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Monday, 7 May, 2012 • Issue No. 1570 • Price 50 Yemeni Rials • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

No Counter-Terrorism forces in Lawdar

By: Mohammed Al-Samei

ABYAN, May 6- Fierce clashes in the city of Lawdar in Abyan governorate went on for an hour and a half on Sunday between Ansar Al-Sharia, an Al-Qaeda offshoot, and local people's committees, residents organizations established to fight Ansar Al-Sharia, according to Ali Ahmed Eida, spokesman of the people's committees. "Ansar Al-Sharia attacked the people's committees several times but they were stopped," he added. "Ansar Al-Sharia give sermons on Saturday night, calling for a return to Sharia laws," Eida said.

Eida denied in a statement to the Yemen Times the presence of Counter-Terrorism Units (CTU) in Lawdar and said that there are only five military vehicles of the Central Security Forces in the area. The CTU forces which are supposed to fight Al-Qaeda's affiliated elements were withdrawn from Abyan in May 2011 to the capital Sana'a to contain the popular uprising against Saleh's rule. A soldier of the CTU told the Yemen Times that troops of the unit have stationed only in Zunjubar, the capital of Abyan and have not been in direct battles with Ansar Al-Sharia yet.



Troops of the CTU are stationed only in Zunjubar, the capital of Abyan and have not been in direct battles with Ansar Al-Sharia yet.

"Ansar Al-Sharia have several tanks, military cars, sniper rifles and anti-aircraft weapons. They have more weapons than the Yemeni military," he affirmed. Ansar Al-Sharia militants belong to different Yemeni governorates and there are several Somalis and Syrians among them. Most are between 13-35 years old, according to a wounded soldier of the 39th Brigade, who requested anonymity. "Ansar Al-Sharia have telephone numbers that belong to Iranian and Lebanese people. They also use modern military tactics," said the soldier. Dozens of youth from districts of Abyan governorate joined the people's committees in the last few days to fight against Ansar Al-Sharia. "The militants of Ansar Al-Sharia withdrew from Lawdar after fierce clashes with the people's committees. Two warplanes launched attacks on strongholds of Ansar Al-Sharia, which resulted in the death of several militants," said Aref Al-

wan, a local journalist. 28 Ansar Al-Sharia militants were killed in clashes with the people's committees, according to Alwan. "Armored vehicles were seen carrying corpses of militants affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia, which were buried in Al-Ain area, seven kilometers from Lawdar," he added. Earlier, Ansar Al-Sharia launched

a major attack on Lawdar. A civilian called Mahdi Mansur Hadi was wounded. On Friday a convoy of food supplies from Al-Dhala governorate, located to the south of the capital Sana'a, was sent to the people's committees in Lawdar, a few days after the arrival of a convoy from residents in Al-Baida' governorate.

Yemen to change 29 of its diplomats

By: Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, May 6 - Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the national unity government, said on Saturday that 29 of Yemen's ambassadors abroad will be changed after former ones have been called home. The Defense Ministry's website quoted Al-Qirbi saying that the issue is in the hands of the president and arrangements have been taken to choose Yemen's future diplomats to foreign countries. Many of Yemen's ambassadors resigned on March 18th in a protest

against the killing of anti-regime protesters by security forces. "The designations will be done in line with the Yemeni diplomatic law and Yemen's strategy for the diplomacy to achieve the demands of the current stage and Yemen's needs to face development and security challenges," Al-Qirbi said. He added that preparation for the national dialogue conference is going well, saying President Hadi will release a decree soon on forming both a committee to contact all Yemeni political forces in and outside Yemen and a preparatory committee for the national dialogue.

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Taiz to be Yemen's cultural capital

Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, May 6 — The Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture held a ceremony on Thursday in which it bestowed the Award for Sciences and Arts on winners of the 15th annual Haj Hayel Saeed Anam competition.

Yemen's Prime Minister, Mohamed Salem Basindwa, attended the ceremony along with several government members, intellectuals and the media.

