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Rock fall threatens residents in outskirt Sana'a

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, July 4 — Every morning Mohsen Hussein, 22, looks up at the mountain hovering over his village and swallows in fear. As he attends to his plum, almond and pear trees in Sana village in the capital city of Sana'a, he wonders if this will be the day when his farm or even his village will be crushed by an avalanche or rocks caused by collapse of a huge rock literally hanging by

A large outcropping of rock in Sana village just half an hour from the capital's city center, has been threatening people for more than one year without being dealt with by the government, according to residents of the village.

"The cliff is about to collapse and fall onto the village, and if this happens our people will die under the debris and our

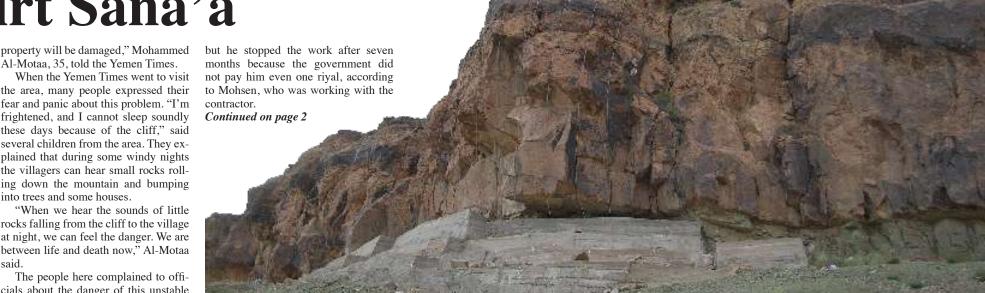
Al-Motaa, 35, told the Yemen Times.

When the Yemen Times went to visit the area, many people expressed their fear and panic about this problem. "I'm frightened, and I cannot sleep soundly these days because of the cliff," said several children from the area. They explained that during some windy nights the villagers can hear small rocks rolling down the mountain and bumping into trees and some houses.

"When we hear the sounds of little rocks falling from the cliff to the village at night, we can feel the danger. We are between life and death now," Al-Motaa

The people here complained to officials about the danger of this unstable cliff many times. As a consequence, the local authority brought a contractor to eliminate the outcropping one year ago,

A large outcropping of rock in Sana village just half an hour from the capital's city center, has been threatening a village of around 1,000 inhabitants.





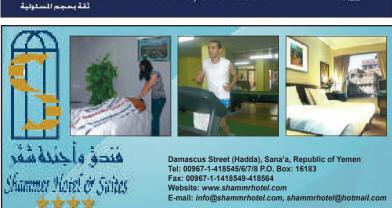


















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Unrest in southern governorates

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

ADEN, July 4 - Last week security forces released 23 of the 24 men who were arrested in Aden after being suspected of executing the attack against the political security building two weeks ago. The suspect who was not released is Ahmad Al-Darweesh, who died of his injuries the following day to his arrest. A funeral tent was erected by Al-Darweesh's family to allow people to console them.

The young man will be buried next Wednesday. Since the attack, according to locals at least 1,500 people have been arrested from the districts of Al-Tawahi, Krater, Al-Qalo'a, Al-Sa'ada and the Al-Salam neighborhood in Kor Maksar. "Before the attack against the political security building, the government used to say that people in Aden lived in a peaceful atmosphere.

Now after 20 people were killed or injured, we are living under constant fear," an Al-Sa'ada neighborhood local said. Other southern governorates are also witnessing a similar turbulent environment. According to a non-official source, at least 20 people have been killed and 40 others injured in Al-Dhale' governorate during last month. Moreover, 75 houses were damaged by the security forces during raids searching for Southern Movement members. Representative of the Socialist Party in the parliament, Mohammad Ghaleb Ahmad, told the Sohail satellite channel that some people in the security forces want to sell weapons in Al-Dhale' governorate after creating panic in the area. "They spread militias everywhere in the governorate and even in the local council building," he said. Ghaleb accused people working for the army of attacking the security forces. He said they do that because the government cannot live without creating problems

"If they are not working for the security forces, why does the government not arrest them?" he claimed. He challenged the government to prove that the 18,000 retired soldiers, who were protesting against state compensation policy towards military retirees, ever used violence in their protests over the last two years. Similarly, last Friday, in Radfan, Lahj governorate, two women were injured after the army randomly bombarded Al-Habilain and other ad-

The shelling caused 20 goats to go astray and created panic among children and women in the adjacent villages. The military bombarded Al-Habilain last Thursday and Friday.

Eyewitnesses said that the military

responded after it was attacked by unknown gunmen last Thursday. In Abvan governorate, a security source said that the security forces arrested four suspects in Thursday's assassination of Saleh Amtheeb, a political security of-

According to the Ministry of Defense's website, two of the suspects were said to belong to Yemen's wing of Al-Qaeda. The other two were arrested according to evidence, including one being in possession of the weapon used in the assassination

Security forces said that the man who last month killed Colonel Abed Al-Matari submitted himself to the police station at Ba Tais district in Abyan governorate. The man is a former soldier from the October 7 squad from Al-Hisn

Al-Ayam newspaper

The editor-in-chief, Hisham Ba Shorahil, of the confiscated newspaper Al-Ayam is in bed due to chronic diseases such as diabetes, swelling of the feet and blood pressure.

Ba Shurahhil cannot walk and has trouble breathing. Despite his bad health, the government is preventing him from traveling abroad. The Immigration and Passport Authority have refused to grant him a passport.

Yemeni NGOs lack honest performance

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, July, 3—30 Yemeni organizations met in Sana'a last Wednesday to discuss challenges that face development in Yemen. This gathering came after a series of meetings to influence the governmental agenda for develop-

Yemeni NGOs need voices, but first they should have a clear-cut idea of what they want to do, according to Joy Jakosalem-Balane, the program manager for strengthening the capacities of Yemeni NGOs in development cooperation in Islamic Relief that organized this meeting with Yemeni Humanitarian Forum.

She indicated that Yemeni NGOs need more development in their financial organization, planning, and the successful day-to-day operation of their organizations.

"Organizations should tell people how and where they spend money and they should make good, honest reports about their performance. International agencies will support only the effective organizations," she said.

About 7,000 Yemeni organizations and associations with issues such as those surrounding women, children, the environment, human rights and culture, surrounding children, women, the enbut more than half of them don't work vironment, and society in Yemen. The eration due to lack of confidence." He

have offices or specific workplaces, according to Ali Saleh Abdullah, the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs Ministry.

He confessed that the Ministry of Social Affairs cannot follow all these organization due to weak resources and lack of employees.

To regulate the work of these organizations, the government introduced an amendment to the laws regulating Yemeni NGOs last year.

Several human rights activists objected to this amendment. Until now, the organizations and the government have been at odds over these amend-

The proposed amendment focused on declaration, funding, and dissolution and elimination procedures.

"We resort to this Amendment of the current NGO laws to regulate the organizations' activities and to protect the rights of the organizations' members," Abdullah said.

according to Abdullah, there are organizations which fabricate unnecessary disputes, especially human rights organizations. "Unfortunately, these organizations are highly partisan," he

There are no disputes among organizations which work with problems effectively. Some of them do not even disputes and problems come only from said.

human rights organizations, according to Abdullah

Abdullah criticized some organizations that see fit to ignore some articles in the laws regulating NGOs and follow other articles that serve their interests.

"There are organizations that have no offices. They have only briefcases, and their activities are to go to embassies and international organizations demanding support," he said.

He confirmed that some active and effective organizations or associations don't receive any support, although they deserve great support, while some organizations, he said, use their connections and relations to take support from international organizations and

The organizations' activities are voluntary and should be independent of bias. The organizations that mix private work with partisan stances break the law, according to Abdullah.

"Human rights organizations engage in activities that are irrelevant to what NGOs should be doing," he said.

Khaled Al-Mowalad, activist, stressed the importance of bringing together organizations regularly to work and cooperate with each other instead of working apart. "Yemeni organiza-

Against strong resistance, government imposes sales tax

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, July 4 — The government intends to implement a sales tax this month after a delay of almost six years because of resistance from traders.

The tax authority will put a five percent tax on the total price of any product whether produced locally or imported from outside the country. The tax will be taken from the sales bill every month from any merchant whose sales reach YR 50 million a year.

Head of the Tax Authority, Ahmad Ghaleb, told the Yemen Times the authority started implementation of the tax last Thursday after agreement with concerned bodies who showed their cooperation and understanding.

Ghaleb stressed that the sales tax law is one of the most significant laws existing in the world and is implemented in more than 157 countries. "It is a just, transparent and easy law."

He made it clear that the tax will be taken from the consumer and that the merchant is only a mediator between the tax authority and the consumer. The five percent sales tax included in the Yemeni law is one of the lowest rates internationally.

Meanwhile the private sector, big traders and importers, supported by the Federation of Yemeni Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FYCCI) are strongly resisting the new tax in-

Head of the Trade Committee in FYCCI. Sheikh Salem Al-Ramah, said the union is refusing the new increase because the law is still in the constitutional court which is yet to issue a verdict on it. "All merchants reject the new tax that the government is threatening to implement."

"We are not against the new tax increase but we refuse the [government's] way of implementing it," said Abdullah Al-Aqel, Deputy Chairman of Al-Aghil Group of Companies.

He explained that the way of implementing the law will annoy the merchants and lead to blackmailing of merchants by tax agents who will carry it out. "We used to provide the tax authority a report of our trade activities every year, but the new law imposes on us to provide this report every month which will confuse our work," he said.

