can easily become part of our daily life. All that is needed is to improve our breathing and do some yoga and meditation.

By: Ashwini Bhanagay
For the Yemen Times

Located slightly off the Taiz road, just where it begins, the Sana'a Orphanage is a refuge for poor seven to 18 year-old children who are either without any family at all or fatherless. It offers shelter as well as complete basic education to these children, within its campus.

The gates opened showing a huge campus. A small boy led us to the wide corridor on the second floor of a building, where in a carpeted room, 40 boys aged eight to 13 were sitting on the floor. Sitting on a sofa facing them an Indian lady, and sitting upright on the

The Art of Living Foundation is a non-profit, educational and charitable organization operating in more than 140 countries and working with people from all backgrounds, religions and cultures to live life more positively. At the core of the Art of Living is the concept of "5 H": Health, Home, Hygiene, Human Values and Harmony.

From May 18 to 22, forty children in the age group of eight to 13 from Sana'a Orphanage went through an initial training in "Art Excel," an initial 18-hour program, eight to 13 year olds learn valuable lessons on how to share with others, work and play in harmony and develop a sense of belonging.

During this five-day workshop, these orphans were taught yoga and effective

Al-Eizzi is convinced that the techniques taught in the workshop will surely help the children who are sad, missing the warmth of a family and leading a difficult life.

"The mind oscillates between the past and present. We are training the children to forget the past and focus on the present through simple breathing exercises which can improve the body function and help the mind to relax and forget the past. At the same time, the physical exercises which we teach provide an excellent energy outlet for the kids and calm them down," explains Kapoor.

Breathing is at the center of Art Excel.

Raksha Patel says, "When we are born we breathe in and cry and when we die, we breathe out and that is when people around us cry. We can live without food, water, but not without breathing. Improving the way we breathe can eliminate up to 90 percent of our body toxins."

"Even simple things such as traffic jams and children not studying can give us stress giving rise to toxins in our body. According to a report in the US, we utilize only 30 percent of our breathing capacity, which means that we are able to eliminate only up to 27 percent of our body toxins! And this gives rise to the numerous health problems which we all face," continues Patel, who conducts Art Excel workshops in Dubai on a regular basis.

Keeping in mind that they are dealing with children, "Art Excel" lays emphasis on inculcating good values through laughter and games.

"We did simple exercises with these children here, involving games and stories," she says.

In one exercise, the instructors narrated small stories and the children were asked to identify the moral of the story.

Another exercise involved making the children touch their body parts, thank Allah for them and promise to use them for good acts only, a simple way to count their blessings.

"For example, we made them touch their hands and say 'thank you Allah for giving us hands, we promise not to use them for hitting others' or we made them touch their eyes and thank Allah for giving us eyesight," said Raksha.

In one interesting exercise, the children were asked to write down some bad habits they wanted to stop, like biting nails, telling lies, as well as some good habits they wanted to start.

Husam, the volunteer instructor, read out some of them.

"I want to get away from anger and start playing soccer and loving my friends", wrote one boy. Another had written, "I don't want to be late for praying and I want to leave Yemen."

Saddam Tamish is a 13-year-old orphan.

"I want to do my homework regularly, go to school on time," says Saddam. He also wants to fast more and learn singing and self defense.



"I am going to use the exercises which I learnt here to study more," says the little boy.

Husam, Hatim, and another young man are engineering and medical students from the University of Science and Technology, volunteering as instructors for this workshop.

"We belong to a group called 'decision-makers', its a youth initiative and we work for development of the youth", said Hatim.

The three young men could not afford to pay the fees of the Art of Living courses which are run by Kapoor in Sana'a. As they were however very keen on taking the training, they offered to volunteer for projects, as fees and Kapoor agreed.

"I am really amazed at their dedication and the amount of time they have given for this workshop," said Kapoor.

A course usually continues after the initial five to six day workshop through weekly get-togethers. Ideally, according to the organizers, each course should include follow-up to make the breathing practices part of a young person's daily routine.

In the case of the Sana'a Orphanage, Al-Eizzi is in charge of ensuring that

the children practice the techniques daily, once the workshop concludes. Kapoor will of course be following up the progress periodically.

"We will keep coming," he says. "The orphanage has 1,050 children and our aim is to cover all of them."

This is just the beginning.



floor a young college student and a man in his mid 40's - the instructors.

"This is Ms. Raksha Patel, our instructor, who has come all the way from Dubai at her own expense, only for this workshop," says Rajendra Kapoor, a member of the Art of Living Foundation, who works in Sana'a and at the same time runs training courses in "Art of Living."

The instructors had just finished a session on eye exercises. Some of the children were grumbling for a prayer break. Some were kicking each other, rolling on the ground, others were following the instructors. Observing this, the young instructor Husam, an engineering student, asks them to do some warming up exercises, which at once makes the children alert.

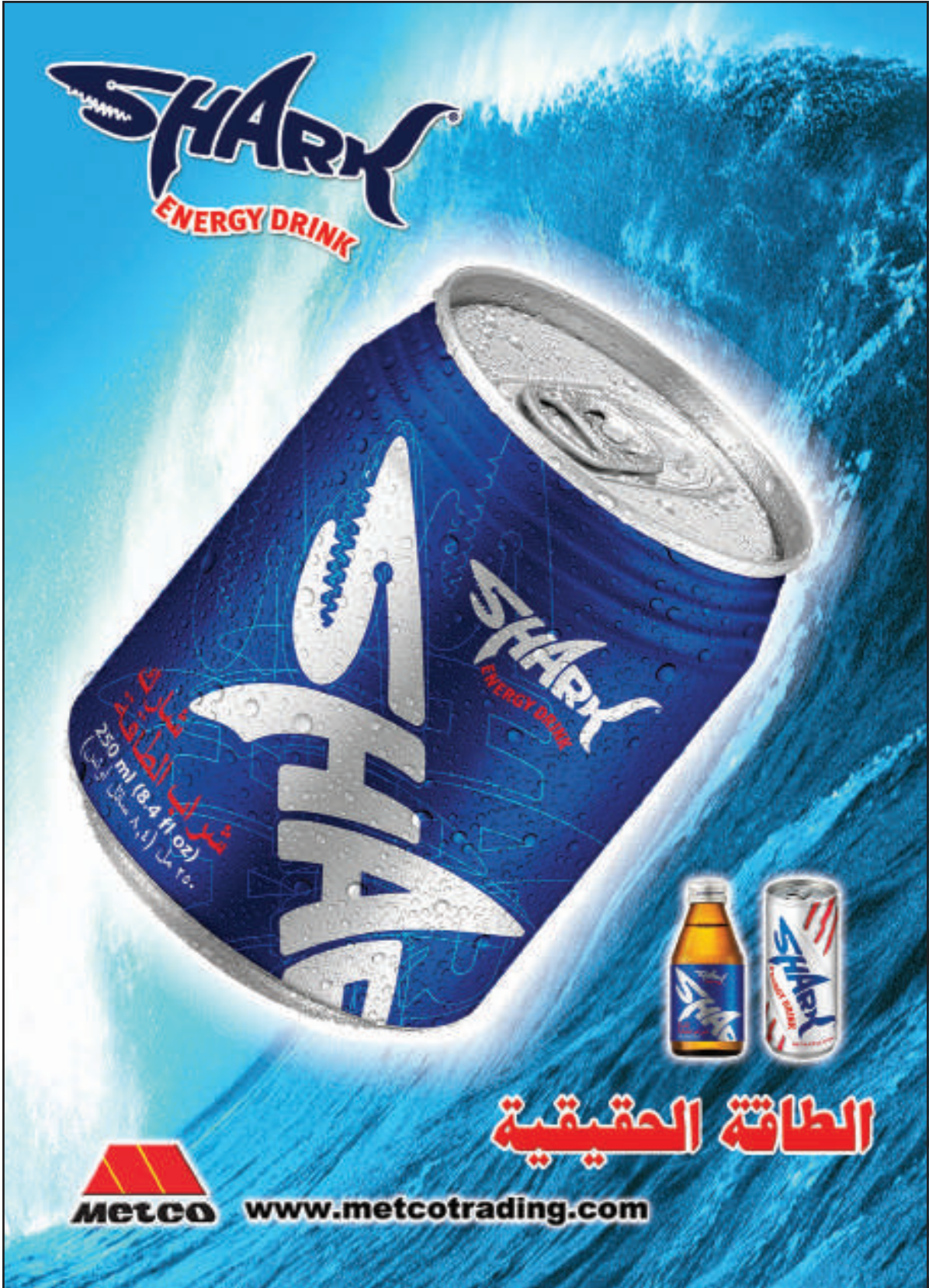
"This is my first visit to Yemen, and my first experience working with orphans. It's been difficult working with them, because they are not used to being disciplined. Today they are restless, because we did not give them a break for praying. Yesterday we gave them a break and they worked beautifully, but lost one whole hour," says Patel, also member of Art of Living Foundation and the lead instructor in this case.

and powerful breathing processes which help eliminate fear, anxiety, depression and other negative emotions. As the Art of Living Foundation believes that meditation is an important tool to tap into the children's hidden potential, it formed an integral part of the program as well.

"The Art of Living's sister organization, the International Association for Human Values (IAHV) formulates and implements social projects of the Art of Living and this workshop is one such service project," says Rajendra Kapoor. The Art of Living Foundation is the education arm of IAHV and provides volunteers and teachers like Kapoor and Raksha to IAHV's service projects.

Founded in Geneva in 1997, IAHV is a non-profit organization, working in partnership with governments, educational institutions, other NGOs, corporations, businesses and individuals, in countries all around the world.

Al-Eizzi Murad has been working as the finance officer as well as life skills trainer at the orphanage since 1994. He recently participated in a six-day course in Art of Living, and is one of the instructors for this workshop.



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1. Job Title: Marine MaterialsmanDescription:

Issuing Purchase requisitions, warehouse material receiving, labeling, storing, distributing and inventory update.