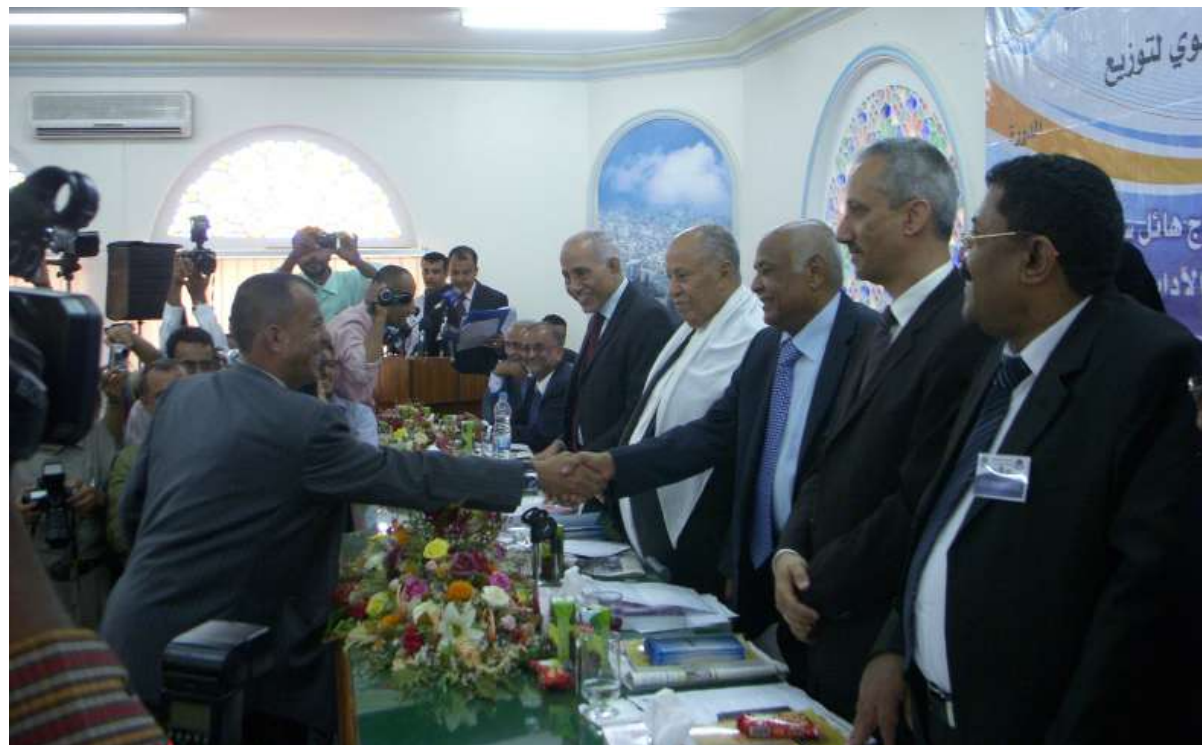
At the ceremony, the prime minister declared that the Yemeni Government plans to name Ta'iz as Yemen's cultural capital in the coming days.

"The revolution sparked in Taiz; the city has all the qualities of a developed society, and there are many cultural associations in Taiz, like Al-Saeed Foundation. It deserves to be Yemen's cultural capital," said the prime minister.

He said that the Yemeni cabinet held a special meeting today in Ta'iz to discuss the dire needs of Ta'iz governorate and to implement appropriate responses as soon as possible.

"The security situation in Ta'iz has improved since the appointing of Shawqi Hayel, Taiz's new governor, and the people of Ta'iz support him almost universally," he added.

The prime minister urged political parties, the media, government associations and civil society organizations to cooperate with Governor



Hayel in making Ta'iz safer because its stability is central to the stability of the entire country.

He demanded that all Yemenis work together to make the National Dialogue Conference succeed, as he feels it is the only way out of the current political impasse.

For his part, Abduljabbar Hayel Saeed, a member of the board of directors of Al-Saeed Foundation, affirmed that Al-Saeed Foundation

will continue its contribution to Yemen through supporting scientific research and talented Yemenis.

At the end of the ceremony, Al-Saeed Foundation honored the prime minister for his efforts in supporting stability in Ta'iz and Yemen overall.

For his part, Dr. Abdullah Aobal, the Yemeni Minister of Culture, honored Al-Saeed Foundation for its reward of talented and gifted Yemenis

involved in culture and sciences.

Shawqi Hayel said that security is critical in undertaking and completing new economic and cultural projects in Ta'iz.

"We have to use the media to spread awareness among the residents of Ta'iz of the importance of putting down guns, stopping the use of violence and starting the national dialogue so that the civil state can prosper," he added.

Hadramout electricity threatened to be cut off

By: Saleh Al-Batati

MUKALLA, May 6 — The Investing Electric Power Company which provides energy to coastal areas of Hadramout has threatened to cut off electricity, unless the government pays its past-due bills. The threat comes in response to a new two week deadline set by the government on May 6.

The company, which sells its energy to the state-owned Public Electricity Foundation, claimed that it extended the first deadline which was supposed to end May 5 in recognition of efforts on the part of the governor of Hadramout, Khalid Al-Daini, who paid visits to Sana'a in an attempt to pay the company its financial bills.

The company said in a statement that the decision to extend

the deadline was taken in the best interests of the Hadramout people and it is serving them at maximum capacity given the resources available.

The company reduced its capacity in order to continue work in the upcoming two weeks, during which time it will be unable to carry out regular maintenance and provide or replace spare parts. In addition, it cannot pay employees' salaries and other commitments on account of the freezing of its financial obligations since April last year by financial and electricity ministries.

The workers of the Public Electricity Foundation staged a strike on Saturday of this week in protest against the centralization of authority practiced by some of its leaders. "What is the point of sending Hadramout's electricity

bills to Sana'a, when the central government is stalling payment to investors in Hadramout? Especially when the minister of electricity praised Hadramout of being the sole government that pays its bills without delay," the workers said.