He further said that the merchants are ready to pay a ten percent tax on sales instead of five percent, provided that they pay it at border outlets because this is easier for the merchants.

While Ghaleb says the new law will replace other laws like the 25 percent production tax, Al-Aghil affirms the past taxes will remain. He said the reduction of the profits tax is only from 35 percent to 20 percent as an encouragement to investment.

"The law requires transparent mech-

anisms, accurate accounting and issuing of bills which makes the private sector fear the implementing of this law," said Mustafa Nasr, Head of the Economic and Media Center.

Nasr also claims that citizens have already paid the sales tax more than once via the increasing price of commodities and services. While at the same time the state budget losses are estimated to be in the millions of dollars because of illegal agreements between corrupt government officials and the private sector.

"Although the five percent is less compared to other countries, it reflects the size of economic chaos in this country if the new tax has not been used to activate the country's economy," said

He further said many commodities enter the country with prices 90 percent lower than their real price. "They are not only playing with the prices of imported commodities but also with their quantities. Many traders import great quantities, sometimes exceeding ten times that which is counted by cus-

According to the Ministry of Defense's website, Yemen's tax revenues for 2009 reached YR 338 billion (nearly USD 1.5 billion). It is estimated that 80 percent of what should be collected in tax in Yemen never makes it to the government's tax revenues.

Qat prices double during the world cup

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 4 - Ali Garada, a qat addict, said that gat prices doubled during the world cup matches.

He added that people like to chew gat during the world cup and that it is not restricted only to qat addicts, but also extends to young people between 10-15 years old.

Bakil Al-Maswari, qat seller, said that qat prices during the summer are not high because there is plenty of rain. However, the prices doubled because people like to chew qat while

watching matches.

He said he is now selling three times as much as before the world cup started. He sells Hamadiani gat. Before he used to sell about 50 gat bags and now he sells 150

Mote' Zaied said that the public obsession with the world cup contributed has to a doubling of demand for qat and that prices have suddenly increased all over Yemen since the cup started.

central qat market in Hadda street, said that Yemenis of all ages are recently buying gat like never before.

Shawki Al-Tali said that he does not chew gat, but he goes to the gat market or to one of the Al-Makeels - a room where people sit to chew qat or to take a nap - just to watch the world cup matches as they are shown at the same time people like to chew gat.

Qat is the leaves of the flowering tree Catha edulis, native to tropical East Africa and the Arabian Peninsular. Yemenis like to chew it. It makes them feel relaxed. The active chemicals in gat are can induce a feeling of mild euphoria and excitement. Often people become quite talkative whilst chewing qat followed by a drowsy feeling when <coming down> from the drug. (I have added the red sections above to provide more information)

related to amphetamine and chewing it

Hasan Rizq, 15, said that he does not chew gat and that he goes to the gat market just to meet his friends at one of the Al-Makeels. Al-Harazi, who runs an Al-Makeel, says it is full of people of all ages. They come to chew qat and watch the football.



Mote', who has Yemeni men watching world cup match with great anticipation. These days qat dealers are selling a shop near the three times as much as before the world cup started.

Continued from page 1

Rock fall threatens residents in outskirt Sana'a

Head of the district's local council sheikh Ahmed Al-Bahri said that the local council succeeded in getting experts from geological survey authority who reported back to Sana'a governor-

"The experts decided that the best

way to deal with the rock is to remove it in intervals without using explosives but this would cost around YR 40 million. But due to the budget constraints the task was not completed," said Al-Bahri.

The state also started building a fence to protect the village from the falling rocks, but even this fence was not completed because of money problems.

The project has been inactive until now, even though the people there are still crying out for help. The contractor managed to tie the protruding rocks by ropes in order to delay the inevitable avalanche, but neither he nor the villagers know how much longer the ropes can keep the rocks from sliding. At present, there is a conflict be-

tween the different authorities, according to Al-Bahri. This year, the rock surface has be-

come increasingly cracked due to the

heavy rains. Officials promised people to resume working after the rainy season, but until now nothing has been done, according to Al-

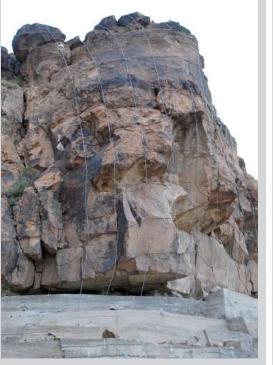
"We expect that the cliff will collapse soon, especially if the rains come again," he said.

Around 1000 people, most of them poor, live in this village and are calling for the problem to be addressed promptly. According to Al-Bahri, the only school in the village and 20 homes will be destroyed and the valance could very much reach the next village just underneath Sana

Hoping that the government will hear their concerns. Al-Motaa

said, "We don't want to see another disaster like Al-Dhafeer village disaster. We want a quick solution that will protect our lives."

More than five years ago, a similar



disaster happened in Al-Dhafeer village when a rock avalanche fell down over the homes killing more than 65 people and causing a whole district to be displaced.

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- Knowledge or previous experience in Accountancy is an asset (working experience and/or familiar with Financial tools)
- Good knowledge of computers and programs use: Word, Excel, Database
- Experience in teams management
- Excellent spoken and written English (native Yemeni)
- Flexible and committed
- Able to work independently
- Team player
- Previous work with other NGOs

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter before July 14th, 2010 at msfe-sanaa@barcelona.msf.org Médecins Sans Frontières - Spain Sana'a, Yemen

In Brief

SANA'A

Training course on combating money laundering for Yemeni judges and prosecutors Saturday

A training course on combating money laundering and terrorist financing is to start on Saturday in Sana'a for judges and prosecutors specialized in handling terror-related crimes.

The course would be held at the Supreme Judicial Institute and comes within the project of promoting the democratic rule and security supported by the French government for building the capacity of and introducing 42 trainees to advanced experiences in combating money laundering, Justice Minister Ghazi al-Aghbari said.

He underlined the significance of the five-day course at which French experts will lecture on international accords and pledges for fighting organized crime, money laundering and terrorist financing, organized crimes and their interrelationship, electronic evidence for organized crime and French expertise in dealing with such issues.

On the other hand, other 40 judges, prosecutors and lawyers will take part in the workshop on fighting child trafficking and supporting local and international laws on the issue.

The workshop will be organized by the Justice Ministry and the UNICEF with the aim to promote the respect of the best interest of the children included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two optional protocols to it.

Yemen, S. Korea discuss security cooperation

Deputy Interior Minster Saleh al-Zawri met here on Wednesday with South Korea's deputv ambassador to Sana'a Min-Chul Kim.

Talks in the meeting dealt with aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two countries and the possibility of supporting Yemen in the fields of security training and combating terrorism.

Al-Zawri reviewed the Interior Ministry's efforts in the field of training its cadres in all security areas, especially that Yemen is among the first countries working to combat terrorism.

For his part, the South Korean diplomat praised the successes achieved by the Yemeni forces in countering the terrorist elements, pointing out that terrorism has no homeland and religion and it is faced by the world as a whole.

He noted to the support offered by his

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country to Yemen in the training field through providing scholarships for the Interior Ministry's officers and the Anti-terrorism Unit.

Hadi: Arab should benefit from scientific and technological revolution

Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi said on Thursday that the future of the Arab nation largely depends on its abilities to benefit from the scientific and technological revolution.

Attending the 14th ordinary session of the Arab Communications Ministers Council in Sana'a. Hadi said the mankind has made giant strides in the last decades in technological and knowledge advancement that changed many life aspects in advanced and developing countries.

We are interestingly looking forward to the coordination efforts the council should make to establish a developed status of cooperation among the Arab countries on creating and improving the communications and information technology infrastructure,

There should be an Arab strategy for improving this vital sector which forms another face of the civilizational development in the Arab World, he added.

He urged to exchange expertise among the Arab League member states to achieve a real communications development and create the communications society. Moreover, he reviewed the stages of the communications development in Yemen starting with institutional, legislative and structural modernization steps.





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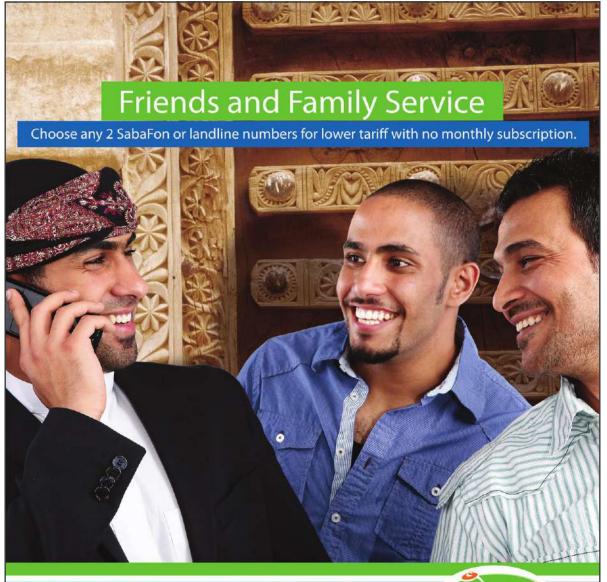
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Interview with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Yemen, Salem Ghassab Al-Zamanan

Salem Ghassab Al-Zamanan, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Yemen, is a man in his thirties. He is educated, tactful, welldressed, decent and humble. He deserves to be described as a relations expert, for he has gained people's love in the three and a half years he has been in Yemen. Politicians, writers, journalists and ordinary people all say that they love and respect him.