Requirements:

Academic:	Secondary school or above.
Additional Trainings:	Computer skill in data base, Oracle, material handling and store keeping
Related Work Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of three years experience in a large commercial warehouse. Willing to work independently and at remote stations. Good knowledge in material handling, labeling and storage. Understanding MSDS Must possess a strong work ethic with a "can do" attitude. Must have good knowledge of safe work practices
Language & PC Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good reading and writing of English and Arabic. Proficient in using computers including Microsoft office applications and data base.

2. Job Title: Marine Office AdministratorDescription:

General Marine office administrator, coordinating with FSO Master, pilot, shipping agents, helicopter, local authorities. Standing watch at weekends and holidays as duty administrator for the support of the FSO SAFER. Processing invoices and general clerical work, typing, etc.

Requirements:

Academic	Business related Diploma after Secondary school or above.
Additional Training:	Computer and accounting skills.
Related Work Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two + years experience in administration and Accounting related work Willing to work independently and at remote stations. Good knowledge in shipping activities Must possess a strong work ethic with a "can do" attitude. Must have good knowledge of safe work practices
Language & PC Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good reading and writing of English and Arabic. Proficient in using computers including Microsoft office applications and data base.

3. Job Title:- HSE SupervisorDescription:

HSE Supervisor scope includes safety related activities of all production operations facilities, drilling and work-over rigs, CMG workshops, Pipeline and pump stations, and contractors.

Requirements

Academic requirements & Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree or diploma in engineering, science or safety. Minimum 7 years work experience preferably in oil and gas industry.
Job Knowledge and Skill Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE Policies and strategic objectives. Elements of HSE Management system, safety rules and procedures. HSE in oil and gas exploration and production activities. Hazards and risk management. Crisis management. Permit to Work system. Job Hazards Analysis (JHA) and Hazards and Operability (HAZOP). Incident investigation and reporting. Emergency response planning. Environmental and waste management. Interpersonal communication and leadership skill. Knowledge of gas plant operation related to process safety such as emergency shutdown etc. Proficiency in English and report writing. Strong knowledge of computers and soft ware applications. Defensive Driving
Competency Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train the Trainer competency certificate. Incident investigation certificate. Risk assessment & management. HSE audits. NEBOSH international certificate of safety competency

Other job details of the above 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 be submitted online no later than June 11th, 2010. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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



OUR OPINION

The right of return

Lama is a Palestinian girl who lives in a camp in Lebanon. She is studying in the camp's school and her life's ambitions are crushed every time she is reminded that she is a refugee with no rights. Like Lama there are millions of Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes across 62 years since 1948. They went to neighboring countries and each of those countries dealt with them differently. But all expect for Jordan until the early nineties, did not give them the option of maintaining their Palestinian identity so that they have the choice to someday return home, while having a new identity through which they can lead a normal life.

The Palestinian refugees cannot return to their home despite UN decrees endorsing their right of return. They cannot return because to enter Palestinian territories they have to get permission from Israel. It is not in Israel's best interest to allow millions of Palestinian to return to their land, even the limited one because this would turn the population balance way out of scale.

In the same time, the refugees in camps in neighboring countries are not given a passport or a nationality so that they can travel and seek growth opportunities. So like Lama, they have to bury their ambitions and just live another day in a no-where land.

Several UN data shows that Palestinian refugees are still vulnerable because of their relation to the labor market in general and the degree their social and political rights are on a par with other inhabitants of the host countries.

This month we marked 62 years since the Israeli invasion in 1948. All said and done, it is immoral to dismiss the right of Palestinians to return to their home even if they have resettled in new countries and have moved on.

In 1948 more than 800,000 of the 1.4 million Palestinians living in 1300 Palestinian towns and villages were driven out of their homeland. Of those 41 percent settled in Jordan, 10 percent in Syria, 9 percent in Lebanon, 16 percent in West bank and percent 23 in Gaza strip.

Even for the Palestinians who favored staying in their homes despite the pressure to move out, the population density is extremely alarming. At the end of 2009, the population density in the Gaza strip reached 4,140 persons per square km which is the highest in the world. In the West Bank the density is 439 p/sqm and in Israel it is 350 p/sqm.

In 62 years, the Palestinians have lost 1,305 villages to the Israelis who occupied 774 villages while destroying the rest. During the last 62 years, more than 70 massacres happened against the Palestinians in which more than 15,000 Palestinians were killed.

Even within the last that is supposed to be for Palestinians under the Israeli rule, Palestinians are subjected to systematic segregation which destroys their social, cultural and political character.

Today the total number of Palestinians in the world according to the Palestinians statistics is around 10.9 million people. Only 4 million of these are living in their country and only 1.4 living in the 1948 land. The statistics say that by end of 2015 the number of Palestinians and Israelis will each be around 6 million in the area between the river of Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Palestinians are let down by their authorities, by the Arab states, by the UN and other international bodies. Yet they will survive, because they are strong and demand what is rightfully theirs.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Ethiopians successfully casted their votes

Elections in Ethiopia, for the federal and regional councils, are held every five years and on May 23rd 2010 the world witnessed the fourth round election in Ethiopia.

Sixty three political parties contested both for the federal and regional council seats. The election campaign extended over three months in which all contesting parties had extensive, fair and free of charge access to airtime and print media. There were 43,000 polling stations each serving not more than one thou-



sand voters. Over 220,000 observers from residents of the polling stations, contesting political parties, civic society representatives as well as international observers from the African and European Union witnessed and observed the election.

The turn out was very high and 90% of the registered 32 million citizens casted their vote. The election was a success and was held in a fair, transparent, peaceful, well mannered and conducive atmosphere. The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) declared that the election was a suc-

cess and peaceful. It announced, in its preliminary result, that the ruling party has a landslide victory and it will reveal the final result by the end of June 2010.

The Ethiopian people, all over Ethiopia, in the massive public rallies held after the preliminary result, expressed their joy and happiness of conducting a peaceful, transparent and successful election and demanded their voice and choice be respected. "In this election there is no winner or loser party, as such, the Ethiopian people, democracy and renaissance are the real winners" as stated by Prime Minister Zenawi in the public rally in Addis Abeba the capital city of Ethiopia.

Obama's Baghdad Bob

By: Gordon Cucullu and Avery Johnson
Human Events

As U.S. 3rd Infantry Division armored vehicles roamed under the crossed swords parade ground, Marines were roaring through the eastern city and Saddam was running loose, looking for a hole to hide in. Baghdad, and the Republican Guard, had fallen with such speed that news outlets from around the world expressed shock.

Meanwhile Baghdad Bob, the nickname given to the regime spokesman, waxed enthusiastically about how Iraqi forces were inflicting devastating casualties on Coalition forces. He also told the Iraqi people what to believe, claiming "There are no American infidels in Baghdad. Never! They do not even have control over themselves! Do not believe them!"

It gave the whole world a big laugh. Good 'ol Baghdad Bob, the only comic relief in a deadly-serious situation.

Now we find ourselves with a similar character speaking for (and to) the U.S.

Last week a Yemeni-trained Nigerian al Qaeda operative was narrowly averted from murdering almost 300 Americans on an aircraft over Detroit. Yemen officials say former Gitmo detainees are behind the plot and are running the terrorist show in their country. The same officials alert us that between 200-300 more terrorists are planning strikes.

Obama is seeking a hole -- is this the 14th or 15th green?

Meanwhile, his top counter-terrorism czar John Brennan -- Obama's new version of Baghdad Bob - cites "no smoking gun" in the grotesque intelligence failure related to Nigerian incident. At the same time he acknowledged that the situation in Yemen has become so dangerous that the U.S. several days ago pulled its embassy

out of Sanaa. Yet Brennan foresees no need for accelerated U.S. counter-terrorism actions in Yemen -- "we're not talking about that at this point at all" -- and thinks that continuing to release Gitmo detainees to Yemen is a good idea.

Only this time nobody's laughing.

Over the weekend the administration flailed in the media, trying to defend its failed policies. Baghdad Brennan noted that "There was no single piece of intelligence that said, 'this guy is going to get on a plane'," referring to the Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab. Well, let's just say that al Qaeda in Yemen did not wire the CIA directly to be on the lookout for an African guy with stuffed underwear hopping on NW 253 out of Amsterdam. Everything but.

Nor does it turn out that this is the "unique incident" that Brennan calls it (or "isolated" to quote Obama). Turns out that the attack on Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Nayef in August used a similar modus operandi, roughly a pound of explosives packed up a suicide bomber's anus.

Nor can Brennan plead ignorance: Obama dispatched him directly to coordinate with the Saudis. On that September visit, Brennan reported, "we worked with Saudis on the forensics of the attack and the technique" employed. At that point anything below the belt and above upper thighs should have been recognized as the new most likely carry-all area of choice.

Outside observers might consider two attacks -- each conceived and executed by al Qaeda in Yemen, using similar techniques -- to be the start of a pattern. But apparently Baghdad Brennan thinks them both "unique."

With this kind of leadership is it remarkable that terror attacks on the U.S. have increased dramatically? It would be more shocking if they had not.

The American people had better brace for disaster.

We are led by a president who refuses to acknowledge the identity of the Islamic terrorists who fight us. We have a Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano, who finds returning soldiers more of a threat than jihadists, and brushes off the near-death experience of almost 300 of our fellow citizens with exculpatory remarks about systems working.

And now we have a counter-terrorism expert who couldn't connect dots if they were on a string dangling in front of him.

Despite a preponderance of evidence, intelligence analysis, and experiential data, this team still thinks it makes better sense to close Guantanamo even if that means sending 90 or more hard-core terrorists -- not "isolated extremists" but committed jihadist thugs -- to a country whose only growth industry is al Qaeda bombers.

They fear, they say that Guantanamo is a "recruiting vehicle" for terrorists.

News flash: the best, most effective recruiting tool for al Qaeda and other terrorists is success. Burning U.S. buildings, aircraft in flames, and beheaded Americans draw potential terrorists by droves. Guantanamo? Small potatoes by comparison.

Al Qaeda in Yemen leaders (former Gitmo detainees) say they count Flight 253 in the "partial win" category. They will continue to press their attacks, and the next one might be a complete win, one in which Americans die violently.

Then Baghdad Brennan can explain how it wasn't really an intelligence failure. And Obama will take a Mulligan.