People in Hadramout have expressed their concern about the issue to Yemen Times: "We cannot imagine living without electricity in the coming dog days," they said.

"The banks, hospitals and schools will close down and life will stop," a local said.

According to people in Hadramout, the coming two weeks will be a real test for the leadership of the local council in Hadramout on whether they can pressure the government to pay back dues to investors in the electric company.

Two percent of Yemenis controls Yemen's wealth

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, May 6 — Only two percent of the Yemeni population controls 80 percent of Yemen's wealth, while the remaining 98 percent forms the middle and lower class, according to Ahmed Shammakh, a Yemeni economist.

Shammakh pointed out that about 40 to 50 percent of Yemenis suffer from severe poverty. 85 percent of the poor live in rural areas, while 15 percent live in urban areas.

Yemen experienced losses \$22 billion due to the popular uprising and military clashes between parties of last year's conflict, according to a research that will be published soon under the supervision of Shammakh.

The research pointed out that Yemen lacks future economic development plans and programs to enhance the country due to the continued siphoning of the country's wealth by certain influential families.

The wealth of these influential families can't be counted precisely because there are no official statistics issued by either local authorities or regional UN organizations.

Shammakh urged the Yemeni authorities to invest the money given by donors, particularly at a time when Yemen is preparing for the Friends of Yemen Conference, which will be held at the end of May, and which will be held in July in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"Yemen invested only 15 percent out of the \$6 billion given by the

Donors' Conference, which was held first in London and then in Riyadh," Shammakh said.

Saudi Arabia will continue to give free shipments of refined oil to Yemen over the course of this month and next, according to a number of Yemeni traders last Monday.

The traders expected that Saudi Arabia will give 200 tons of diesel to Yemen, estimated at \$200 million, during May and June of 2012.

"The ongoing sabotage against oil pipelines has decreased Yemen's oil exports. The oil shipments given by Saudi Arabia will help us improve the bad economic situation in Yemen," said Mohammed Al-Mohalla, the director of the Chamber of Commerce.

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EU Parliament calls for the release of Yemeni political detainees

By: Sara Al-Maqtari and Ali Saeed

SANAA, May 6 — The European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights delegation to Yemen called on Thursday for the immediate release of all political detainees to pave the way for the coming National Dialogue Conference.

"The Members of the Delegation Call for the immediate release of all political detainees, in accord with the GCC-brokered transitional agreement, as an essential step towards creating an atmosphere where a genuine national dialogue can take place," reads the concluding

statement of the EU Parliament's delegation to Yemen.

Dozens of political prisoners in Yemen have been in holding in isolated cells at private detention facilities owned by the former president's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, commander of the Republican Guard, and General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, leader of the First Armored Division, said Asaad Omer, director of the Protection Unit at the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights.

"Local and international human rights organizations could not even visit detainees at detention facilities of the Republican Guard and

the First Armored Division," Omer said.

There is no accurate figure on how many political detainees are in the country, but Omer said that there are dozens, including civilians and soldiers, particularly from the popular uprising against Saleh's 33-year reign.

There are also political detainees of the Southern Movement, who demand the separation of the south from the north, according to Omer.

"Some political prisoners have been in prisons for over two years with no real charges," he said.

The delegation visited Sana'a Central Prison and met with juvenile prisoners sentenced to death, heard testimonies of victims of human rights violations, and held meetings with representatives of youth groups in Sana'a's Change Square, representatives of the Yemeni government, the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser, various political parties, and civil society groups, according to a press release by the EU delegation to Yemen.

Omer said that calls from the EU Parliament for the release of all political detainees will not be enacted, as both the Republican Guard and First Armored Division have yet to show any adherence to the new national unity government of President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi.

"Releasing political prisoners is not enough to create a good atmosphere for the National Dialogue Conference," he said. "Employees who were eliminated from their jobs for their political leanings and soldiers and officers hounded out must be brought back to work."

The delegation affirmed the need to pass a transitional justice law and establishing a national authority to investigate the violations committed during the 2011 protests.

Moreover, they demanded the prosecution of all those responsible for human rights violations, and expressed profound concern over the extensive use of the death penalty.

In addition, they called for mercy for Waleed Hussein Haikal and four other juveniles sentenced to death, and supported the government's plans to reduce the use of the death penalty against juveniles.

The delegation urged the government to take action to end child marriages by legislating a minimum legal age for marriage. Moreover, they supported the 30 percent minimum quota for women in parliament and expressed their interest in establishing an office for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Yemen.

The delegation was composed of Barbara Lochbihler (chair of the Delegation, Germany), Richard

60,000 new public employees receive their salaries

By: Ashraf Al-Muraqeb

SANAA May 6 — About 60,000 new employees hired by the government last year will receive their first salary on Tuesday, the minister of civil service, Nabeel Shamsan said.

The employees, some of whom have been waiting for jobs from the government for over 10 years, were promised to be hired by former president Ali Abdulla Saleh in Feb 2011.

"The newly recruited people will be paid on Tuesday," Fayz Juma'an, head of the bi-committee of the Finance Ministry and Civil Ministry confirmed to the Yemen Times.