He says that his time in Yemen has been a rich experience that has taught him much, not only on the diplomatic level, but also on the personal level. He said he adores Yemen just as he loves Yemeni folklore in all its details.

Although he was busy, he gave me the time to listen to what he thinks of the experience he has had in Yemen as an Arab and a diplomat.

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

What is your impression about the time you spent in Yemen?

The time I spent in Yemen was special and a rich. Yemen is a country that has had relations with Kuwait based on respect and appreciation for a long time.

As for my personal experience, Yemen is part of me. I love it for many reasons. The first of which is that I love Yemeni art. I also like to listen to and sing Yemeni songs. I like to listen to Yemeni singers like Karama Mirsal, Karama Sa'eed, Mubarak Bin Madhi and Mohammad Jum'aa Khan.

Being an Arab, I am connected to Arab history. Yemen is an essential part of this history. Any man who likes Arab history must first read Yemen's history which, I believe, represents all Arabs. All these things have had an impact on me as an Arab before being a diplomat.

Before I came to Yemen, I heard that Yemeni society was closed in on itself. However, I found it an open society. Once you live with Yemenis, you find a sort of ecstasy because they treat you as one of their own, especially if you love literature and you are involved in poli-

I noticed that Yemeni society is generous, ever welcoming and understating. However, as I said once, there is no utopia in this world. Yemen is a country where its disadvantages live side-byside with its merits. One of the negatives I noticed in Yemen is the traffic mess and the carelessness regarding time. Unfortunately, time is not taken seriously here.

But still, sometimes you can find such disadvantages in Kuwait too. As a matter of fact, I was lucky to have the opportunity to come here. Being an ambassador to Yemen, I tried as much as I could to improve the relations between my country and Yemen.

How do you evaluate Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations in general?

As I told you, Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations are firm. Kuwait had good relations with what was called the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen in the south and Kuwait contributed in helping the two parts of Yemen unite.

After the Yemeni unification took place, the relations between the two countries continued to advanced in stages. His Excellency Prince Subah Ahmad Al-Subah, Minister of Exterior, the first deputy for the chairman of the Ministers Council attended the 10th anniversary celebrations of Ywemen unity in 2000.

In 2008, a meeting for the ministerial committee was held in Aden. It was was also the Minister of Exterior and Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Yemeni and Kuwaiti governments have exchanged visits. Judge Hamoud Al-Hita, Minister of Endowments and Dr. Yahya Al-Mutwakel, Minister of Industry and Trade visited Kuwait to participate in meetings with the ministers of trade held in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and the Deputy of the Prime Minister are visiting Yemen next month.

What are the agreements signed between the two countries, (if we exclude the period after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait)?

In Aden during the ministerial committee meeting on February 8th 2009, we signed 11 agreements and protocols. The most important of which was about encouraging and protecting investment and preventing double taxing. There is an agreement in the cultural field and an agreement in industrial and commercial cooperation. An agreement between the Kuwaiti chamber of commerce and the Yemeni chamber of commerce was also

Are there any new Kuwaiti investments in Yemen?

There is a Kuwaiti investment project in Ibb governorate. It is a resort and it will be the first of its kind in Yemen. It will include five stars hotels, villas and apartments, shopping malls, amusement parks and gardens. It will cost USD 100 million. I think that this project will help Yemen improve in terms of investment and that there will be returns from the project. Yemen is a beautiful country that has a special climate, but it lacks infrastructure for tourism.

What about the port in Soqotra? When is the work going to start?

The loan agreement was signed between the Kuwaiti Development Fund and the government in Yemen. The loan is part of a Kuwait promise from the London conference of donors. The loan will be provided under certain criteria. It is not a commercial loan, rather a loan for development. The project has been presented

But I know that the Kuwaiti Fund stopped working with the Yemeni government because Yemen owes Kuwait USD 40 or 50 million, and the latter has not yet paid it. Kuwait has stopped its activities in Yemen except for some

Kuwait is still supporting Yemen and these technical issues shall be dealt with later. I do believe that as long as there are



and mosques are humanitarian projects that have nothing to do with politics. They are ongoing, but we do not want to promote them as they are conducted to help people, not to show off.

We established the Faculty of Pharmacy in Aden. The Prime Minister attended the opening party. There are also other projects in the governorates of Al-Hodeida, Aden and Al-Mukalla, but usually we do not publicize these as their main purpose is to help people here in Yemen, not for publicity in the media.

What about Yemeni labor in Kuwait? Do the Kuwaitis intend to encourage Yemenis to work in Kuwait?

Every day I notice that many Yemenis apply for work visas to work in Kuwait. Yemeni labor has never been absent in Kuwait, but we would like Yemeni

at this university in particular. We choose preachers through the Yemeni Ministry of Endowments. Probably, the preachers may be graduates of this university. Before we choose, a committee exam-

tions that preachers should have studied

ines them for a long time. The standards by which we choose them is their passing their examinations whether written or oral. But we definitely do not choose them from a specific university. Last time around 300 or 400 students applied. The committee selected only 52. We do not have problems choosing qualified people. All of those who left for Kuwait are from different places in Yemen. They are from Ibb, Taiz, Hodeida and Sana'a.

What about education? Previously there used to be scholarships for Yemenis to study in Kuwait. Why did this cooperation disappear?

I think there should be more cooperation between the two countries. Contrary to what I previously thought, Kuwaiti students in Yemeni universities out number Yemeni students in Kuwait. I think that Kuwaiti students prefer to study in Yemen due to the various specializations taught in Yemeni universities. As there are various specializations in the universities, I think that Yemeni students have a great opportunity to study in their own country. There are many universities in Yemen, both private and public. However. I believe that we should invite more Yemeni students to gain their education in Kuwait. We just need more time to organize such a plan.

What about cooperation in security between Kuwait and Yemen?

There is cooperation between us in all areas, for example, there is political cooperation, commercial cooperation and security cooperation. All of these serve the good relations between our two countries.

From your point of view, do you really think that the relations between the two countries could become as warm as they have been in the past?

I think that the warmth exists, but it de-

pends on the person himself and how close he is to the warmth. I think that Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations are close and firm. The visits between us are continuing. There is no reason for these good relations to change.

What is the question you expected me to ask you but I did not?

I would like to thank the Yemen Times and you for this interview. I also want to thank the government of Yemen and many others for the kind and generous way they dealt with me and other Kuwaiti people. I found the Yemeni people friendly.

I wrote a good-bye letter in Al-Thora newspaper under the title "This will not be the last time." I wanted to show the Yemeni people how much they mean to me and how much I love and respect

Actually, the three and a half years have passed in the blink of an eye, as they do when you live with people you love. When the time to departe came, I felt sadness and grief.

I do feel that the days I spent in Yemen were special, personally and professionally. I do not feel I am a stranger because the Yemeni people made me feel one of them. When they love someone they make him feel comfortable.

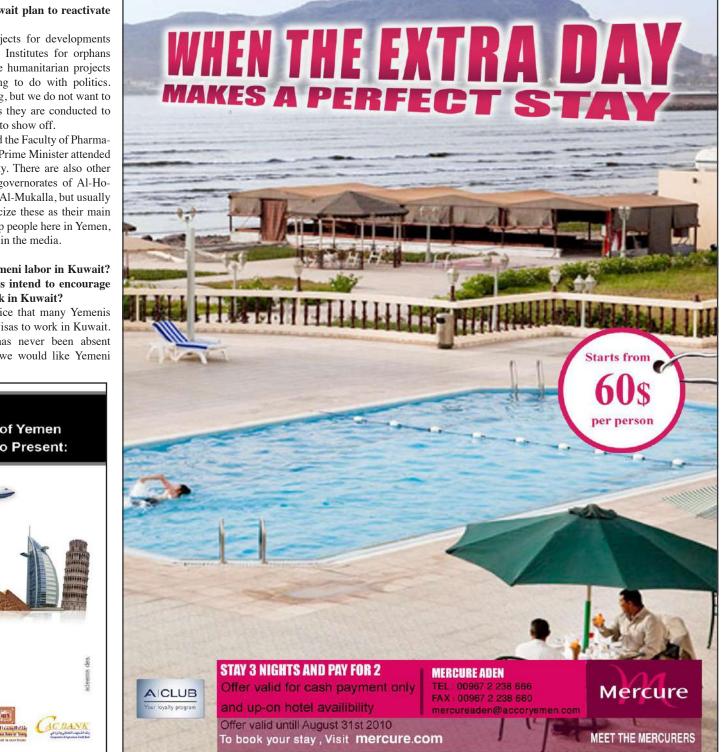
The goodbye letter I wrote in the newspaper was sincere. I wrote it in 15 minutes without pausing or having to think of what to say.

As I said before, Yemenis are honest and generous people. If they love you, it means they really love you, and if they hate you they will just leave you.

I think that this experience was a rich one and I believe that I was lucky to have worked in Yemen as an ambassador and to have contributed to make our relations even firmer. I was lucky as well to find new friends in Yemen.

I hold nice memories about this country and I will remain in contact with all I came to know either personally or through official visits.







Fun and thrill at the Sana'a 2010 summer festival

By: Mohamed Jarhum For the Yemen Times

erformers from 13 countries including Yemen will be delighting audiences at the Sabeen Park in Sana'a for the whole month of July during the fifth International Sana'a Summer Festival 2010 organized by Ministry of Tourism.

Among traditional and folk depictions of Yemeni life style from several governorates around the country, Yemen also hosts a number of performances from other countries in this festival, creating an exciting merger of traditional Yemeni and international entertainment.