Mr. Cucullu is a former Special Forces lieutenant colonel and author. His latest work is Inside Gitmo: The True Story behind the Myths of Guantanamo Bay with a companion web site at www.insidegitmo.com. Ms. Johnson is a long-term terrorism researcher and co-author of the Warrior Police book.

COMMON SENSE

Are We Really At War With Ourselves?

No Immediate Chance of Stability and Deliverance

When the Sa'ada Sixth Round subsided, the people of Yemen thought that perhaps Yemen was indeed about to enjoy some peace and ease of tensions in the most difficult of challenges to face the current regime since coming to power over three decades ago. But the troubles of the regime are not confined to Sa'ada. This comes after years of trying to rely mainly on maneuvering from one political reality to another and then hoping that time, itself, should provide the right cure for all ills. The regime must come time to realize that the right to govern entails a heavy responsibility of delivering effective government, a viable economy that provides for equal opportunity for all and a secure and stable environment that encourages the attraction of local and foreign investment. Surely, unity is a welcome element in our society and it is better to amalgamate than to fragment. However, even unity requires some semblance of comfort that all parts of the country are getting their due from all the natural resources and every Yemeni enjoys equal access to the bounties of the land and the resources of economic activity. It is not fair to see only a handful of the elements of the society, most of whom are already enjoying extensive wealth, much of it acquired with minimal action or effort to counterbalance the lavish splendor attained thus, enjoy all this splendor, while a majority of the population must bear all the consequences of unfair distribution of economic empowerment.



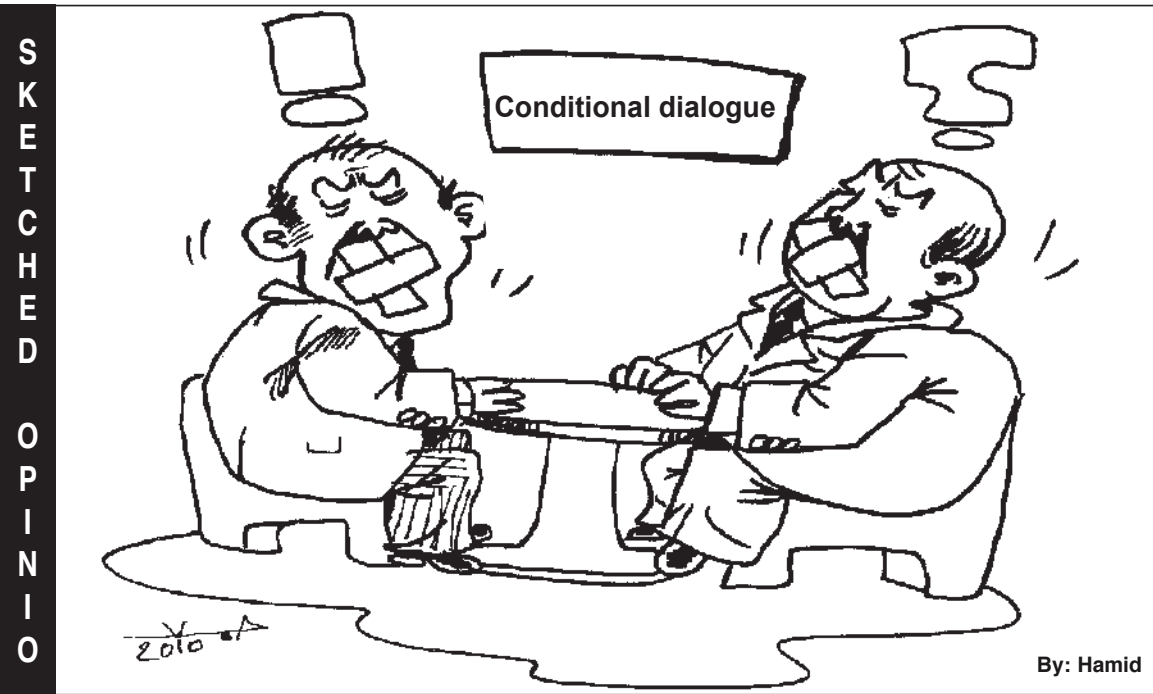
By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yemen has many potential promises, but then not even the wealthiest resourced nations can prosper without sound management of the political, economic and social environs under which the people of that nation are living. Realistically, speaking there are not any grounds for assuming that any of these environs are anywhere near the expected norms here in Yemen. In fact, far from it, Yemen is beset by a multitude of problems, which one may surmise could be the reasons for the lack of the appropriate environs that will help give assurance that Yemen is on the right road to recovery and a viable reform agenda. Yes, we have a reform agenda in process, but since 1995, this agenda has not produced the healthy government characterized by transparency, accountability and a corruption free bureaucracy that is capable of managing the delivery of public services, without interruption or compromise on quality and quick delivery.

The recent ongoing flare up of violence in Mareb, the Southern Governorates and even near the capital city of Sana'a are not signs that indicate that all is rosy and that hope and further anticipation is warranted. This is further augmented by an ongoing rise in prices of all goods and commodities - even those that are essential for human sustenance, as well as services, including transport costs. Surely, these are not helpful in stressing the need for maintaining unity and civil obedience, as people throughout the country feel the urgency of the moment in demanding change that will help relieve the pressures that most people in the country are facing.

Terrorism is also unwelcome, especially in these hard times, but then terrorism is nurtured by an unfavorable economic and political situation in a country that is ripe for strong expressions of discontent arising out of despair, misery and inability to provide for the basic needs of life. The people of Yemen need more than flowery political rhetoric, which does not feed hungry mouths or fulfill the need for electric power and other essential services. Terrorism is not a new problem to Yemen. Most Yemenis have a good idea how it came to Yemen and from where the billions of dollars came that helped it to implant its roots and find good breeding grounds for it to grow and spread. Many people are also aware that the Government may have helped to facilitate its dissemination in Yemen by not realizing it as a potential threat earlier and actually giving it weight in the political equations the regime needed for its continuing stranglehold on the people of Yemen. Terrorism is not only dangerous to the United States of America or the West. It is dangerous to all people, especially Moslems, as Moslems seem to be the largest number of its victims. Terrorism brings friction among the Moslems of the world under different cloaks, yet the farthest cloak that terrorism can be said to wear is the cloak of servitude to Islam. The Government must realize that the people of Yemen are in need of sound governance, peace and stability or for a new political framework that is able to assure them this corrupt free and sensible governance they badly need to alleviate the increasingly unbearable ills faced by the majority of Yemenis, in the northern and southern governments and to which the people in most respectable positions of government seem to be immune to and obviously indifferent.

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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P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen
Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

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

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Features Editor
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Editorial Staff

Ali Saeed
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Malak Shahr
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Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Offices

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

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

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The road to post-crisis growth

By: Michael Spence

It is about 18 months since the financial crisis hit, and 12 months since the panic started to recede, with asset prices stabilizing and beginning to turn up. Although recovery in advanced countries remains fragile, developing countries appear to have weathered the storm. Growth in China and India is bouncing back toward pre-crisis levels, Brazil's growth is rising after a sharp dip, and developing-country trade is rebounding from depressed levels.

Reasons for this remarkable resilience abound, and they offer guidance for advanced and developing countries alike. As the crisis struck, capital flowed out of developing countries to shore up damaged balance sheets in advanced countries. Credit tightened sharply. But rapid responses by developing-country central banks, in collaboration with relatively healthy domestic banks, prevented a severe credit freeze.

Moreover, the reserves built up over the preceding decade were, in many cases, used to offset some of the capital

outflows. Bank balance sheets had been strengthened after the 1997-1998 financial crisis, and were unencumbered by the overvalued securitized assets and complex derivative securities that caused much of the damage to advanced-country financial institutions.

Leverage was lower in several sectors. Financial institutions – and, more importantly, households – held less debt relative to assets and income. In advanced economies, the main mechanisms for transmitting balance-sheet damage to the real economy were credit rationing and reduced consumption due to loss of net worth in households. Both factors were more muted in developing economies.

Of course, rapid declines in asset values had an impact for a few months, but, with less leverage, the impact on net worth was lower and domestic consumption less vulnerable. In sum, the crisis originated in a balance-sheet shock, to which exposure was simply lower in developing countries.

All developing countries witnessed a huge fall-off in trade – much larger than the declines in income and output. Trade

bounced back relatively quickly in the second half of 2009, though this partly reflected the extraordinarily low base. But the immediate effect was mitigated to some extent by a sharp depreciation of almost all the currencies caused by the capital outflows.

The exception was China, where the renminbi held steady against the dollar, causing an initial appreciation against almost every other currency. That configuration has largely reversed in the past nine months as international capital flows, driven by investment opportunities and returns, return to a more normal pattern. It is likely that China will shortly resume its pre-crisis policy of managed appreciation.

To be sure, developing countries differed – often markedly – in their capacity for fiscal stimulus to counter the loss of external demand. Nevertheless, many were capable of at least some countercyclical measures without destabilizing their public finances.

Although the resilience in emerging markets, their rapid and effective policy responses, and speedy recoveries are encouraging signs for

the global economy, instability in the advanced economies and the relatively unregulated financial system remain a cause for concern. Re-regulation and international efforts to coordinate policy responses may eventually reduce the potential for instability, but will require the work to be finished and tested before real confidence is generated. In the meantime, a somewhat conservative and defensive posture is warranted.

This means that developing countries are likely to retain substantial domestic ownership of their domestic financial institutions. Securitization (and shadow banking) will be kept simple and proceed at a measured pace as a new legal and regulatory framework is built and tested. Complex securities that are hard to value will be sharply limited as a matter of policy.

Moreover, because dependence on foreign finance creates clear vulnerabilities, developing countries will seek to fund investment mainly from domestic savings, thereby limiting the size of their current-account deficits. And, because there is no strategic reason to run large surpluses, with an excess of

savings over investment, maintaining reasonable balance on the current account appears to be the preferred course. In any case, limiting financial interdependence is the prudent strategy and the likely outcome.

Nevertheless, the basic pillar of sustained high growth has been leveraging the global economy's knowledge and demand. That remains valid. So, while a strong likelihood of diminished growth in advanced countries for an extended period means that an outward-oriented strategy may produce less-than-spectacular results for developing countries, alternative strategies are worse.