He explained that the budget of the new workers is estimated at YR 1.4 billion (\$65 million) for four months' work.

Sameer Al-Dabyani, general coordinator of the new employees said that each new employee will be paid four months' salary worth YR 128,000 (\$600).

He added that eight committees, four for male workers and the rest for female workers, will be tasked with paying the money to the employees.

In the future, all of the employees will be paid through the Post Office using their ID cards, according to Al-Dabyani.

About one million Yemenis work with the government in different public sectors, according to the director of the Information Center at the Ministry of Civil Service, Mohamed Sultan.

The new entrants to the labor market increased in 2010 to about 228,000 people, which means that Yemen would need at least 200,000 job opportunities to hire the job seekers, according to the 2011 report released by the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

The report expected this number to increase to over 379,000 persons by 2030.

Deaf students graduate in Sana'a

By: Eman Tuhama

SANAA, May 6 — The Care and Rehabilitation Association for the Deaf and Mute (CRADM), in cooperation with Al-Mostaqbal School for the Deaf, celebrated the graduation of its fourth class on Saturday.

Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hamdani, CEO of the Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Fund, and Hamood Al-Naqeeb, the head of the Social Affairs Committee, a committee linked to the Local Council of the

capital secretariat, and Ayad Qaed, the secretary general of CRADM attended the ceremony.

The Local Council of the capital secretariat cares for the disabled to allow them to become effective members of society. According to Al-Naqeeb, graduation ceremonies like the one on Saturday encourage other disabled youth in the capital to study, just like those who graduated.

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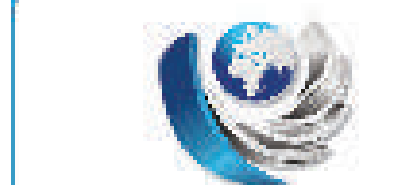
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Educating children

By: Mohammed Al-Samei

Mohammed Al-Awlaqi, an 8th grader, gets up early every day to pray Al-Fajr, the dawn prayer, reads his day's lesson in advance, and then gets ready for

school.

He studies in a private school in the capital Sana'a. Although he is still a child, Al-Awlaqi is very knowledgeable.

He watches cultural, religious and science programs on T.V. He reads children's magazines. Furthermore, he asks his classmates

questions relating to culture and challenges them to answer.

His grades are excellent and he is the top student in his school.

Al-Awlaqi often competes in his school's cultural competitions against other middle schools. He also takes part in the activities of the mosque in his neighborhood of Al-Asbahi in Sana'a.

Many families in Yemen send their children to school, but few families take further interest in their children's studies. Al-Awlaqi is one of those lucky children whose family takes great interest in his schooling.

"Watching T.V. is a good way to educate children and culturally nurture them. Nowadays there are special channels for children. Internet is also another way to educate children," said Mohammed Al-Shaibani, a resident in Sana'a and a father of five.

"However, children don't use these media properly. All they are interested in is surfing the net for fun, playing games and watching soccer matches. This is a problem with my children, because I can't direct them to get involved in other things like reading," he added.

Furthermore, children have to go to book fairs to select the books they like. Children's magazines are important too, but are often issued irregularly. They can't be found everywhere, and this is a problem, according to Al-Shaibani.

For his part, Rani Al-Absi, a Yemeni teacher in a private school, feels that children's magazines and media are very important to educate children. There are moral lessons in magazine stories and also there are particular educational channels from which children can learn.

On the contrary, Abdusalam Al-Amir, a Yemeni young man, feels that children's magazines and T.V.

aren't the right way educate children. He thinks that they are a waste of time and many channels are filled with aimless programs that don't benefit children.

"The most important place to nurture children's minds is in school. They learn from their teachers and also interact with their classmates," said Al-Amir.

Education insufficiency

"Inadequate curricula, along with the illiteracy of families, has caused poor children's education, and kept children ignorant of their culture," said Radad Al-Salami, a Yemeni journalist.

According to Al-Salami, ignorance of their native culture has made Yemeni children accept everything they hear without critical thinking. Al-Salami feels that what is needed nowadays is to nurture children's morals and values. What children study in school must be linked to what they find outside in the world.

Religious and family role

"Families form the basic ground on which children can stand. Parents are responsible for educating their children in order to be effective members of society," Al-Salami said.

"When they mature, they must be able to face life's challenges, and they won't be able to do so without education," he added.

Al-Salami feels that the Holy Qur'an must be taught to children first so that they can learn how to behave. They must know their duties and rights by heart and they must be taught how to accept others' points of view.

"The Holy Qur'an is an inimitable source of education that purifies the heart and conscience. It strengthens children's beliefs to allow them to differentiate between



what is good and what is bad," he continued.

Using stories and visual learning techniques

Different techniques, such as using pictures, can be used to educate children. A picture of a tree or a house is given to children so that they can make a mental link between the word "tree" and its pic-

ture, according to teacher Al-Absi.