"This festival sends a welcoming invitation to the world telling them about Yemen's unique heritage and culture," said deputy prime minister for defense, Rashad Al-Alimi, during the launching ceremony last Saturday. It was also attended by Ahmed Ali Commander in Chief of the Republican Guards and the son of President Ali Abdullah Saleh as well as Yahya Saleh Commander in Chief of the Central Forces, several ministers, public officials and representatives of the diplomatic community.

Dancers, actors, singers, artists, stunt performers and entertainers have set up their shows in various tents across the park.

During this international summer festival there will be folk band performances, motorcycle shows, art galleries, laser shows, horse and camel rides, painting contests for kids, puppet shows and a cir-

Moreover, several civil society organizations and charities are displaying their products during the festival.





























Mangroves, the voiceless guards protecting marine and human life need help

By: Malak Shaher

angrove trees, which in Arabic are known as qurm or Al-Shora, grow extensively in Yemen around the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

These trees, which help to protect marine life and reduce global warming, are said to have decreased worldwide by 20% since 1980, according to mongabay.com an environmental science and conservation news sites.

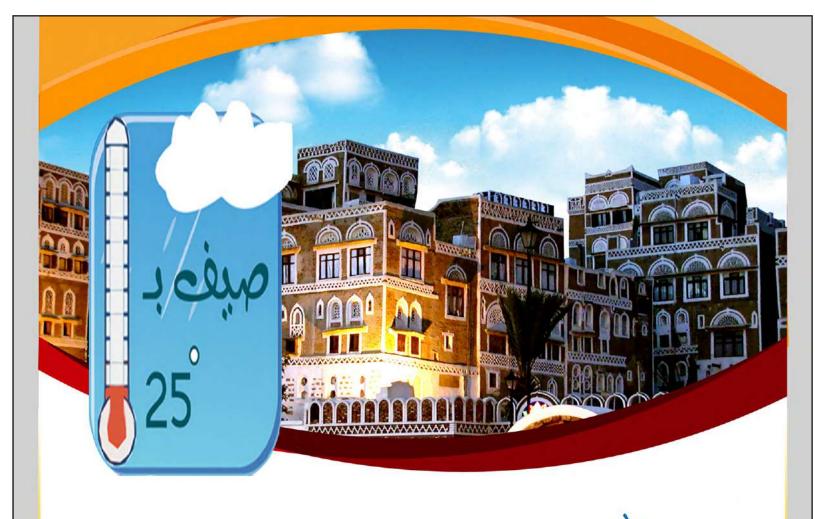
Mangroves are trees and shrubs that grow in saline coastal habitats in the tropics and subtropics mainly between latitudes of 25° N and 25° S. The common mangrove grows to about 9m tall and bears short thick leathery leaves on short stems and has pale yellow flowers.



Water receding has left the mangrove roots dry creating a localized drought in Mocka area.



A vibrant mangrove from Kamaran Island untouched by human activities





1/7 - 1/8/2010

Al-Sabain Park - Bab Al-Yemen Fine Art - Culture House

























றுஞ்டியு வற்று MINISTRY OF TOURISM கூயி வற்று கூடியி வற்று கூடியில்று கூடியில்றில் கூடியில்று கூடியில்றில் கூடியில்றில் கூடியில் கூட



Critical situation of mangroves in Mocka

Mocka is one of the 29 mangrove localities along the Red Sea coast in Yemen, according PERSGA an intergovernmental organization for the conservation of coastal and marine environments in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

In May 2009, a visit was conducted by Yemeni plant experts from the Ministry of Agriculture to mangroves in the north and south of Mocka, Taiz governorate.

The environmental situation in Mocka is now critical as the trees are being harvested on a destructively large scale. The locals assume that using wood from these trees facilitates their lives, but they have no idea of the long term problems that over harvesting is going to cause them. They use the wood in constructing buildings, making coal and building boats.

Wadi Al-Mulk's mangroves in particular have been dying at a disturbing rate. A plan to investigate the causes of this die back is critically needed, according to Abdulwali Al-Khulaidi, one of the experts at the ministry.

The making of salt in these areas accelerates the destruction of the mangroves. The locals dig holes and fill them with saline water, waiting for the sun to dry off the water so they can collect the salt. When the holes are near the mangroves trees, it deprives the trees of the water they need to survive. Over time, the sea line has receded up to one kilometer from the trees creating localized drought conditions, according to the experts' findings.

Mangrove>s tangled roots

Mangroves grow in dense thickets or forests along tidal estuaries, in salt marshes, and on muddy coasts. The mangrove fruit is a conical reddish brown berry. Its single seed

germinates inside the fruit while it is still on the tree, forming a large, pointed primary root that quickly anchors the seedling in the mud when the fruit drops.

Mangroves produce aerial roots from their trunks and branches that become embedded in the mud and form a tangled network. Once they are secure in the mud, they send up new shoots. These serve both as a prop for the tree and as a means of aerating the root system. Such roots also form a base for the deposit of silt and other material carried by the tides, and thus land is built up which is gradually invaded by other vegetation.

Once established, mangrove roots provide an oyster habitat and slow water flow, thereby enhancing soil deposition in areas where it is already occurring. Mangrove removal disturbs these underlying sediments, often creating

problems of trace metal contamination of seawater.

Guardians of marine and human

It has been cited that mangroves can help buffer against the effects of tsunamis, cyclones, and other storms. An Indian village in Tamil Nadu was protected from tsunami destruction by a kilometer wide belt of trees. When the tsunami struck, much of the land around the village was flooded, but the village itself suffered minimal damage.

Mangrove forests are among the most biologically productive marine ecosystems. These forests are an essential habitat for many species. They maintain water quality and function as the kidneys for estuarine environments by purifying water and ensuring sufficient oxygen for marine species.

The complex vegetative system around mangrove roots provides protection for shrimp that remain in the estuaries for between three and five months before returning to the ocean. The mangrove roots provide a nutrient-rich food source for the shrimp.

Shrimp and mud lobsters use the muddy bottom as their home. Mangrove crabs mulch the mangrove leaves, creating food for other bottom feeders.

The mangrove forests can protect inland coastal areas by absorbing the effects of storms and some tsunami waves, their massive root systems being efficient at dissipating wave energy. Mangroves also protect coastal areas from erosion. Likewise, they slow down tidal water enough that sediment is deposited as the tide comes in, leaving only fine particles in the water when the tide ebbs.

The mangroves also provide a valuable bird habitat and a renewable supply of forest products such as edible fruits and wood for construction.



Salt basins have drained water away from the mangrove environment.

Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train lawenforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with re-training of prison wardens and

> Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf. (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



Bab Al-Mandab Strait: The gate of scars

emen controls one of the most important straits in the world at the bottom of the Red Sea. The strait is called Bab Al-Mandab which in Arabic means the gate of scars. Reflecting on current events this name could not be more apt in describing the dangers and criticality of this water channel connecting the Indian Ocean to the Medi-

Recently Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has threatened to take hold of this gate. According to Al-Qaeda Jihadists, weapons to Israel are transported through this strait and Israel is the so-called enemy of Islam.

Whether this is a real story or not does not matter anymore, because Yemen has already invited western experts from France and elsewhere to come and "help" Yemen set up marine bases on Meon Island Bab Al-Mandab strait.

The hope is that through this base, piracy can be controlled and the Al-Qaeda threat taken care of. But what does this mean to Yemen and the region?

Optimistically speaking it should directly translate into more ships coming to refuel on Yemeni shores. Because of piracy in the Indian Ocean, insurance on vessels has sky rocketed and many companies have decided it is not worth it. Perhaps this way Yemen would benefit from the foreign security base on its territory.

But it also means that the whole Arabian Peninsula is visibly controlled by the West. We have a number of military and navy bases in the Gulf, especially in Bahrain. There are American and European bases on islands in the Indian Ocean, and numerous military bases in and around the Red Sea. In January this year it was reported that the Yemeni government was to let the US build a base near or on Soqotra. And now we have a base being built on Yemen>s most strategic island to ice the cake.

We may not notice the impact of such a heavy international presence in this region immediately, but I am sure consequences will shortly follow. Hopefully positive consequences when it comes to piracy, but there may also be issues concerning Yemen>s sovereignty over its own waters.

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Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Slavery in the 21st Century

By: Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli alialbaghli@hotmail.com Former Kuwaiti Minister of Oil **Arab Times**

LAF, an electronic newspaper, recently published a report stating that slavery has been abolished and prohibited everywhere in the world, except in 'happy' Yemen. According to the report, some sheikhs and members of the Yemeni Parliament in Hejja and Hadeedah governorates still keep male and female slaves. These slaves have sad stories which have been added to the list of social problems in this country - falsely referred to as the 'Happy Yemen'. We all remember the Houthis issue, which some people in our country - who have a penchant for interfering in the affairs of others, have been talking about. These people also discussed the alleged support of Iran to the Houthis

in the affairs of Yemen. Suddenly, news about the Houthis vanished into thin air, along with the Iranian interference, because Yemen does not need anyone to meddle in its internal affairs, considering its numerous problems. Going back to Yemen's slaves in the 21st century, Elaf has reported that slavery is prevalent in several districts like Kaedna and Khairan Al-Muharraq in Hejja Governorate, as well as Al-Zahra district in Hadeedah Governorate. The report disclosed Kaedna has the highest number of slaves who might be freed soon. These slaves have been named after their mothers, not their fathers. Yemeni journalist Omar Al-Omqi narrated the story of Qannaf Bin Sayyara, who took his mother's name. His mother was emancipated when she gave birth to four children. No one knows the father of these children except her. After the publication of his

and the Persian country's interference story, Qannaf came under fire as the sheikhs were infuriated when he appeared in the media. This prompted him to escape to another area. Others like him have no courage to share their stories due to the dire consequences. Al-Omqi attributed the continuation of slavery in Yemen to the absence of government and prevalence of religious misconceptions in the two governorates. He explained some religious men believe there is no problem in slavery, arguing that there have been slaves throughout the Islamic history. This article is for the 21st century legislators who need to take the necessary action to end such a serious violation of human rights, in accordance with the Islamic Sharia and teachings of distinguished men like the second caliph, Omar Ben Al-Khattab (May God be pleased with him), who asked 14 centuries ago: "How do you enslave people born to mothers who enjoyed their freedom?"