Indeed, worries about rising protectionism in a low-growth environment are on target. Larger developing countries must assume an expanded role in unwinding the protectionist measures that came with their expanded use of the public purse, and reestablish forward motion. This is particularly important for poorer and smaller developing countries in which domestic consumption and investment is a poor substitute for global demand.

At the same time, a renewed emphasis on maximizing the domestic market's potential to drive growth and structural diversification – though clearly higher in the larger, higher-income developing economies – is a useful lesson of the crisis. Those developing countries that maintain a stable macroeconomic environment, a countercyclical mindset, and steady progress on governance, education, and infrastructure will thrive.

Advanced-country growth may be diminished for a time, but the compensating factors that have emerged represent the most important lesson of the crisis. Developing countries' internal trade is expanding with their economic size, and the large ones are restoring growth rapidly. Indeed, China, far from being thrown off course by the crisis, is entering a middle-income transition that over time will create considerable space in labor-intensive manufacturing and services, as the country evolves structurally and exits from these sectors.

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The end of fiscal sovereignty in Europe

By: Michael Spence

The late Milton Friedman said that a common currency – that is, a monetary union – cannot be sustained without a deep form of economic and political union. By this, he meant an open economy that ensures the free flow of goods, labor, and capital, together with a disciplined central fiscal authority and a strong central bank. The latter two are pillars of a strong currency. They work in tandem. But the other pieces are no less important.

The eurozone, currently wrestling with fiscal imbalance and sovereign debt risk, has a strong and autonomous central bank, but is fiscally fragmented and only partly unified politically.

Enter the Maastricht Treaty, which in theory imposes fiscal discipline by placing limits on government deficits and debt levels – clearly a structure designed to prevent free riding on the fiscal discipline of others. Maastricht was thus intended to prevent a situation like the current one in Greece.

It didn't work. Eurozone sovereign debt turned out not to be homogenous with respect to risk.

In a stable world, Maastricht Treaty's rules-based framework, if enforced, might do the job. But in a shock-prone world, it is a fragile system, because it precludes anything but modest countercyclical policy. No wonder, then, that the treaty's strict limits were breached early in the euro's first decade by core countries as well as peripheral ones.

Indeed, with a large shock, much of the breach happens automatically, as tax revenues shrink and social-insurance payments expand. Recent analysis by the International Monetary Fund suggests that as much as 80% of the fiscal stimulus in advanced countries during the current crisis is non-discretionary.

That kind of built-in counter-cyclicality is not a bad thing. But if it produces the threat of fiscal instability and excessive sovereign-debt risk after a large shock, then the starting point was not sufficiently conservative – in other words, deficits or debt levels (or both)

were too high. Counter-cyclicality does not mean running modest deficits in the good times and huge deficits in major downturns.

If the current EU budget rules are too rigid and are ignored in the face of a shock, then the door is open for imprudent fiscal behavior. In theory, strict in-depth monitoring could distinguish genuinely prudent countercyclical responses from profligacy. But in practice it is hard to enforce.

The eurozone's immediate challenge is declining fiscal stability in a subset of countries whose credit ratings are falling and debt-service costs rising. Absent external assistance and a credible plan for restoring fiscal order, Greek sovereign debt could not be rolled over, forcing a default, probably in the form of a restructuring of Greek debt. Even with external assistance, many view default as a near certainty, because the arithmetic of restoring fiscal balance is so daunting.

Eurozone membership precludes inflation and devaluation as adjustment mechanisms. An alternative is domestic

deflation combined with extreme fiscal tightening – that is, a period of slow or negative growth in wages, incomes, and some prices of non-traded goods. But deflation is painful and cannot realistically be pursued for political reasons.

The constraints for eurozone countries are similar to those of a state in America that gets into fiscal trouble. Devaluation is not an option because of the common currency. The Federal Reserve will not willingly resort to inflation. Moreover, in the United States, there are rules and conventions (similar to Maastricht) that disallow or discourage states from running long-term deficits. This means that state fiscal behavior tends to be procyclical in the face of large shocks like the recent one.

So why isn't a federal system equally fragile? There are two key safety valves. One is the central government's ability to run deficits and to act decisively. The other is labor mobility.

The EU does not have a robust centralized fiscal structure with a counter-cyclical mandate. And labor

mobility, a long-run goal in the EU, is constrained by language, laws, and diverse regulatory regimes.

In addition, state bonds are not treated as equals, and the markets penalize profligate states. If the EU wants a monetary union in which sovereign debt is relatively homogenous with respect to risk, fiscal discipline must be similarly homogenous. But that also means that it will need a more robust mechanism for countercyclical responses to shocks.

The EU's leaders recently stated their intention to revisit the Maastricht structure, which in principle is a good idea. They might take the route of adapting the Maastricht rules to allow for more inter-temporal flexibility at the national level. But that approach would be complicated. One would need a sophisticated capability for monitoring and enforcing fiscal policy and sovereign debt – or else end up with a repeat of the current situation.

A better long-term solution is a central EU fiscal capacity that accumulates the resources to respond to shocks during periods of growth. One could think of

it as a stabilization tax that becomes negative in downturns.

But a move in this direction does involve some degree of fiscal centralization. And it probably would require that the EU be able to issue sovereign debt. It is unclear whether there is the political will to do all that.

But a step in the right direction could be taken by partial fiscal centralization with a limited countercyclical mandate. That would enable effective enforcement of fiscal discipline at the national level and provide the euro with the fiscal discipline it needs to survive.

When the eurozone was created, it was widely understood that fiscal discipline was a crucial underpinning. The current crisis vividly underscores the point. The challenge now is to achieve a combination of discipline and flexibility that protects the collective interest. That will involve a loss of full fiscal sovereignty, but facing up to that reality is required to sustain the monetary union.

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The earth moves in Britain

The Earth Moves in Britain
Chris Patten

Volcanoes have consequences – and I'm not just thinking about the chaos caused to air travel by Iceland's unpronounceable last eruption (known to the Pentagon as E-15).

In 1783, a volcano in Iceland spewed so much ash into the atmosphere that the entire northern hemisphere was cooled for almost three years. This resulted in crop failures and famine, and some historians argue that it helped to precipitate the French Revolution.

Should we blame the "British Revolution" of 2010 on E-15? This undoubtedly would be going too far. But the agreement between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats to form a coalition government does look revolutionary to many British voters. In London, governing arrangements that

other countries take for granted look like a radically new type of politics.

The election produced an inconclusive result, even though the Conservative Party received 7% more of the popular vote than the second-place Labour Party. The failure to equalize electorates in different constituencies counted heavily against the winners, as it takes more votes to send a Conservative MP to Westminster than it does a Labour MP.

But the coalition negotiated by David Cameron's Conservatives with the third-place Liberal Democrats (which should give the government a comfortable majority in Parliament) is not so novel as some people think.

In the last years of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, coalition governments were quite common in Britain. It is only in the years since the Second World War that one-party government has been the rule, though the country did have

an informal pact between Labour and Liberals in the 1970's.

Benjamin Disraeli, the nineteenth-century prime minister, famously said that Britain does not like coalitions. Although it is too early to judge, opinion polls suggest that the British people do at least like the look and the purpose of the current one.

But can this infatuation possibly last?

At the local level, Conservatives and Liberals tend to be at daggers drawn. This is partly because Liberals have usually thrived by winning seats from Conservatives when Conservative administrations are unpopular. Conservatives, for their part, think of Liberals as combining sanctimoniousness with hard-ball electoral tactics.

Moreover, there are substantial policy differences between the two parties, with Liberals placing political reform at the top of their agenda, in order to

establish an electoral system that would suit them better.

Despite all this, the marriage has taken place, with the two parties' smart, attractive, and socially similar leaders – David Cameron and Nick Clegg – taking a bold gamble on their ability to get this new show on the road and to keep it there.

Cameron and Clegg have agreed, in a constitutional innovation, that the coalition should last the full five years until the deadline for the next election. They have hammered out a common platform that has involved give-and-take on both sides. The Liberals have taken five seats in the Cabinet, and more in the lower ministerial ranks. The Conservatives have agreed to hold a referendum on whether Britain should change its first-past-the-post electoral system to an alternative-vote arrangement.

For both parties, the biggest justification for this unorthodox act

of political courage is the scale of the economic problems facing Britain. The Liberal-Conservative coalition inherits, by common consent, the worst economic legacy since the war, with a huge hole in the public finances that is starting to look ever deeper as new ministers get a chance to inspect things for themselves.

Indeed, Liam Byrne, the outgoing Labour budget chief, left a note to his successor saying "I'm afraid there is no money. Kind regards and good luck." It was meant to be a joke. But there won't be many laughs when cherished public programs are cut, welfare entitlements curbed, and taxes raised.

The bond markets will demand quick and effective action. So the new government has no alternative but to begin the long haul of restoring the nation's finances to the black. The lesson for other governments is clear: if you want independence of action, don't put yourself in hock.

From the Conservatives' point of view, there is much to be said for sharing responsibility for what has to be done. The Liberals, meanwhile, have a golden opportunity to show that they are capable of government, rather than simply flakey representatives of the "None of the Above" party.

As the months pass, both parties will probably find that they face their greatest political difficulty in managing the fringes of their own camps – rightists in the Conservative Party, who don't like the centrist moderation of the coalition's policies, and leftists in the Liberal Democratic Party who don't want to support a largely Conservative government.

But if the coalition works and lasts, then we will see not so much a political volcano in Britain as a real shift in the tectonic plates. Nothing will be quite the same again.

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Cyprus's last best chance

Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter
and Lakhdar Brahimi

It is tempting to see the results of the recent parliamentary elections in northern Cyprus as a blow for the peace process. Voters in the Turkish Cypriot north rejected the party of their leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, who has been meeting almost weekly for eight months with his Greek Cypriot counterpart, Demetris Christofias, to work out the terms of a settlement to reunify the island.

But the election result has more to do with the dire state of the economy than it does with the peace process. Voters are feeling the pain of economic isolation, made worse by the global downturn. While he has lost his parliamentary majority, Talat is still head of the Turkish Cypriot administration and will continue to lead negotiations on behalf of the north. Both he and Christofias

remain committed to finding a solution, despite the difficulties they face.