"Moreover, stories can be used to educate children by telling them a story and then asking them to do some exercises to check whether they understood the story or not," he added.

"I usually use stories with children. They make children's learning process active. They enjoy stories very much."





JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancies for its programme:

Finance Manager

Contract Duration: Open ended
Location: Sana'a

The Role

You will be responsible for the effective financial management and monitoring of monthly financial spending of all Oxfam's offices, take a leading role with Country Management Team in financial planning and establishing funding needs, support programme teams during annual budgeting and associated phasing and ensure proper utilization of funds, and undertake monthly and quarterly consolidated reporting on finance for all Oxfam's offices. You will take a leading role in the preparation of donor financial reports, advise on the application of Oxfam Financial policies and procedures, ensure that all data and documents relating to financial operations are complete and kept in an organized and secure manner, monitor the financial procedures of partners, ensure that clear internal audit trails exist and supervise the preparation/maintenance of accounts for external audits, and liaise with the Regional Centre on all financial matters.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with comprehensive knowledge and experience of relevant areas of responsibility (financial and non-financial), knowledge of Oxfam's financial functions would be an advantage. You should have sound resource management skills, analytical skills, and computer skills. You should have experience of financial and people management in similar sized organization, ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English. You should be responsible, flexible, adaptable, diplomatic and attentive to details, and have the ability to prioritize.

Accountant

Contract Duration: Eight months
Location: Sana'a

The role

You will establish, maintain and develop financial and accounting systems and procedures, ensure the office conforms to minimum financial standards, undertake financial and administrative matters, assist in monitoring programme management budgets, and prepare Top-up requests in coordination with other offices. You will be working alongside Country Finance Manager/ finance team to prepare high quality donor financial reports, undertaking and monitoring all payments, preparing monthly bank reconciliation, ensuring security of cash, carrying daily cash count and maintaining up to date float registers. You will prepare monthly salaries, taxes and social insurance for Sana'a, Harad, Amran, Aden, Hodeidah and Sa'ada office, conduct trainings on financial management issues to none finance staff, keep Assets Register up to date, ensure that all financial transactions (soft and hard copies) all filed properly, and perform other tasks requested by the Country Finance Manager.

What we're looking for


We are looking for someone with university degree in a finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar sized organization. You will have the experience in using financial software package and other IT software (Microsoft Applications), ability to train and coach others, and ability to work under pressure. You will have experience working as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, ability to deal with people at all levels (partners, staff, etc) and willingness to travel.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk

Closing date for applications is 17th May 2012

Female candidates are encouraged to apply

STUDY IN THE USA! MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of State, through the U.S. Embassy and AMIDEAST, is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for master's degree studies in the United States under the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program. Applications are for Fulbright grants beginning August 2013. Fulbright grants provide funding for two years of master's degree study in the U.S. in all fields except computer science, engineering, dentistry, medicine or medical fields, nursing, and pharmacy.

Priority consideration will be given to applicants in the fields of public policy, public administration, urban planning, communications, management, and international relations. Applicants in these fields who fall slightly short of the required TOEFL score of 550 for graduate study in the United States may be eligible for special language training and may be chosen as semi-finalists for the following grant year (2014).

Qualified applicants must have:

- A Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (four- or five-year degree) from an accredited institution awarded at least one year prior to application;
- Demonstrated ability to undertake advanced studies, with a B.A. or B.S. grade point average equivalent to at least a 3.20 of 4.00 scale;
- Strong English language skills; and
- Preferred: At least one year of paid or voluntary work experience (minimum of two years for applicants to masters of business administration programs only).

Applicants must also be Yemeni citizens currently residing and working in Yemen. Dual nationals are ineligible for Fulbright grants.

To obtain detailed application instructions and to receive further program details, please visit <http://www.amideast.org/yemen/academic-and-cultural-exchange/fulbright-foreign-student-program> or contact AMIDEAST at:

- AMIDEAST Sana'a: Off Algiers St., (behind Tunisian Embassy), Sana'a. Tel/Fax: 01-400-279/80/81. Mobile: 711416660/733033334. E-mail: scholarships-sanaa@amideast.org. Contact: Entelak Al-Absi.
- AMIDEAST Aden: 162 Miswat St., Khormaksar, Aden. Tel/Fax: 02-235-069/070/071. Mobile: 711421313/733454043. E-mail: scholarships-aden@amideast.org. Contact: Fatima Gulam.

Complete application submissions must include:

- Submission of online Fulbright Application Form, available at: <https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/international/20/> by June 6, 2012, which also includes:
 - Copies of all university transcripts and diplomas. Transcripts in any language other than English or Arabic must be accompanied by official translations.
 - TWO essays typed and prepared in ENGLISH
 - THREE letters of recommendation in ENGLISH from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic and professional achievements.
 - Curriculum Vitae.
 - Either a valid International TOEFL® or Institutional TOEFL® Program (ITP TOEFL®) score equivalent to at least a 550 (or 80 iBT). Test scores may not be older than two years from date of application.
- Submission of the application's signature page and original TOEFL score report to the AMIDEAST offices in Aden or Sana'a by the application deadline below.