Future looks bleak for Yemen

By: Abdullah Alshayji **Gulf News**

collective effort by the West, led by the US, and the GCC states is required to help Yemen. A Marshall Plan of sorts could be in order.

Since the failed attempt by Omar Farouq Abdul Muttalib to blow up a plane over Detroit on Christmas Day, Yemen has been in the spotlight, especially in the West. Analysts are now assessing its dangers as a haven for Al Qaida, a failed state and a powder keg that could explode, causing mayhem far beyond its borders. Yemen has long been plagued by chaos, terrorism, proxy wars and insurgency, but it has not previously received much attention from the West.

Anthony Cordesman from the Center for Strategic and International Studies argues in a recent study, The New "War on Terrorism", that it is important to look beyond today's headlines about Yemen and consider the broader range of threats the US now faces on a regional basis. He believes them to be "generational": "They involve far more than a war on terrorism, and involve a wide mix of insurgencies and state actors using different means and pursuing different goals. They also require a wide mix of different US responses and often efforts that will last until 2020 and beyond."

Yemen has become a safe haven for Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which trained and equipped

You see, I'm still waiting

for the government to give

me a job!

Abdul Muttalib to carry out his suicidal mission. As a result, Yemen now joins Afghanistan and Pakistan as areas of focus for the US counterterrorism campaign, US President Barack Obama has, for now, ruled out sending troops to Yemen. Nevertheless, 2010 looms as a tough year for Yemen and there is likely to be more US involvement in intelligence, training and funding for Ali Abdullah Saleh's embattled government.

Bruce Riedel, a CIA veteran who advised Obama before the Afghan troop surge, wrote in his blog: "The attempt to destroy Northwest Airlines flight 253 en route from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day underscores the growing ambition of [Al Qaida's] Yemen franchise, which has grown from a largely Yemeni agenda to become a player in the global Islamic jihad in the last year. Since merging with the [Al Qaida] franchise in Saudi Arabia last January and renaming itself [Al Qaida] in the Arabian Peninsula, it has stepped up operations in Yemen itself, struck into Saudi Arabia, and now operates on the global stage. The weak Yemeni government of President Ali [Abdullah Saleh], which has never fully controlled the country and now faces a host of growing problems, will need significant American support to defeat AQAP."

The Obama administration was caught with its guard down on Christmas Day. The breach in security exposed the need for more coordination and speedier intelligence analysis. As a result, Republican criticism of

Obama for being too soft will reach fever pitch in the run-up to the midterm elections in November.

Al Qaida is looming again as the major threat to US national security. No wonder the Obama administration plans to ask Congress for a record defence budget for fiscal year 2011, in excess of \$708 billion (Dh2.6 trillion). According to the Associated Press, the military's main objectives will be "winning the current wars while preventing new ones" and "its core missions will include both counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations."

Widening the war

The war on terror is being widened to include more troubled and failed states. In addition to Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia, Yemen is quickly becoming a problem. To make things worse, Yemen is also engaged in a bloody battle against the Al Houthi insurgency in northern Yemen. This battle has spilled over into Saudi Arabia, which has engaged in cross-border skirmishes with the Al Houthis. This conflict poses a serious threat to Saudi national security, and to the GCC as a whole. There are indications that the Al Houthis are being supported by Iran, which has lashed out at the Saudis. The Saudis have responded in kind, inflaming the already tense situation in a region where crises are not in short supply.

Yemen, a small, poor Arab country, is frighteningly close to being a failed state. It is ranked 155th in the UN development index, and 154th in the corruption index. It is among the worst 20 states in the world.

A collective effort by the West, led by the US, and the GCC states is required to help Yemen. A Marshall Plan of sorts could be in order.

Resorting to counterterrorism and drone attacks exclusively, without addressing poverty, backwardness and regional meddling, will not solve the problem. There has to be a concerted effort to go beyond the symptoms and deal with the causes of the disease. As Cordesman aptly argued, there is a need for an "enduring commitment that balances the use of deterrence, containment, diplomacy, aid, counterterrorism and military force to meet all of this complex mix of threats and continue to do so over the next quarter century."

We should heed this advice before it is too late and Yemen turns into a new Afghanistan on our borders.

Dr Abdullah Alshayji is a professor of political science at Kuwait University.

COMMON SENSE

When will Yemen see the light of day?

A future without hope

he Observer cannot help but look at the eyes of the thousands of people coming and going in the highly crowded streets of Sana>a, which has become crowded with an unusually land influx of the rural poor beyond expectations. This change in demographics is beyond the capacity of this city to employ, feed and house the oversized families, most of



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

whom live below the poverty line, let alone supply its residents with adequate water to keep these families under acceptable hygienic standards. No one in Government is able to come up with a good explanation as to what made the population of a once serene and peaceful city of some thirty thousand people in half a century ago become an undesirably crowded metropolis of 2 million or so, mostly unproductive people, most of whom are engaged in hardly any meaningful work that will raise the standards of living of the members of their families or work towards enhancing the lost beauty of the environment of this city. Sana>a once boasted a wonderful give and take relationship between the elements of its ecology. Yes, there were no piles of garbage thrown here and there, without regard to hygienic considerations or the sanitary welfare of the children of the city of Sana>a, whose parents have come to the City to seek relief from the inexplicable deprivation that their home villages were facing. For most of the time, the Government sees itself itself as being only responsible for a few metropolises, while the rest of the country became the victim of unforgivable neglect in all workings of Government: security, economy, social services, infrastructure. Even the mass influx of rural residents to the cities did not bring migrants their hopes and aspirations that the city will be able to meet the requirements for a steady improvement in their welfare, which they knew was near impossible in their sparsely located habitats, by which Yemen is uniquely characterized.

When all these people came to the city they thought that they were at the gates of paradise. They could see tall buildings, which had tainted the beautiful landscape of what was once a reflection of the majestic beauty that only Allah the Al-Mighty could create. They were shocked to find that even the rocky mountains within the confines of the city were being ground, by Government equipment to make way for the influential and already extremely rich officials to exploit their positions, so they can grab any real estate they saw as adding further to their already incalculable wealth. What are they going to do with all that wealth ask the children of these destitute migrants, who have been forced to build shanty towns here and there, so they can at least see some of the progress, which the Revolution and unity supposedly brought to the country? Many of these desolate migrants are rather surprised by the cries of their Southern brothers for secession, as if the Southerners had a monopoly on the exploitation that a few in Government have managed to gain as compensation for their great services and loyalty to their pockets and narrow interests. Our Southern brothers certainly have it wrong, if they think they are the only ones suffering under the existing circumstances.

Just to make matters worse, the country is in an ongoing state of war with itself against secessionists, Houthis, terrorists and a whole host of wishy washy enemies. Never mind that these enemies ironically owe their very existence to the political workings of those who stubbornly continue to dictate the course that this county will pursue in the regional or international arena, in keeping with the dictates of their narrow and selfish interests. The national interest have gone out out of the alleyways and meeting rooms of Government buildings a long time ago. The big question that prevails in meetings of Government officials at all levels is: «What is in it for me?» How long must this myriad of security and economic theatrics continue, when one finds that the rate of return for most of the common citizens of Yemen, be they settled, migrants and stubborn residents of the deprived rural areas of Yemen, north and south of the country?

How sad it is to see Government reports never point one finger at any of the evil domestic politics of the land or implicate any of those who are really responsible for the sad plight Yemen is forced to live under. The reports from time to time of the need for greater accountability and transparency, but to this day, we have not heard of any of the leading corrupt officials get their just due public hearings or punishments for all their misinterpretation of public service. How equally sad is it to see that for most Yemenis, there is no hope forthcoming or even a sincere realization by the rest of the world that Yemenis are far from ever seeing the light of day under the current political, economic and social configuration in which Yemen has been drowned.

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

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Vacancy Announcements



The Social Welfare Fund (SWF) under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is providing social assistance to more than 6 million individuals in all governorates of the Republic of Yemen. In 2002 the SWF in cooperation with the European Union started the reform process of SWF operations by further improving the targeting system, introducing a monitoring system, revising payment modalities and building technical capacity within the SWF.

Now the SWF is introducing Conditional Cash Transfers as an additional activity financed by the European Union, which will be implemented in the Governorate of Taiz.

In this framework, the following positions are open:

Position 1: Project Coordinator, based in Taiz

Tasks: The Project Coordinator will provide support in all matters relating to the implementation of Conditional Cash Transfers in the Governorate of Taiz. The Project Coordinator will provide support to the SWF-Branch Office and Bureau of Education as well as to the 10 CCT districts to the District offices of both the SWF and the Bureau of Education as well as to the CCT schools. The Project Coordinator is expected to provide assistance in such areas such as administration, technical issues, IT, organizing workshops and trainings, general trouble shooting, identifying challenges and providing solutions.