The election result nonetheless underscores the fact that time is running out to find a solution to the Cyprus problem. Talat has set the presidential election in early 2010 as a deadline for agreement, while Christofias is not without political challenges within his own coalition.

Cyprus presents visitors with a deceptive image. The sunny climate of the eastern Mediterranean draws a steady stream of tourists, and European Union membership in the south has pushed income levels for Greek Cypriots higher than the EU average. The island might be divided, but life for many is comfortable. However, Cyprus remains a conflict zone: there are still fortified streets in Nicosia, a United Nations peacekeeping operation patrols the buffer zone, and there is a substantial Turkish military force in the

north.

This is all the more reason to make sure that the energy and courage of Talat and Christofias are not squandered. These two leaders have limited political capital, and they need more than their own goodwill to succeed.

First, they need their own people to join them in the peace process. An overwhelming majority of Cypriots are unhappy with the status quo, believe a settlement is possible, and reject any return to violence, but are deeply distrustful of each other and of the peace process. They have seen too many previous efforts fail. A culture of cynicism and complacency seems to be the default position, especially among politicians and the media.

Opening up the debate about what peace could look like would help. When we visited Cyprus late last year, we noticed how few women and young people were engaged in politics. Old

men (like us) dominate public debate, and we strongly urge Cyprus's leaders to make more space for those whose voices are not so readily heard.

Second, strengthening links between the two communities is essential. The island has been split for so long that generations have grown up with no idea of life on the other side. It is very difficult for schools, law enforcement agencies, soccer clubs, and telephone, electricity, and water companies to cooperate across the Green Line. Teenagers can't even send text messages across the divide. Trade between the communities is limited.

Lowering these barriers with respect and sensitivity would help to heal the wounds of the past and, importantly, to build trust. Researchers already estimate that reunification could raise annual incomes by about €1.8 billion – more than €5,500 per household. Everyone needs to see that there are

benefits to reunification that will simplify life, strengthen the economy, and outweigh the compromises that any settlement will require.

Third, the major regional powers, whose presence hangs heavily over the island, need to play their part. Greece is urgently called upon to play a more constructive role in the peace process by explaining the benefits of its own normalization of relations with Turkey and its support for that country's EU membership. And Turkey could give a tremendous boost to confidence in the peace process by announcing a symbolic withdrawal of some troops from northern Cyprus as a goodwill gesture – a move that would also greatly assist Turkey's convergence with Europe.

Finally, explicit international expressions of support for a settlement would help to persuade the leaders of both communities that success

would bring proper recognition and reward. It would certainly help if the EU promised substantial development funds, including for resolution of property issues, once an agreement is in place.

This is the best chance in 30 years for a federal settlement in Cyprus, and it may be the last. If these talks fail, partition will probably be permanent, and, no matter how benign the environment today, geopolitics will catch up with the island over time.

Failure to resolve the Cyprus problem is a potentially serious threat to good relations between NATO, Turkey, and the EU. Cypriots must seize this chance to build a healthy, reunited country that can make the most of its economic potential in the region, and play its part in world affairs with confidence and security.

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Syndicate stands by Yemeni barbers



By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Murad Abbas, 24, owns a barbershop that is full of customers in Al-Daeri street. He works with his younger brother Ahmed, 20, from early in the morning until night. They cut hair, trim mustaches, and offer their customers fragrant aftershave.

There are about 4,000 Yemeni barbers who work hard in the Sana'a governorate, receiving around YR 400 from each customer for a haircut and a shave. In nearby salons, foreign barbers charge their customers YR 1,500-3,000.

Ismail Al-Badani, the head of the Yemeni barbers' syndicate, says that these foreigners create competition for barbers like him, despite a 1997 governmental decision not to hand out licenses to foreign barbers because of enough qualified Yemenis to do the job.

Recently, members of the Yemeni Workers' Union have been on strike demanding that the government better their working

conditions and increase their salary. But beside the union, various syndicates also struggle to better the condition of workers in their specific trade. A barber since the 1970s, Al-Badani is one such example.

Al-Badani says that his syndicate protects the rights of Yemeni barbers. He says that, since 1996, the Yemeni barbers' syndicate has held basic training courses for Yemenis, notably on the importance of personal hygiene and the use of disinfectants. It also provides Yemeni barbers with cheap, but good quality equipment such as scissors and razors, he says.

"Yemeni barbers are very skilled and help poor people with their low prices," Al-Badani told the Yemen Times, adding that a haircut can cost as little as YR 200.

"Foreign barbers are unskilled," he said. "They were without jobs in their own countries and they came to Yemen to work in this field. They put obstacles in the way of improving our economy and our unemployment."

"There is no power in Yemen to decide the minimum cost of a haircut," said Al-Badani, criticizing the officials who cannot protect customers from exploitation.

Foreign barbers defend themselves. Confronted with Al-Badani's allegations, foreign barbers defend themselves, explaining that they do have experience.

Osama Sayyid, 29, is a barber from Egypt. He says that he came to Yemen because "Egypt was very crowded" but stresses that he has plenty of experience as he has been cutting hair since the age of nine.

Foreign barbers also stress that they went through all the necessary procedures

to open their businesses in Yemen.

Saifaddin, 32, an Iraqi barber who works in Hadda, said that in addition to obtaining a license from the Ministry of Labor, foreign barber shop owners also have to seek approval from the Political Security and have their residence permit approved by the National Security.

He said that the rates in his shop were higher than those at a Yemeni barber's because they pay high rent, and used better quality products for a different, wealthier customer.

"Officers and sheikhs always cut their hair in our shop," he said.

He said that it is up to the state to decide the state of foreign barbers in Yemen, not the syndicate of Yemeni barbers, however adding that a lot of Iraqi barbers had left the country for Europe, for example.

A Turkish barber said that he cuts hair and shaves for YR 1,500. He said that he is more expensive, but gives good service and uses expensive products. He said that his shop was, for example, much cleaner than a Yemeni's barber shop.

New barbers' institute

Among Al-Badani's plans to improve services provided by Yemeni barbers is a new

institute.

"We are going to establish an institute for Yemeni barbers to teach them and give them certificates," he added. "In addition, we will encourage new students to register with this specialized institute."

The syndicate also has a new project to include women who work in hairdressing, according to Al-Badani. They will have their own department and a woman will be appointed to lead it.

Protection against extortion

But some Yemeni barbers think that the syndicate is not doing enough. Beyond basic training, they are asking the syndicate to

help them fight governmental workers who ask them for bribes.

"We want the syndicate to protect us from municipality workers and tax collectors who exploit us and take money from us illegally," says barber Murad Abbas. "They threaten to close our shop if we don't give them money."

Abbas is not a member of the syndicate because, he says, its role is very weak.

"We need an active syndicate to address our problems," he said. "If there was a strong barbers' syndicate, I would be an activist in this field and I would pay from my own pocket to achieve our goals."



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دولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء يسلم رئيس البنك جائزة أفضل بنك للعام 2009م
Prime minister presenting the CAC BANK manager the Best Bank for 2009 Award

CAC BANK

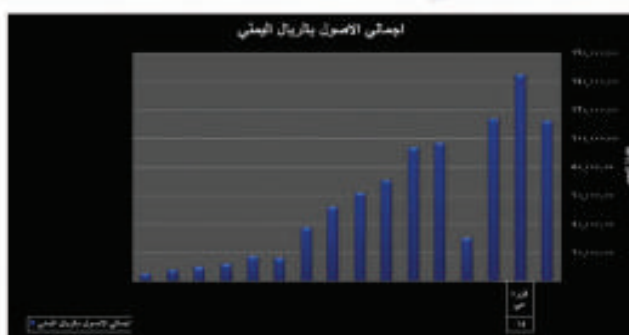
تشاركنا الريادة

البنك الأفضل .. البنك الأول The first bank, the best bank

حقق (كاك بنك) أعلى مستويات التقييم ومقاييس الأفضلية بين البنوك اليمنية مستحقاً وعن جدارة جائزة الاستثمار الأولى الممنوحة للبنك الأفضل بين البنوك اليمنية للعام 2009 ، حسب نتائج الدراسات التقييمية القائمة على الاستبيانات الاستقصائية .. بإشراف وزارة الصناعة والتجارة والهيئة العامة للاستثمار والاتحاد العام للغرف التجارية والصناعية ..

CAC Bank has taken the lead in banking business among Yemeni banks. According to investigative reports by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the General Investment Authority and the General Federation Chambers of Commerce, the bank was granted the best bank award for 2009.

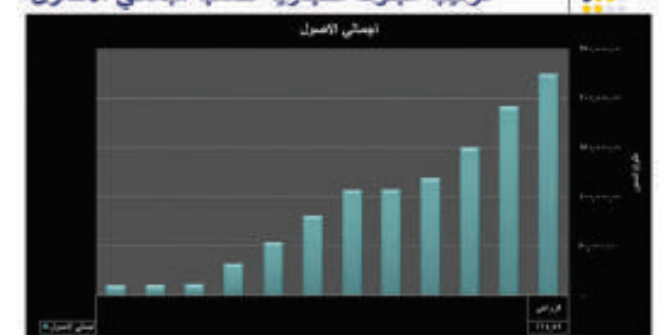
Assets increment in local currency
تطور إجمالي الأصول بالعملة المحلية



Total assets growth rate
معدل نمو إجمالي الأصول



Commercial banks ranking according to assets
ترتيب البنوك التجارية حسب إجمالي الأصول



The number one bank in credit and funding

CAC Bank has achieved the number one position among local and foreign commercial banks in the field of credits and funding services in both local and foreign currencies. The total credits provided by the bank have reached YR 69 million. The bank has also achieved the highest growth in the monetary sector at a growth rate of 25%.

الأول في الاقراض والتمويل

حقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول في إجمالي القروض والتمويلات بين البنوك التجارية الأجنبية والمحلية بالعملة المحلية والعملة الأجنبية حيث بلغ إجمالي القروض المقدمة ٦٩ مليار ريال .. وحقق بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي أكبر معدل نمو في القطاع المصرفي بنسبة 25%

The first choice for de- posits

CAC Bank has ranked first among local and foreign commercial banks in deposits which reached YR 134 billion. This figure is a YR 22 billion increment from last year 2009, which translates to a 19.7% increase in deposits.