NOTE: Applicants who do not have a valid International TOEFL® score should contact AMIDEAST immediately to arrange for the ITP TOEFL® examination. The last ITP examinations before the application deadline will be administered on May 28 in Aden and June 4 in Sana'a.

COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE AMIDEAST OFFICES IN ADEN OR SANA'A NO LATER THAN 4 P.M. ON JUNE 6, 2012.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

((يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي))

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره

نتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة القلبية إلى

العميد / زرق صالح الجوفي

مدير أمن العاصمة

لاستشهاد نجله الفاضل سهيل

كما نتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة القلبية إلى

الأخ / علي بن علي الأبيض

لاستشهاد نجله الفاضل عبده

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيدين بواسع رحمته وأن
يسكنهما فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهليهما وذويهما الصبر والسلوان

وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

حاتم نسيبه

مدير عام شركة توتال يمن للاستكشاف والإنتاج

وجميع موظفي الشركة

عزاء ومواساة
عزاء ومواساة

Mr. Alan Brindley
President - General Manager
and

Mr. Ali Sohaiki

Vice President - Deputy General Manager and all staff of

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd., Block '51'

present their warmest congratulations to

Mr. Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to all Yemeni people and laborers on the occasion of

International Labor Day (May 1st)

Wishing the Republic of Yemen and its Wise leadership further achievements, progress and prosperity.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the following outstanding employees honored this years



Fawzi Al-Ameri
Production
BAK-PF Hadramout



Rassane Mohammed
Production
BAK-PF Hadramout



Hamdi Ahmed
Maintenance
BAK-PF Hadramout



Yeslam Bin Samaida
Maintenance
BAK-PF Hadramout



Omar Bajaber
Logistics
BAK-PF Hadramout



Ali Bawazeer
Camp Admin
BAK-PF Hadramout



Abdulhafith Hizam
Finance
Sana'a Office



Abdullah Oshaish
IT
Sana'a Office



Khalid Al-Jabry
HSE&SR
BAK-PF Hadramout



Mr. Esam Ahmed Alawi Alsaqqaf
Acting General Manager

The Board of Director of the National Bank of Yemen approved the Financial Statement of the Financial Year ending 31 December, 2011

The board of Directors of the National Bank of Yemen held its annual meeting on Wednesday, 2 May, 2012 in presence of all its members and participation of the bank's executive management to approve the bank's financial year ending 31 December, 2011, and hear the report of the

independent accounts auditor Messrs: Dahman & Company RSM about those statements..

The meeting began with a speech by Mr. Esam Ahmed Alawi Alsaqqaf, the acting General Manager, on behalf of the acting Chairman of the board of directors, who said: 2011 was full of challenges which dominated the local economy and the banking market in particular. But in spite of these challenges we in the National Bank of Yemen were able to make satisfactory achievement characterized with improving the quality of the bank's assets which are supported by strong liquidity and sufficient excellent capital, increasing rights of property and net profits over the corresponding period, increasing proceeds of assets to 2.1%, increasing proceeds of average rights of property to 16.2%. These factors assisted in keeping the rating of the bank's financial strength which is granted by the International Rating Institute "Capital Intelligence" at the same previous level rating despite the lowering sovereign of Yemen as result of the political crisis which swept our country during 2011.

The General Manager made it clear in his speech that in the framework of the strategy aimed at improving the bank's operation the bank management continued in 2011 to maintain its conservative policy for provisions in cautious manner and to preserve high liquidity assets, equitably manage the bank's assets and liabilities by focusing on preserving the rights of the owners and the clients in keeping up with the good practices in the banks and instruction of the local control authorities. This assisted in improving efficiency and quality of the bank assets.

On the other hand the General Manager indicated that the bank adopted selective credit approach as result of the precarious circumstance in the local banking sector which continued during 2011, and which was reflected on the growth of credit and increase of allocations on unproductive loans and recoverable loans. In addition investment in government treasury bonds increased to 10.7% over that of 2010, together with continued support of the bank operation through effective and efficient operations. The bank continued to adopt selective approach of making transactions in a way that serve its long term relations. Recently it introduced, within the retail loans, a number of new products including real estate financing and retail loans for retired government employees. The bank continued its several initiatives of achieving efficient operation which will be reflected on the profits of 2012.

The General Manager concluded his speech adding that despite our speculation that 2012 will be full of changes and challenges at local and international levels, we are however confident that the bank can achieve more successes in all areas of banking

operations during current year, by continuing to provide integrated group of banking services and financing a selected group of commercial and industrial projects to meet the needs of these strata of clients, strengthen the pioneer role of the bank, increase its share in commercial lending market, complete the bank restructuring according to the bank good practices and apply the new banking system which was recently adopted from one of the world's largest companies which manufacture bank systems and programs. This will achieve information centralization, and establishment of information technology infrastructure with the purpose of increasing profitability and providing highest level of services for the clients, and improving management and banking quality in the bank, and increasing productivity of the employees through institutional development, training courses and objective

management, and providing appropriate work instrument and procedures for improving management of risks in order to confront the increasing commercial operations and retail banking operations, and upgrading banking services and products which are provided by the bank for its clients and the public, and carrying out suitable amendments to the bank's fundamental systems in order to upgrade the forms, the bases and the current institutional principles in a way that goes in harmony with the strategic trends of the operation of the National Bank of Yemen and requirements of the local supervision authorities.