Duration: 1 year, extendable

Requirements:

- · University degree, preferably in IT and/or Business Administration
- At least 4 years of relevant experience in project implementation for an bilateral or international organization in a rural area in Yemen
- · At least 4 years experience in workshop facilitation and/or training
- Excellent knowledge of MS Office and Internet use
- · Good communication and interpersonal skills essential
- · Excellent drafting and analytical skills required
- · Good knowledge of accounting
- · Willingness to travel to districts and remote rural schools
- Excellent knowledge of both Arabic and English spoken and written

Position 2: Local Expert in Office Management, based in Sana'a

Tasks: The Local Expert in Office Management will support the CCT team in the establishment of a functioning office at the headquarters of the SWF in Sana'a, the SWF Branch Office in Taiz and the SWF District Offices. The Expert will also assume secretarial tasks and train relevant SWF staff in all matters pertaining to Office Management.

Duration: 1 year, extendable

Requirements:

- · University degree, preferably in Business Administration
- At least 4 years of relevant experience in office management for a bilateral or international organisation
- · Excellent knowledge of MS Office and Internet use
- Good communications and interpersonal skills essential
- · Excellent drafting and analytical skills required
- Good knowledge of budget control and financial management.
- Willingness to travel to the governorate and its districts
- Excellent knowledge of both Arabic and English spoken and written

Position 3: Accountant, based in Sana'a

Tasks: The Accountant will assist in the setting up of the financial management system, support procurement in line with EC procedures and where relevant the procedures of the SWF, assure that invoices are booked in line with the relevant procedures, prepare monthly and annual expenditure statements, train SWF staff,.

Duration: 1 year, extendable

Requirements:

- · University degree, preferably in Business Administration or other relevant subjects
- At least 4 years of relevant experience in accounting, preferably for a bilateral or international organization
- Good communications and interpersonal skills essential
- Good training skills
- Ability to work systematically
- Proven knowledge of budget control and financial management
- · Willingness to travel to the governorate and its districts
- · Excellent knowledge of both Arabic and English spoken and written

Deadline for applications: 24. July 2010

Please submit your letter of motivation and CV in English to the following e-mail address: applications.swf.cct@gmail.com and enter into the subject, for which position you are applying. If a candidate is interested in more than one position, please indicate in your letter of motivation, which is your preferred position and enter into the subject line the number of the preferred position. Kindly note, that non-compliance with these application conditions will reduce your chances of selection.

Applications will only be accepted by e-mail to the account given above. Applications after the deadline will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Should you be invited for an interview, you will be asked to present all certificates mentioned in your CV. You will also be asked to provide two relevant professional references to be contacted.

The SWF offers competitive salaries.



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Omar AL-Nihim marketing director

12TH JitCOM expo launched







Expo is organizing the 12th exhibition for Al-Jazera information and communication technology (JiTCOM) from the 5th to the 11th of July 2010. The JiTCOM 2010 exhibition is considered the most important yearly exhibition for the information and communication technology industry, and it is the only event that occurs every year in this industry. The yearly JiTCOM exhibition includes the fastest-growing companies and users that Yemen has witnessed over the last ten years in the information and communication technology industry. The JiTCOM exhibition is also considered the biggest and most popular exhibition that takes place in Yemen, and the large contributions of international companies that offer the newest and latest of what they have come up with recently help to make it a special gathering.

Mr. Omar Al-Nihim, marketing director at the organizing company, says that this communications and technology event will widen the appeal of all of the products shown in the exhibition. Specialists who would like to be current with the latest knowledge in data technology will find the information and expertise they need at the exhibition to decide what to order and requisition for their companies. The JiTCOM exhibition will particularly focus upon exposition and direct sales.

He also said that the exhibitors can display new products, advertise and sell them. There will be a series of new and interesting products that will be launched with interactive offers in electronic products for consumers, along with an inclusive collection of electronic goods such as laptops, personal computers, mobile phones, cameras, home entertainment systems, game programs, and many other interesting gadgets.

He added that the JiTCOM exhibition includes a number of private corporations working in this sector as well as governmental firms that are taking part in this event to introduce their services to visitors through presentations of governmental electronic and online services.

Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology Engineer Kamal Al-Jabri said that this expo is important because both local and international organizations are participating in the JiTCOM exhibition, displaying technologies for work and personal use, such as mobile phones. The exhibition will bring together major investors in IT, which is one of the biggest and fastest-growing markets open to foreign investment. In fact, the previous JiTCOM exhibition attracted tens of thousands of visitors and workers from communication and IT companies.

And as usual, JiTCOM was an important setting for bringing together accountants and directors of companies, leading to new contracts, deals, and the formation of new allies and partnerships.

"We at the Ministry of Telecommunication are proud to launch this expo and encourage the private sector to carry out such activities that would reflect positively on the Yemeni market," said minister Al-Jabri.

Media should inform and educate society about climate change



As global temperatures rise, many countries particularly developing countries become more vulnerable to climate change effects including heavy rains and flooding. In 2008, Hadramout and Al-Mahara governorates received 90mm of rainfall in 30 hours, almost eighteen times the normal average. It killed 90 people and affected another 25,000.

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

he role of the media is to be the "chroniclers and interpreters of the fight against climate change," said Deutsche Welle's Director General Erik Bettermann during the third annual Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany.

The theme of this year's conference was "The Heat is On - Climate Change and the Media." In three days, June 21-23, discussions and workshops dwelled on the many aspects of climate change and its representation in the media. The media was blamed for the weak coverage if has given on how climate change will influence people's lives, for insufficient communication with scientists, and its over-emphasis on reporting the claims of climate change skeptics.

"I am convinced we need a climate change in the heads of journalists as well," Bettermann said.

"Reporting needs to be about more than just the day's news. It needs to drive people to action, while showing deficits, solutions and different perspectives. And provide hope," he added. "Journalists need to tackle difficult issues with well-researched stories and show every individual that they can do something to help," said Bettermann.

More than 1,500 participants from 95 countries spent three days discussing "Climate Change and the Media" at the World Conference Center in Bonn. Representatives from science, politics, business and the media attended more than 50 workshops to discuss what the media can do to create awareness of climate change, one of the main challenges facing environmental journalists.

The number of people who aren't concerned at all about climate change has risen in the last two years from 4 percent to 9 percent, according to a global survey by market research company Synovate in cooperation with Deutsche Welle.

The study covered 13,000 people in 18 countries and it results were presented at the forum. It indicated that the majority of respondents expected the media not only to inform the public about climate change, but also educate them about its consequences.

The study also showed that 88 percent of respondents believed that industry should be responsible for the fight against climate change. More

than 70 percent stated that they have done or are willing to do something to reduce climate change. Nearly half of all respondents said they were willing to buy more environmentally friendly products.

Since the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen last year, the environmental issues discussed continue to be at the forefront of international political discussion. Experts say, however, that climate change is still a subject that receives relatively little media attention.

US based scientist Naomi Oreskes pointed out that there is a gap between scientists and the media about climate change. According to Oreskes, that gap is the result of ignorance on the part of journalists.

"The statements from scientists are so greatly disconnected from the media in the US because the journalists unknowingly and inaccurately repeat what was said," said Oreskes.

She described climate change skeptics - people who suggest that climate change is natural and not man-made - as "contrarians", adding that they can't be taken seriously because their critique isn't scientifically based.

"Global warming is no longer a debate – it's a proven fact," she said.

Connie Hedegaard, the EU Commissioner for Climate Action, former Danish minister for climate and energy and a former television journalist, said that while it would be wrong for the media to ignore climate change skepticism completely, it is also wrong to uncritically accept skepticism in the name of balance.

During the forum discussions it was clear that climate change is not only a challenge for scientists and environmentalists, but also for journalists. They have a responsibility to inform the public about the problems of climate change as well as highlighting solutions.

Alexander Kirby, consultant to the Climate Change Media Partnership and a former BBC environment radio correspondent said that he himself is a "climate skeptic", because he is a journalist and "serious journalism is always skeptical." Kirby noted that there are serious theorists among the skeptics and those are people who need to be involved in the debate.

Hermann Scheer, President of Eurosolar, the non-profit European Asso-

ciation for Renewable Energy, said that there were too many stories about the problems related to climate change and not enough about possible solutions. He pointed out that the media needs to combat the "no-future" attitude.

"People don't want green-washing methods, they want green solutions," said Scheer.

The 12-year-old climate ambassador Felix Finkbeiner, who initiated the project "Plant for the Planet", called for children and young adults to get involved in the climate debate. "It's not just about saving the polar bears – it's about saving our future," said Finkbeiner.

Finkbeiner who was inspired by his



The melting of Arctic glaciers is contributing to rising sea levels and is leading to devastating consequences for polar bears as sea ice disappears.



More than 1,500 participants from 95 countries attended the Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany. The conference's theme was 'The Heat is On - Climate Change and the Media."

parents, both environmental campaigners, highlighted tree-planting in his presentation as a way to tackle climate change. "Let's plant a million trees in every country of the world."

Finkbeiner also announced that he has plans to present a three-point plan to German Chancellor Angela Merkel: "First: Carbon into museums. Second: Climate justice. Third: Plant trees."

"It's very important that we are informed about the crises we have to solve, because if the adults don't solve them we will have to solve them," Finkbeiner told the Yemen Times.