الأول في الودائع

حقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول على البنوك التجارية الأجنبية والمحلية في إجمالي الودائع بالعملة المحلية حيث بلغت ١٣٤ مليار ريال محققاً زيادة مقدارها ٢٢ مليار في العام ٢٠٠٩ بمعدل نمو ١٩,٧ %

First in assets growth rate

CAC Bank came first as the bank with highest assets growth rate in the local currency by passing the long list of banks in Yemen. The bank's assets are worth YR 144.5 billion which is an increase of YR 25 billion since last year 2009 which is a 21% increase. The bank has also achieved a significant growth in the foreign currency assets which reached YR 17.7 billion, and this makes CAC Bank the highest in foreign currency assets growth among

الأول في نسبة نمو إجمالي الأصول

حقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول في نمو إجمالي الأصول بالعملة المحلية متصدراً قائمة البنوك في اليمن حيث بلغت ١٤٤,٥ مليار بزيادة مقدارها ٢٥ مليار في العام ٢٠٠٩ وبمعدل نمو 21% وحقق (CAC BANK) نمو 21% في إجمالي الأصول بالعملة الأجنبية بزيادة مقدارها ١٧,٧ مليار ريال وبذلك يحقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول بين البنوك التجارية من حيث أكبر زيادة في إجمالي الأصول بالعملة الأجنبية.

What you need to know about ecological footprints

The ecological footprint is a scientific term created to measure how much people affect nature. It can be measured for individual people, businesses or even countries, to see how much we all demand from nature and what impact our lifestyles have on Earth.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf
The Global Footprint Network and the Center for Sustainable Economy

For years, India and Afghanistan fought over an Island called “Newmoon”. Each country claimed authority over it and spent considerable money and resources arguing about it. In the 2005 Tsunami, the whole island was forced underwater and, overnight, there was no island any more.

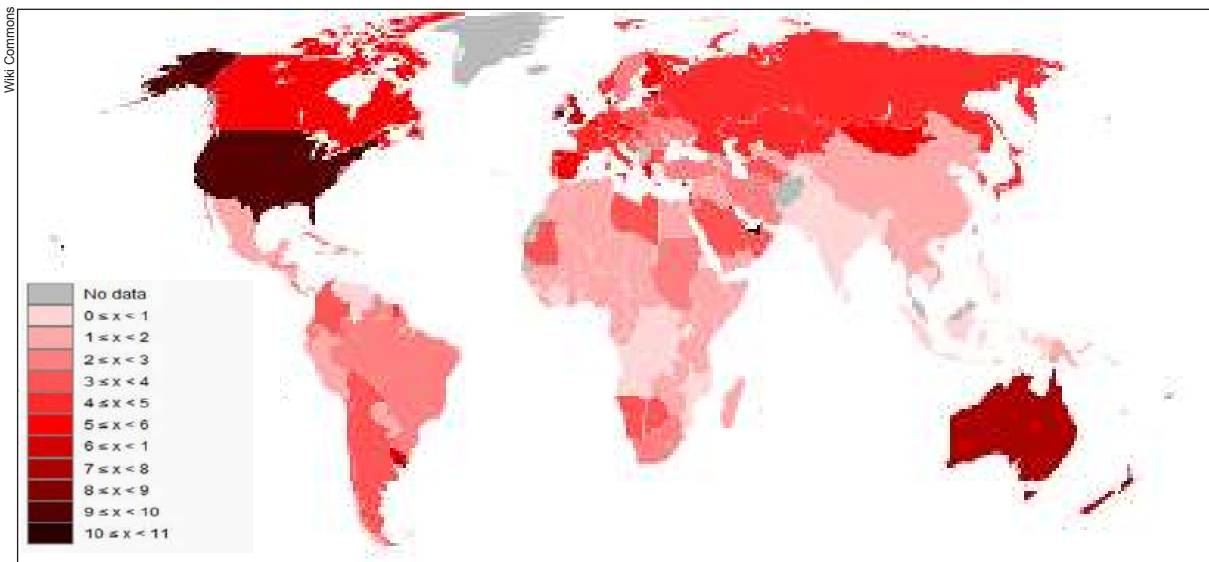
The two countries did not know that this would happen, because they could not predict the Tsunami or its consequences. So, when the island sunk into the India Ocean, all those resources spent in their political fighting became useless.

The lesson learnt is twofold. The first is not to waste so much money on a sinking ship and the other is to always check the weather forecast.

Although, as people, we are continuously using nature to serve our own purposes, it was only recently that the impact of mankind on nature has come to the fore. Perhaps because nature has started rebelling against us, bringing increasing Tsunamis, hurricanes and many kinds of environmental hazards, all directly caused by climate change.

Environmental scientists have created methods through which they can measure the relationship between man and nature, and use this measurement to recommend more environmentally friendly policies.

The ecological footprint, conceived in 1990 by Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees at the University of British Columbia, is one of those methods of



Ecological footprint per capita. The total world ecological footprint is 2.6 hectares per capita. The ecological reserve, or the amount of land available for production, is 1.8 hectares per person.

measurement and although many developing countries have not yet adopted it in their policies, soon they will have to.

The World Bank and the United Nations agencies have agreed on a process to make a calculation of the ecological footprint of developing countries a precondition for receiving aid.

However, the problem is not really with the developing world, as compared to the developed or industrial world which is responsible for over 70 percent of global carbon emissions. This is one of the reasons industrial countries are buying shares for carbon emissions from developing countries, such as Yemen, to compensate for their extensive emissions as per the Kyoto Protocol.

The ecological footprint compares human demand with planet Earth’s ecological capacity to regenerate. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and sea areas needed to regenerate the resources a human population consumes, and to absorb and render harmless the corresponding waste. Using this assessment, it is possible to estimate how much of the Earth (or how

many planet Earths) it would take to support humanity if everybody lived a given lifestyle.

Per capita ecological footprint (EF) is a means of comparing consumption and lifestyles, and checking this against nature’s ability to provide for this consumption. This tool can inform policy by examining to what extent a nation uses more (or less) than is available within its territory, or to what extent the nation’s lifestyle could be replicated worldwide.

The footprint can also be a useful tool to educate people about carrying capacity and over-consumption, with the aim of altering personal behavior. Ecological footprints may be used to argue that many current lifestyles are just not sustainable. Such a global comparison also clearly shows the inequalities of resource use on this planet at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

The situation today

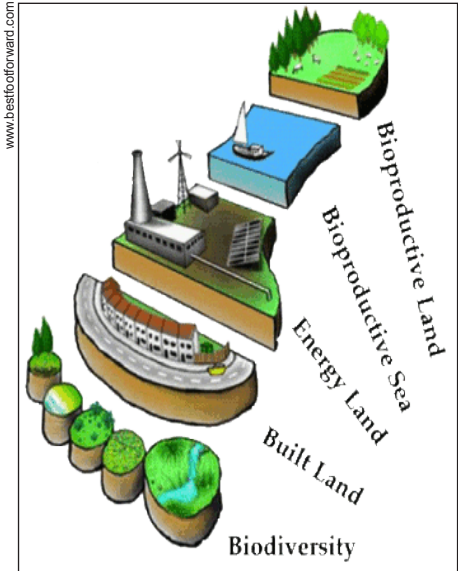
There are only 15.71 global hectares available per person on a renewable basis. This means we are overshooting the Earth’s biological capacity by nearly 50%. To sustain present levels of consumption, we would need one and half Earths. In other words, it now takes the Earth one year and six months to regenerate what we use in a single year.

The total world ecological footprint is 2.6 global hectares per capita. The ecological reserve, or bio-capacity, that is the amount

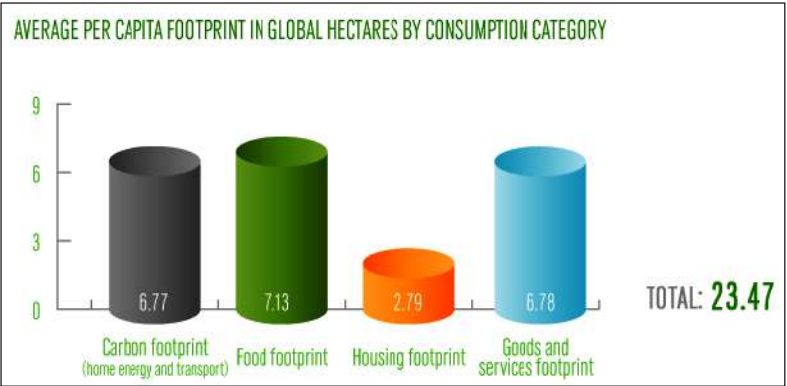
of land available for production, is 1.8 global hectares per person, a deficit of 0.8 global hectares per capita.

Yemen’s ecological footprint (hectares per capita) in 2009 did not exceed 0.9 points compared to the average of 1.0 points for low income countries such as Yemen. The average for middle income countries is 1.8 points compared to 6.1 for high income countries.

In 2001 Yemen’s ecological footprint was only 0.7. This means not much has changed industrially or pollution-wise for the last ten years.



The ecological footprint uses units of bio-productive area (global hectares) to assess the nature and scale of the environmental impact of a country, region, community, organization, product or service on the environment.



Reduce your footprint

There are many simple ways to reduce the footprint you leave on the planet. Learn how to reduce your footprint in each consumption category-carbon, food, housing, and goods and services-but don’t stop there. Amplify your impact by encouraging others to follow your lead. Engage your friends and community with local and global movements for social change, or start your own movement!

Reduce your carbon footprint: use cleaner transport

- Walk, bike, or take public transit whenever possible.
- Avoid allowing your car to idle. If you’ll be waiting for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine (except in traffic). And don’t take the drive-through-park the car and walk inside instead.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly to keep the emission control systems operating at peak efficiency. Check your car’s air filter monthly, and keep the tires adequately inflated to maximize gas mileage.
- Avoid short airplane trips-take a bus or train instead.