Dr. Bassam Dahman Awadh Dahman the independent account auditor read on behalf of Dahman RSM, his report which stated that the bank's financial statement for the year ending on 31 December, 2011 are fairly presented.

Finally, the General Manager, on behalf of the bank board of directors expressed thanks to His Excellency President Abdo Rubboh Mansoor Hadi and the national reconciliation government of Mohammed Salem Basindwah, for their sincere and dedicated efforts to improve the local economy and provide suitable atmosphere for development, and to achieve social security and justice.

The Board also thanked the bank's clients for their valuable confidence which has always been appreciated and met with pride by the bank management. It also thanked and greeted the bank's executive management and all bank staff and employees for their faithfulness, efforts, and for professionally carrying out their duties.



Treatment with the Quran: Medicine or quackery?

YT photo by Amal Al-Yariba



During the past ten years, Quranic therapy clinics increased significantly in many governorates.

By Ahmed Dawood

Stories of jinn, or evil spirits, possessing human bodies have been on the rise among Yemenis, particularly those in rural areas. The stories have spread to every corner of the country, especially in areas with low levels of education. Because of these stories, Yemenis are calling on Quran treatment centers, seeking cures for basic illnesses.

Quranic healers say that they have successfully treated people who were possessed by jinn. Muammer Sherian, one of these healers, whose clinic is on Ta'iz Street in Sana'a, says that a few months ago a woman from Ba'adan, in Ibb governorate, came to his clinic. "She was possessed by a jinn," asserts Sherian, "and when I started reciting the Quran, I could talk to the spirit. It was speaking in the Sana'a, Dhamar and even Syrian dialects, along with English."

Further, he said, "While talking to the jinn, he told me that he was a Muslim and that he had memorized the whole Quran. So I asked him to recite some chapters, and he did. I asked him if he was really a Muslim, why would he harm a human of the same religion? He replied that he was not harming her, but protecting her from infidel jinn!"

Spread of Quran treatment centers

During the past ten years, these centers have grown considerably in many governorates. Most of the faith healers say they treat only bewitched, cursed, possessed and epileptic persons. But some claim that they can heal other diseases including uncontrollable anger, excessively long menstruation, abnormal body temperature, and nighttime anxiety.

Sherian says that he treats cases of black magic, the evil eye, possession and epilepsy. "For other cases," he explains, "I refer them to medical specialists."

As for fees, he says that he receives the amount of YR 1,000 for each session and that most of the people who visit his clinic are possessed by jinn. "We easily recognize the possessed," explains Sherian. "When we start reciting the Quran to them, they begin shaking and, sometimes, their fingers and toes curl. This does not happen with people who are not possessed."

In order to expel jinn from human bodies, healers employ various methods; some believe that the

only means to banish spirits is by reciting the Quran alone, whereas others inflict brutal beatings on their patients. "As for me," says Sherian, "I neither beat patients, have sessions with women alone, nor ask about the name of the patient's mother as some healers do. I simply recite the Quran."

Sheikh Aref Al-Shamiri, a well-known Quran therapist, says that the Holy Quran is a medication, while the beating practiced by some healers is a gross violation of standard treatment methods. "I believe," he said, "that such a therapist must have adequate juristic knowledge, be highly pious and devout, be recommended by prominent scholars and, most importantly, he should aim to call people to Allah instead of working solely for financial gain."

According to Al-Shamiri, beside the Quran, the therapist may use other means of treatment such as administering black seeds, or Zamzam water, and cupping, but these should be used only as auxiliaries, while the Quran should be the essential means of treatment. "Before assuming this job, the therapist must be familiar with Islamic jurisprudence in order to read the Quran to his patients according to the methods dictated by sharia. Also, he should be dedicated to benefitting his patients whether or not they pay him."

Faith healers vs. Sorcerers

Sherian thinks that quacks have many tricks they employ in healing sessions. "They insert a rosary into the patient's mouth, pretending to rid their illness, and telling them they are under a spell, being bewitched, or have epilepsy. Real Quran therapists do not tell the patient what he/she is suffering from right away."

He adds that we can recognize a charlatan when he asks the patient to give his/her mother's name and hands them charms that contain numbers, letters, squares and unintelligible words, in addition to the names of genies such as Shamharir, Hamshoush and so on. "Such charms may also have chapters from the Holy Quran whose verses are intentionally written in a scattered and incomplete manner with some letters not dotted or not in their normal direction. They sometimes add symbols and drawings of snakes and scorpions."