"We want a better future, we have to start acting," he said.

Scientists say that more than 90 percent of global warming since the mid-20th century is caused by human activity. To prevent dramatic consequences

from global warming, such as flooding, severe droughts, rising seas, and more destructive storms, scientists say we need to stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions quickly.

"I ask you, the journalists, to devote the time and energy required to understand and report both the human dimensions and the economic aspects of climate change, looking at both the risks and opportunities," Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"I know how hard it is for journalists to find space in their newspapers to publish reports on climate change. But please keep fighting for what you know is one of the key issues of our time, if not the greatest challenge facing humanity," he concluded.

HEALTH WATCH





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 nassions.

How healthy is your diet?

ana is working as a secretary in a private firm. Once she enters her office, she forgets her family. Her job is stressful because of several responsibilities and she is always tense. Her boss Saeed is very moody, and will hit the roof even if she makes the smallest mistake.

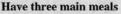
Rana is so engrossed with her work that she forgets her lunch every day. Without her knowledge, a faint little feeling in the stomach will prompt her to involuntarily look at the clock. Then the revelation will hit her – it is evening and she has not had her lunch.

In today's times, where a sedentary lifestyle is the rule, it's observed that the health of people is deteriorating day by day. They have started taking themselves and their body for granted. They don't even remember when they last had a proper meal. Eating healthy just requires a little planning.

Don't skip brain food - eat breakfast

Start your morning with some breakfast, be it a piece of fruit or a whole wheat bread. Put oatmeal into a thermos of hot water, and you could even let it sit overnight. In the morning, you shall have hot cooked oatmeal ready to eat. Similarly, a hardboiled egg can be eaten.

This will prevent your body from going into starvation mode. Eating breakfast everyday will also help increase your metabolic rate.



Some nutritionists advise at least five meals a day in which three can be the main meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner, while other two meals can consist of foods which are handy and nutritious at the same time. Eating frequently prevents hunger pangs, provides consistent energy, and maintains metabolism efficiency. Grab healthy foods such as fruits that are high in fiber like apple, hub-hub, muskmelon, orange, sweet lime, papaya and peaches.

Plan your dinner

When you visit restaurants for dinner, always watch out for hidden fats. Creamy soups, white breads, flaky pastries, shwarmas and mayonnaise-based salad dressings add unnecessary fats to the food. Try consuming broths instead of creamy soups. Instead of mayonnaise dressing, use variety of condiments and flavoring agents such as lemon, vinegar, herbs, onion and garlic to improve the palatability of your salad. Remember, a gram of fat contains more than twice as many calories as a gram of protein or carbohydrate. Ask for grilled, baked, boiled or broiled food rather than fried foods.

Take good quality food

Always remember that the quality of food you eat determines your efficiency at work. Avoid refined foods like white rice and those used to make white bread and sugary breakfast cereals as most of their vitamins and minerals are stripped away. They turn into blood sugar (glucose) so fast just like sugar; they can cause a spike in our insulin level. Alternate refined flour with wholegrain flour. Substitute white sugar with honey and jaggery. Remember, all this will help us to remain healthy.

Holiday Nutrition

Tips for eating while traveling:

- In short flights or train trips, have a good meal before leaving the house, which will sustain you for 4-5 hours. Something that is healthy but not heavy. Like a vegetable/egg/chicken sandwich with a fresh fruit juice or whole grain pasta with veggies and lean meat. Avoid fried foods and milk-shakes etc.
- During the journey, keep some healthy dry fruits and nuts like walnuts, almonds, peanuts or some fresh fruits like apples, pears, grapes, etc. You can have them with a cup of green tea. Keep green tea sachets with you and just ask for hot water. Even oat bars or multi-grain low-fat biscuits are good enough with green tea.
- Avoid eating the flight food if you are not in long haul flights. Normally, in-flight meals are rich in fat and carbohydrates.
- Completely avoid raw foods or foods cooked at low temperature as they
 may carry bacteria, which can cause stomach infections and gastroenteritis
 easily
- While in hotels, have a healthy breakfast as it is going to keep you going for the entire day, whether you are attending meetings or going for whole day sightseeing tour.
- Breakfast should be a healthy cereal like oats/milk and muesli with some fresh scrambled, boiled or poached egg with some fruits.
- Lunch should be light but contain veggies like a vegetable/tomato/spinach soup with rice and yoghurt or a healthy sandwich.
- Have a fruit juice or fruits in the evening. Tea or coffee can be had with some oat bars or whole grain biscuits again.
- You can also keep soya milk tetra packs of different flavors with you to be
- had in the evening.

 Dinner should be again easy to digest. Avoid filling your dinner plate with
- Dinner should be again easy to digest. Avoid filling your dinner plate with many things from the buffet as you may tend to overeat in the process of tasting everything laid out. Select those foods which are not very oily and rich with cheese.
- Avoid ordering those food items which are not from the place, which you are visiting. Cuisine, native to the place you are visiting, will always be cooked well and also will be fresh.
 Do not over order your food if you go for the a la carte menu. You do not
- have a home to take away and eat later. In the process of not wasting the food, you put it around your waist.
- Drink plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration as you may be out in the sun while sightseeing.
- Keep packets of fruit juices and butter milk with you, especially if you are travelling with children.
- If you eat healthy and right, you can make the most of your business trip
 or vacation and enjoy it completely. Grab some time to relax and/or take a
 long walk to rejuvenate your digestion and also shed off the extra calories
 here and there.

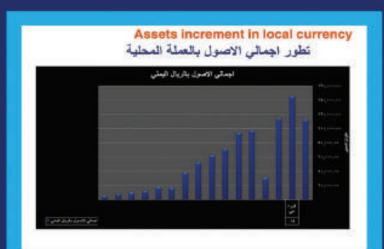




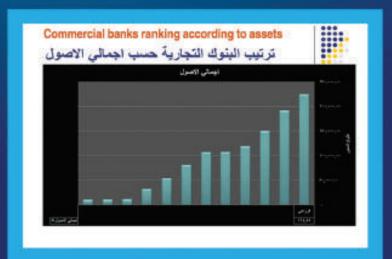
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حقق (كاك بنك) أعلى مستويات التقييم ومقاييس الأفضلية بين البنوك اليمنية مستحقاً وعن جدارة جائزة الاستثمار الأولى الممنوحة للبنك الأفضل بين البنوك اليمنية للعام 2009 ، حسب نتائج الدراسات التقييمية القائمة على الاستبيانات الاستقصائية .. بإشراف وزارة الصناعة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



Total assets growth rate A set from the least of the lea



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

حقـق (مُحَكَمَكُم) المركـز الأول فـي إجمالي القـروض والتمويـلات بين والمحلية الاجنبية والعمـلات الأجنبيـة حيث والعمـلات الأجنبيـة حيث المقدمة 19 مليار ريال ... وحقـق بنك التسـليف التعاونـي والزراعـي أكبـر معـدل نمـو فـي القطـاع المصرفي بنسبة 270

The first choice for de-

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 (ملك المحكم المحلك المحركة الأول على البنوك التجارية الأجنبية والمحلية في إجمالي الودائع بالعملة المحلية محققاً زيادة مقدارها ٢٢ مليار في العام ١٣٤٩م معدل نمو ١٩٨٧٪.

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 YR25 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 (المركز الأول مي تمية (المركز الأول في تمية إجمالي الأصول بالعملة في تمية البنوك في المركز الأول في اليمن حيث بلغت ١٤٤٥ منيار في العام وبمعدل نمو ٢١٪ وحقق (الكلاكل) وحقق (الكلاكل) المركز الأصوار الأصوار الأصوار الأصوار الأصوار الأصوار الأصوار المركز الأصوار المركز المركز الأصوار المركز المركز المركز المركز الأصوار المركز المركز

نمـو ٢٨،٤٪ فـي إجمالـي الأصـول بالعمـلات الأجنبية بزيـادة مقدارهـا ١٧,٧ مليار ريـال وبذلك يحقـق محمد الأول بيـن البئـوك التجارية مـن حيث أكبـر زيادة فـي إجمالــي الأصول بالعملات الأجنبية.

TIMES

The third gender

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

n Yemen, there are three genders: men, women and foreign women. This is what Sarah, a woman from North America said as she looked back at her three week journey in Yemen in the late seventies.

"Although I am a woman, I was invited with my husband to join the men when we were invited into a private home. I was invited to eat with men, chew qat and smoke with them and was allowed into their "mufraj", which was off limits for the women of the house, at least while foreigners were present," she said.

When she asked why she was invited to attend men's sessions while other women in the household were not, a Yemeni man told her: "There are three genders: men, women and foreign women."

This man meant it. The "third gender" referred to women who were treated like a man because they were foreign women. They were given the privilege of being a part of the men's discussions and the men's "superior" environment where intellectual talk happens and decisions are made.

Sarah said that it appeared that since she had an education and global exposure, it was ok for her to be present with the men. But she felt that for her too there was a condition - she had to be with her husband.

"I don't think I would have been treated in this inclusive way had I been on my own. I don't know what the situation in Yemen is like today or whether the Yemeni male community would invite a foreign woman to enter their spaces if she were by herself," Sarah said.

She fondly remembers a time when she was following her husband and their host up the long twisted stairs of a private home when, at the second floor, she felt a hand from between curtains pull her into another space meant for the ladies. That was the only time she got to spend with Yemeni women.