Add energy-saving features to your home

- Install compact fluorescent bulbs in all your home light fixtures-but remember, compact fluorescents contain mercury, so look for low-mer-

cury models and be sure to dispose of old bulbs safely through your local hazardous waste program.

- Weatherproof your home. Make sure your walls and ceilings are insulated, and consider double-pane windows. Eliminate drafts with caulking, weather strips, and storm windows and doors.
- Insulate your water heater. Even better, switch to a tankless water heater, so your water will be heated only as you use it.
- Choose energy efficient appliances.

Adopt energy-saving habits

- Keep thermostat relatively low in winter and ease up on the air conditioning in summer. Clean or replace dirty air conditioner filters as recommended to keep the A/C operating at peak efficiency.
- Unplug your electronics when not in use. To make it easier, use a power strip. Even when turned off, items like your television, computer, and cellphone charger still sip power.
- Dry your clothes outside whenever possible.
- Make minimal use of power equipment when landscaping.
- Defrost your refrigerator and freezer regularly.
- Choose green electricity. Many utilities give you the option to purchase electricity generated by wind

and solar power for a small rate surcharge.

- Purchase carbon offsets to make up for the energy use you can’t eliminate.

Reduce your food footprint

- Eat more local, organic, in-season foods.
- Plant a garden-it doesn’t get more local than that.
- Shop at your local farmer’s market or natural foods store. Look for local, in-season foods that haven’t traveled long distances to reach you.
- Choose foods with less packaging to reduce waste.
- Eat lower on the food chain-going meatless for just one meal a week can make a difference. Globally, it has been estimated that 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions are associated with meat consumption.

Reduce your housing footprint

Choose sustainable building materials, furnishings, and cleaning products.

- Explore green design features for your building, like passive solar heating, a rainwater catchment or grey water recycling system, and recycled materials.
- Choose efficient appliances, including low flow shower heads, faucets, and toilets.
- Choose furnishings that are second-hand, recycled, or sustainably produced.
- Plant drought tolerant plants in your garden and yard.
- Use biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning products.

Adopt water-saving habits

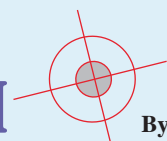
- Take shorter, less frequent showers-this not only saves water, but the energy necessary to heat it.
- Don’t use the garbage disposal. Compost instead.
- Run the dishwasher and the laundry machine only when full.
- Wash cars rarely, or better yet, take them to a carwash. Commercial carwashes use less water per wash than home washers, and they are also required to drain used water into the sewage system, rather than storm drains, which protects aquatic life.
- Avoid hosing down or power-washing your deck, walkways, or driveway.
- Regularly look for and fix leaks.

Reduce your goods and services footprint

- Buy less! Replace items only when you really need to.
- Recycle all your paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic. Don’t forget electronics!
- Compost food waste for the garden. Garbage that is not contaminated with degradable (biological) waste can be more easily recycled and sorted, and doesn’t produce methane gases (a significant greenhouse gas contributor) when stored in a landfill.
- Buy recycled products, particularly those labeled “post-consumer waste.”

Source: Ecological Footprint, Center for Sustainable Economy

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.

Know about measles

Muna became anxious when her two year old son Mohammed developed fever. He was restless and cranky for the past two or three days. He refused milk. His eyes were red and watery. He had a runny nose, cold, cough and mild fever. She noticed red spots behind Mohammed’s ears this morning. She decided to take Mohammed to a pediatrician after her husband returned from work. But, before evening, Mohammed developed rashes all over his body. The fever also shot up and he began vomiting.

The doctor examined Mohammed and said, he has measles.

What is measles?

Measles is caused by a virus (Rubella) that is spread by droplets, during sneezing or coughing. The virus is passed on through direct contact with someone who’s infected, for example by touching or kissing, or through breathing in contaminated air. Epidemics often occur among schoolchildren, who have not been vaccinated. Measles is one of the leading causes of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.

Babies under one year, people whose immune system is suppressed, for example by cancer or HIV, the malnourished, children with vitamin A deficiency and pregnant women (the infection may cause miscarriage or premature delivery) are especially at risk of getting measles. Although people at any age can get measles, it’s most common among those aged between one and four.



What are the symptoms?

Symptoms take about ten to 14 days to develop after exposure to the virus (the incubation period). Early symptoms are a cold with runny nose, cough, redness of eyes and fever.

A couple of days later, tiny white spots surrounded by red (Koplik spots) may develop on the inside lining of the cheeks, so they are difficult to see.

The ‘measles rash’ appears a day or two later, starting behind the ears or on the face and spreading down across the body. It’s a fine red rash which becomes blotchy and merges together. It fades after three to four days and may peel off after a week or so.

Some children develop nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Symptoms usually last about 14 days in all. It’s recommended that children stay away from school for five days after the start of the rash.

The infection isn’t usually serious but there are potential complications that can be fatal, even in otherwise healthy children. These include middle ear infection, pneumonia, hepatitis, conjunctivitis and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Children who develop encephalitis may be left with brain damage or die. Fortunately, it’s very rare, occurring in less than one in 100,000 cases.

How contagious is measles?

Measles is highly contagious — 90% of people who haven’t been vaccinated for measles will get it if they live in the same household as an infected person. Measles is spread when someone comes in direct contact with infected droplets or when someone with measles sneezes or coughs and spreads virus droplets through the air. A person with measles is contagious from 1 to 2 days before symptoms start until about 4 days after the rash appears.

Prevention

Infants are generally protected from measles for 6 months after birth due to immunity passed on from their mothers.

The best way of protecting children from measles is to have them vaccinated.

The measles vaccine is given as a part of the Measles-Mumps-Rubella immunizations (MMR) at 12 to 15 months of age and again at 4 to 6 years of age. (In some hospitals in Yemen MMR is given at 9 months and again at 18 months).

Measles vaccine is not usually given to infants younger than 12 months. But if there’s a measles outbreak, the vaccine may be given when a child is 6-11 months old, followed by the usual MMR immunization at 12-15 months and 4-6 years.

As with all immunization schedules, there are important exceptions and special circumstances. Measles vaccine should not be given to pregnant women or to kids with untreated tuberculosis, leukemia or other cancers, or people whose immune systems are suppressed for any reason. Those can be given an injection of measles antibodies called immune globulin, during a measles outbreak.

Some children may possibly be at risk from vaccination - for example, a child who’s had febrile fits or existing nervous system problems. Such children should never be given the vaccination.

Measles vaccine occasionally causes side effects in children who don’t have underlying health problems. The most common reactions are fever and a measles-like rash, 6-8 days after vaccination.

Treatment

See your doctor to confirm the diagnosis. As measles is caused by a virus, there is no specific treatment. Symptomatic treatment (Paracetamol and phen-ergan syrups) and vitamins can help. The child should be encouraged to drink plenty of fluids. Remember, you should never give aspirin to a child who has fever.

Hospital treatment, with antiviral drugs, may be needed in more serious cases. Vitamin A supplementation has been found to decrease complications and death associated with measles infections. Also, children older than 6 months with risk factors, such as vitamin A deficiency, weakened immune system, or malnutrition may benefit from vitamin A supplementation.

Although rare, complications can be very dangerous. Encephalitis, for example, typically develops after about eight days, with headaches, lethargy and irritability, progressing to convulsions, coma and death in 15 per cent and long-term health problems in nearly half of survivors. If your child shows any worrying symptoms during measles, seek urgent medical advice.

The child is infectious from one day before the onset of symptoms until about four days after the start of the rash, so let friends, family and other potential contacts know.

Remember that measles, a once common childhood disease, is preventable through routine childhood immunization.

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3. A minimum of 80% on secondary school certificate (science section).
4. Have a TOEFL score of at least 500 or IELTS score of 5.0.
5. To be between (18-22) years old.
6. To meet the university admission requirements.
7. Pass the medical examination.
8. Must commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program.
9. Filling the application form for scholarship.

Application process :

Applications can be downloaded from www.yicom.net . The application along with the required documents listed above should be submitted no later than 27th June 2010 to either of the following:

**Yemen Investment Company in Oil & Minerals (YICOM),
P.O.Box: (11993).**

- Fax: (+967 1 203923)

- Email: yicom@yicom.net.

A country's heritage at stake

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

It is perhaps one of the most prominent museums on Yemeni heritage. The House of Folklore, established by writer and cultural activist, Arwa Abdu Othman, is now facing ruin. It has been closed down because its building is falling apart.

"Rain water kept leaking through the ceiling and we feared for the various exhibits. Some of the items are vulnerable and could well be destroyed. We even thought the roof may fall on our heads and this is why we have packed everything up and closed the museum," said Othman.

This is a private museum, opened in 2004, established from her love for Yemeni folklore. Othman wants to document Yemeni heritage, with its variety and inclusiveness, because as she says, "Heritage belongs to us all as well as for future generations and

it is our responsibility to document and preserve it."

It was created as a cultural, research, non-profit and non-governmental organization that works collecting and documenting Yemeni Folklore and the heritage of Yemen. The House of Folklore conducts analyses and research on Yemeni Folklore.

So far the House of Folklore has published five books. These are, The Ruler's Image in the Folklore, Aden Folklore Album, Aden Folklore Papers, Al-Mashaqir (hair decorating flowers) and Al-Madraha (swings).

It used to produce a monthly magazine called Dhakira (Diary or memory journal) to document and discuss cultural and heritage issues in Yemen.

"There are so many projects which have either been accomplished or are still in the planning phase. We cannot complete them now because the



Before



After



The House of Folklore was one of the richest and most versatile museums in Sana'a. Now all the items are packed away, awaiting to be displayed in a more suitable location.



Arwa Othman established the House of Folklore in 2004. Now all she wants is a safe place to keep the valuable heritage until the new place is ready for them.



The main problem is the leakage from rain water which threatens the items on exhibit in the museum. The house Arwa could afford to rent for the museum was built in old mud fashion that does not resist bad weather.

House of Folklore is not secure. We have tried to make this into an institution but we need support. After all, what we are doing is for all of Yemen," said Othman.

Like the incomplete projects, the items in the various sections of the house are also on hold. Even before the museum closed down, often the items on display would be stacked on top of each other due to the space constraints in the current premises.

The House of Folklore is not the only cultural center in Yemen that needs support. Even the state museums are in bad shape. The State Folklore Museum was closed down seven years ago for "restoration purposes" and is still closed to date. The items on display have been looted, ruined or packed in the museum's basement.

The National Museum is not in any better state, and the museums in other governorates, such as Shabwa, Marib, Sa'ada and Aden, are suffering too.

Moral support

Last year, Othman held an event at The House of Folklore where she invited many officials, diplomats, journalists and activists. She told them about the museum's situation and how it needed urgent intervention. They all supported the call, attended the event and gave speeches but since then, no practical steps have



Abdulrahman Al-Akwa, State Minister secretary general of the capital has started the process to buy a new home for the museum.

actually taken place.

The Capital Secretariat is perhaps the only party that actually responded and is showing signs to live up to their promise of support. Abdulrahman Al-Akwa, state minister and General Secretary of the Capital, visited The House of Folklore and promised that the government would find a new location for the museum.

"We have identified a new location in the old city of Sana'a, and Arwa Othman has agreed that it is suitable. Now we will buy that building and organize for the museum to be transferred there. We are working to achieve this and we hope that the problem will be sorted out soon," said Al-Akwa to the Yemen Times.

This is the third time the capital secretariat has called Othman to look at potential new premises for the museum but this time she is optimistic and feels that things will really happen, or "in sha allah" as she puts it.

"I am optimistic, because otherwise my life's work and our country's heritage are at stake and we cannot afford to lose hope or stop making an effort," she said.

Now the contents of the museum are packed in boxes and packages, waiting to be moved and shared once more with the public. However, there is a danger that if the transition phase takes too long, many of the items could be ruined.

"What I need now is a safe place to store these valuable items. This needs to be a place where they would be kept in good conditions and not be subjected to damage or looting," she said.

4U

If you have an idea to support this museum or want more information, go to yemenifolklore.org Or contact Arwa Othman at: arwaothman@yahoo.com

'A man should carry his flaws'

By: Reem Jarhum
For the Yemen Times

"I was going out to see my friends, until I decided to shave my beard, when by mistake I shaved part of my mustache off, which caused me to shave it all. That's when I realized that my flight to Yemen was the next day and that I didn't know what to do. How could I go back to Yemen without a mustache?"

A Yemeni student who studies abroad told this story to the Yemen Times. He requested to remain anonymous, because he said that he doesn't want everyone to know that he doesn't have a mustache.

An average Yemeni in Sana'a has his own standards defining manhood. Sometimes practices that could be seen very normal in other places are seen as a scandal or a dishonor to manhood. Someone who does them is usually judged, people would comment sarcastically, and sometimes they might be harassed.

There is a Yemeni saying that goes, "A man should carry his flaws," which means that a man should not care about his appearance. Here are some examples of what a man should not be seen to do.

Yemeni men would rather have dehydrated skin and lips, than be seen applying any moisturizing cream or lip balm because they think it is more of a women's thing. Manicures and facials are only acceptable if they are just a basic facial for grooms.

People would talk to the man as if he were a girl and would say: "You want to have good skin for your husband..."

Yemeni men's hair styles haven't changed for centuries. Almost all men in Yemen have average hair styles, which make them judge anyone who gets creative with his hair, which ranges from applying gel and new haircuts to hair coloring and straightening.

A clean shaved mustache is a



must. If a Yemeni man shaves his mustache off, other men will judge him as being less of a man. Most Yemeni men living abroad will always grow their mustache before coming back to Yemen.

Yemeni men think that getting braces are to make teeth look more appealing, which is why they would never wear any, even if they really need it medically.

If someone speaks English with his friends, they always think he is showing off especially if he is speaking in front of girls.

"My friends judged me as arrogant when I sometimes speak in English when I'm talking to them," Mohammed Abdurabu told the Yemen Times.

All over the world in summer, men wear shorts,

three-quarter trousers, and sleeveless t-shirts. But in Yemen, men wear their coats all year. Usually, guys who dress in shorts are the joke of those in coats.

Ibrahim Al-Taifi told the Yemen Times that when he left Yemen he was very happy.

"Finally I can wear three-quarters," he said.

There also are colors like pink and red that Yemeni men believe it's not acceptable for a man to wear. Neither is anything with studs on it!

"I know a guy at who spoiled tomatoes were thrown because he was wearing pink," says Ridha Al-Basri.

Everywhere in the world, a Bluetooth headset is used by people to make their phone calls easier, but people who wear head sets in Yemen are judged as being arrogant or show offs.

Sun protection to Yemeni men is like beauty care, and they think of it is 'girlie.'

If a man were to walk with an umbrella on a sunny day, most people would find it funny and would say things like, "Look at this person! It's

as if the sun were going to kill him..."

The same goes for wearing hats, and applying sun screen.

Everywhere in the world, seatbelts are fastened for safety reasons. Somehow, in Sana'a, people relate seatbelts to planes. When fastening your seatbelt, you might hear the comment, "You want to fly?"

Seeing someone in a sport outfit and a helmet is always hilarious to people in Sana'a. For example, imagine an athlete in a cycling outfit peddling around Sana'a streets. People might think it's a hidden camera to see their reactions, because they think it is so unusual!

Meanwhile driving a bike in Yemeni traditional dress is not funny at all.

When they see someone jogging, to them it is as shocking as if they saw an alien. People will say things like, "What are you doing to yourself?"

And forget about putting wrappers and water bottles in the bin! One girl told the Yemen Times in a previous report that men say: If you throw away your rubbish, you are not a man!

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Interactive whiteboard

German horns talk to a Yemeni rhythm

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

For over two hours on a fine Thursday evening, more than 200 people were entertained by an infusion of western and eastern music.

The German House and the Yemeni House of Music organized musical events in Aden and Sana'a last week. In cooperation with the Goethe Institute, they invited the international brass band "Talking Horns" to perform in Yemen.

"It was very surprising for us because we could not imagine what Yemen is actually," explained Achim Fink, leader of the group.

Talking Horns was playing in Cairo in April when they met someone from the Goethe Institute and talked about the possibility of playing in Africa and other countries.

"Finally we talked about Yemen, and we had no idea whether it is green, is it desert... and I said one day we have to go there. Then I came back and a few days later there was an email from Guido Zebisch asking us: Would you mind to play in Yemen and work with Yemeni musicians?" said Fink.

Obviously he said yes, and the four-man brass band landed on a Yemeni



stage playing beside Yemeni musicians from the Yemeni House of Music.

"It is very interesting for us to perform with western groups and we are delighted that the people liked it," said Konal, one of the Yemeni musicians,

who followed the newly created tunes on his guitar.

The music was created by brass instruments including the sousaphone, the trombone, the bass trumpet as well as the piano, the drums, the guitar and

the 'oud, of course with the vocals of the famous Yemeni singer Shurooq, who delighted the audience with her beautiful singing.

The Talking Horns unfold their musical microcosm without the use of any special effects: no rhythm backup, no electronics, and no amplifiers.

The musicians bring to the stage an exceptional virtuosity and a total love of performing live music which inspires them to wrest from their instruments every remotely possible variety of sound.

They have toured many countries in the world and Yemen, despite its security issues, was no exception.

"You know in public, Yemen appears mostly with kidnapping and conflicts. I don't understand what happens really. It seems to be games between politi-

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cians, businesses, oil and water and influence. But when Guido Zebisch wrote that letter to invite us, I thought this guy is living there so he would not invite us if there was any danger. So we came here," explained Fink.

What they found when they came to Yemen were very nice and peaceful people and that they were not concerned or felt danger in any way.

"I can walk home in the middle of the night, and the risks are any risks you find in any big city," he added.

Guido Zebisch, the director of the German House in Sana'a, said that the cultural center holds several cultural events each year in cooperation with Yemeni cultural associations.

As these events are especially to introduce German culture in an appealing way to Yemenis, many of them focus on merging it with Yemeni or Arab culture.

"We hear music from all over the

world and we heard Egyptian music and Yemeni music and knew that the musicians in Yemen think in very different terms. For example we in Europe beat the bass and here in Yemen they play rhythms differently. It was very interesting for us, and we had the big luck to meet these good musicians and we get closer to Yemeni music and they to ours," said Fink.

The Yemeni and German musicians rehearsed for a few hours in the short time they had before playing in public. They worked together in order to synchronize their tunes and bring closer the two different musical cultures.

The result was amazing. At the end of the program the audience clapped for an encore and urged the musicians to play again and again. The musicians came up with a very creative improvised piece using not musical instruments, but objects like a balloon and a comb!

A thousand students graduate in the light and in the dark



In the dark



In the light

By: Malak Shafer

Nada Al-Sho'aiby, 18, was one of a thousand students celebrating their graduation on Saturday morning in a

large sports stadium in Sana'a.

She was very happy to be wearing a graduation gown after only two years of studying English at a language and computer institute and a whole three years before her graduation from university.

Adorned with the traditional garlands of Arabian jasmine, she and her fellow graduates walked around the large sports hall.

The beats of "Bailamos" by Enrique Inglesias vibrated through the hall so that everybody felt excited. Among the large number of graduates, Nada was a small dot seen from above.

The graduates walked with their heads held high to their chairs in front of the stage. The Yemeni national anthem was played and everybody stood up out of respect.

Then all of a sudden, the electricity went off. With light only on stage around the presenter welcoming the guests, the place looked like the Oscars.

In the dark, camera flashes sparked. Whistles and shouts of joy filled the air with enthusiasm and cheered on the graduates.

Thousands of spectators sat above the graduates on the bleachers around the stadium. Girls with their colorful scarves appeared like colorful dots on a black background of baltos.

In spite of the electricity being off, the ceremony continued smoothly with the help of a generator.

Some of the male graduates danced on stage to traditional melodies, with dancers in white brought in for the occasion. One member of the audience gaped at them with his eyes wide open.

Hundreds of graduates grew restless from sitting. Some stood with their friends and smiled at cameras. As their relatives saw them get up, they hurried down to give them more garlands of jasmine.

The more they wore, the more the air was filled with its wonderful smell.

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