"Although we could not really communicate in either Arabic or English, I enjoyed spending time with the women and girls. We used sign language around subjects like beauty, hair styles, clothing, and they decorated my hands with henna. When I rejoined my husband he complained: "Why am I not allowed to meet the women of the household?" I told him jokingly: In Yemen there are three genders, not four!"

Foreign women in Yemen

to Yemen warns women visiting Yemen to dress modestly and respect local gender norms which largely separates men from women.

On a travel advice site, Amy from the USA said that when she travelled to Yemen, sometimes she wore the black sharshaf or overall cover and wore a veil to go with it. "It feels a bit mysterious and it is a good way to blend in," she said. She advised women that in order not to offend and to get more respect, it is enough to cover their hair with a scarf and wear loose long dresses with leggings underneath.

In her blog, Louise Hallman who was in Yemen in 2006, says that western woman are able to transcend somewhat the social barriers imposed on men and women in Yemeni society.

"This is indeed the general feeling amongst many foreign women in Yemen, but there are of course exceptions," she wrote.

Louise posted an article on her blog in 2009 on western women in Yemen, giving an example of how a western is woman - unlike a western man - not confined to the male realm of the cultural divide. Emily Allardyce, who has been living in Yemen for the last nine years is able to move between these divides. She considers this to be a "privilege".

"Yemeni men seem to like working with foreign women. We can drive and go anywhere alone without trouble," says Emily.

e," says Emily.

Another example from Emily's blog

was from Louisa Glenn, who during her time as an American student in Yemen, didn't experience as great a feeling of 'privilege' as Emily.

"Being Western on top of being female added to the feeling that I was an object of curiosity," said Louisa. Whilst she was able to chew qat – a locally grown plant that acts as a mild amphetamine – in male company and even attend male wedding parties, Louisa felt this was possible, not only because she was Western, but because she had a male Yemeni escort accompanying her.

Many of her activities when in Yemen – travelling alone, eating in the 'public' (usually male-only) sections of restaurants and even laughing in the street – were frowned upon by her male chaperone.

Ultimately, even if she has to restrict her behavior somewhat, the Western woman is in a position of privilege in Yemeni society. Only she, and not her male counter-part, can move between the social groups, even if it is with a chaperone on occasion.

The power relation

Yemeni men control the women of their society and impose their standards upon them. Because Yemen is a male dominated society, men define what is and what is not acceptable behavior. Foreign women, however, are outside the men's control zone simply by being foreign. This is why they get some of the privileges they do. Yemeni men have to accept them as they are, and invite them into their own culture, especially if the foreign women has a husband or a male companion.

In contrast, Yemeni women - because of the gender power relations - remain under the control of men and their version of what is culturally or socially acceptable and what is not. However, with the progress of the women's movement in Yemen, some women have been able to break the power model and turn the balance in their favor through economic, political or even social means.

For example, women who hold a significant position in the government such as minister are treated very differently and are inevitably invited to be part of the traditionally male domain. Successful businesswomen have also been able to break the gender barrier, and there are some rare instances of Yemeni women who were able to turn the power balance in the social sphere and become more at par or even above men. Examples of this are female community leaders in some rural areas such as Shabwa gov ernorate, which is known for its strong women. Some women who were able to win elections and become members of local councils have been challenging men from their areas.

British Journalist Rachel Cooke has written about Yemeni female-male power relations, and her personal experiences when she visited Yemen in 2008. She commented on this in her article for The Guardian: Is this the worst place on earth to be a woman?

"In Yemen... an absence of citizenship rights for women horribly combines with crushing poverty to create a society in which women are not only the property of men, unable to leave the house without the permission of a male relative and vulnerable to arbitrary arrest on the street even once they have it, but are also likely to be illiterate, to be married before they reach puberty, and to die in childbirth."

The problem of Yemeni men-women relations as described by Cooke is with the power balance: "Male power is total, and not only in politics (one woman MP out of 301 members, 35 women represented in local councils out of 6,000). A woman cannot, for instance, marry without the permission of a male relative; if she has no father, she must ask her brother, or a cousin and so on until, if she has no male relatives at all, she must turn to a judge. Women are regularly the victims of arbitrary arrests, picked up for 'immoral acts' such as adultery, smoking or eating in a restaurant with a 'boyfriend'. It is not only the police

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who can make such arrests; power is invested in all kinds of men from the minister of the interior to local neighborhood chiefs, even coastguards."

Therefore, women have to work much harder than men to prove themselves and to force men to take them seriously. This is because they are not starting from the same level, they are coming from below ground zero.

Many female activists in Yemen are currently demanding a 15 percent quota system for women in decision making positions in order to create some women's presence in power. However, they agree that the way to women's empowerment in Yemen is through education and economic independence. We can work on some urgent remedies such as a quota system in decision making positions but without working on long term education and economic empowerment nothing else will make the required change.

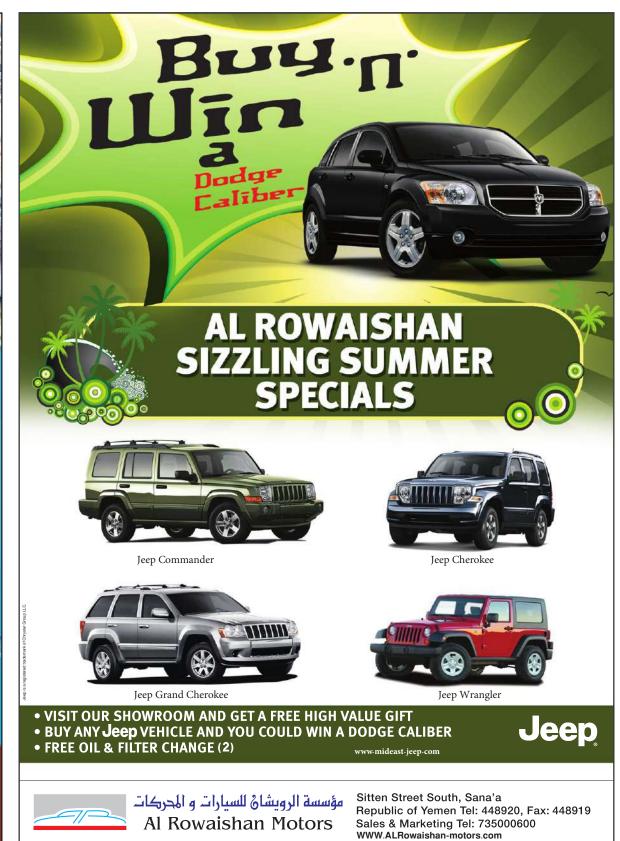




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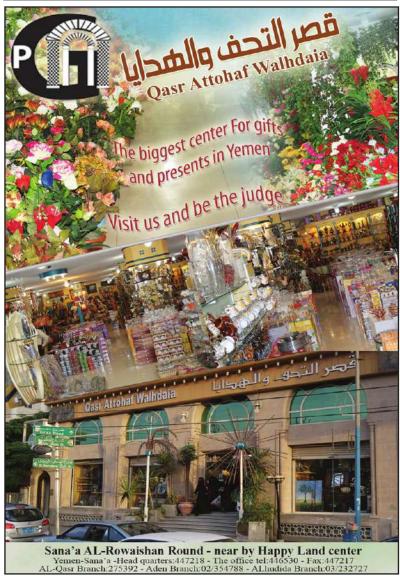






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Theatrical performances on reproductive health

By: Yemen Times Staff

father decides that if he gets his teenage son married off, the son will settle down and start behaving maturely. Despite advice

social marketing project for reproductive health services. The project aims to educate the public about the benefits of family planning and the importance of adequate reproductive health care. It includes seminars, debates, focus group discussions, and artistic performances such as the one



from the local doctor that the son is not ready for this kind of responsibility and his bride is too young to become his wife, the father goes ahead with the plans for marriage.

Soon the young wife becomes pregnant. She gives birth prematurely at seven months, and despite birth complications, the baby lives, but becomes mentally disabled.

Once again, the father, who just became a grandfather, does not listen to the local doctor's advice to introduce contraceptives to his son, who has one child after the other and in ten years has ten children. The young man does not know how to deal with the pressure of being responsible for his family, so he sends the children to beg in the streets.

The story ends with a discussion between the grandfather, the son, and the mentally challenged grandson, in which it dawns on the grandfather that the situation is his fault and that he should have listened to the doctor's advice on family planning.

This story was presented in a satirical theatrical performance to an audience in Sana'a to educate them about the importance of family planning. More than 600 people attended the performance and were very motivated by what they saw, according to Dr. Khaldon Al-Mathhaji, director of the reproductive health project at the Charitable Society for Social Welfare.

This artistic performance is one of many sponsored by the Charitable Society for Social Welfare in cooperation with Yaman (should this be 'Yemen' or is it another word?) Foundation for Social Development. It is a part of a long-term



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just carried out last week.

The sketches were performed by Alwan Al-Taif art group last week at a local neighborhood of the Azal district in Sana'a. The sketch's scenario with its theme of "Changing behavior" was written by Salah Aldin Al-Maqrami, assistant manager of the reproductive health project at CSSW.

The reproductive health project, which is funded by the German organization KFW, markets family planning concepts and tools to the locals.

"The project aims to improve the reproductive health conditions of poor women through providing them with tools and education through which they can control their reproductive life better and avoid complications and sexually transmitted diseases," said Dr. Al-Mathhaji.

Within the framework of this project, 1000 awareness sessions have already been conducted, including eight theatrical performances in 14 governorates. During the next month, six more sketches will be performed along with many awareness sessions aiming to change negative reproductive health behaviors in Yemen.