Other signs of fraudulent practices include spitting into water and other materials used in the treatment, knotting strings or ropes, using in-

cense to summon devils in addition to convincing patients that they hear queer sounds like wings fluttering, mumbling, and knocking.

"Charlatans also ask to be left alone with women patients, request their patients not to touch water for a period up to 40 days, bury things in the ground, sprinkle liquids, put decayed eggs on door thresholds or inside the house, and the patient may be given some paper to burn and use the smoke as incense," Sherian stated.

“

"Reciting the Quran," Dr. Al-Shara'abi says, "gives the patient spiritual tranquility and stability, which is known in psychology as [cognitive behavioral therapy] the result is that patients feel better. But the opposite could happen"

Piety and devotedness

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hashedi, member of Iman University's fatwa panel, says that there is no problem with treatment by the Quran and that ruqia (treatment by recitation of the Quran) is allowed by Sharia, that it was done by the Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him), and that it is consistent with the Holy Quran, where Allah says: "... And we send down from the Quran that which is healing and a mercy to those who believe [in Islamic Monotheism and act on it] and it gives polytheists and wrong-doers nothing but loss." [50:82]

"The word [healing] explains Al-Hashedi, "is a general word for curing illnesses. Ruqia is meant for curing irremediable diseases like bewitching, evil eye, epilepsy and other diseases."

As for opening Quran treatment centers, the sheikh says, "This is not common in Muslim history and contemporary scholars differ in opinion: some believe this to be an unprecedented novelty, while others think that modern times require the availability of such clinics or facilities."

Nevertheless, Al-Hashedi disap-

proves of certain practices by some therapists such as sitting alone with women patients or touching them, because touching the patient is not a condition for the treatment, he says.

Dr. Yusof Al-Qaradawi affirms that sheikhs and doctors who try to heal everything with the Quran contradict what was practiced during the Prophet's time. "The Messenger used the Quran for treatment, but he also used cautery and ordered his companions to use it when necessary."

The ruqia, according to Dr. Al-Qaradawi, is a supplication that goes: "O, Allah, God of people, cure us and you are the curer, there is no cure but yours, a cure that does not leave behind any ailment."

For the patient to treat himself, one puts his hands on the area that needs treatment and says 'I seek refuge in Allah and His Power from the evil of what I find and I fear' or one says to the person he wishes to treat, 'I ask Almighty God, lord of the mighty throne, to heal you.'

He adds that patients should do the above while consulting specialized medical doctors and taking the medicines prescribed by them.

"The patients may treat themselves or treat others by reciting parts of the Quran like Ayat Al-Kursi and Al-Nas, Al-Falaq and Al-Fateha chapters. The treated person can benefit spiritually and physically by having their immunity strengthened against diseases. But settling for this as the sole method of treatment and using traditional medicines for treating the kidney, for example, is not a treatment."

Spiritual inspiration

Dr. Abdullah Abdul Wahab Al-Shara'abi, a consultant psychiatrist, says that some patients suffer from psychological or mental disorders and when they visit centers that offer treatment by means of the Quran, the therapists recite the Quran to them straightway, thinking that the patient has a jinn, although that person may be suffering from a psychological disorder.

"Reciting the Quran," Dr. Al-Shara'abi says, "gives the patient spiritual tranquility and stability, which is known in psychology as [cognitive behavioral therapy] the result is that patients feel better. But the opposite could happen: many patients treated with the Quran in such centers suffer from worsening disorders due to the belief that they have genies within their bodies, so they are constantly in a state of fear and worry."

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Healthy and Happy Home

If you think that losing weight and decorating your house are two totally different things, think again. Your house plays a very critical part in keeping you healthy. After all, your home is where you spend most of your time, and more importantly, it is where your children spend their time too. You may think that if your house is clean, it is very healthy. But there is so much more to that story.



As our lives get faster and faster, we need to create a healthy and vibrant home environment to which we can come back after a tiresome day at work. How many of us have thought about this? We need a safe, peaceful and energetically balanced space which can act as a protective shield and help us regenerate and heal after daily toils. Here are some ideas that will help create a pleasant, stylish and attractive environment at home:

- 1. Keep your homedust Free:** There is nothing more damaging to your health than house dust. House dust even aggravates allergies. The dust contains so many other harmful chemicals such as lead, fire retardants, pesticides, and other chemicals. Make sure you vacuum everyday. Also, keep doormats outside and inside your front door and make sure everyone wipes their feet and take off their shoes when they come inside. When you have pets like cats and dogs, you should periodically vacuum the house to get rid of dander and animal hair. In case you have birds, keep them out of the house in a cage so that the dry droppings cannot pollute the breathing air and cause disease. When you clean the cage, remember to use masks and gloves.
- 2. Keep it Chemical Free:** There are so many chemicals that we expose ourselves to everyday, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in adhesives, sealants and paints; and pesticides, insect killers, fungicides etc. Make sure you reduce the use of these chemicals in your house. Use low- or no-VOC paint (paints are the second-largest source of VOC emissions after a new car) instead of oil-based paints to minimize paint fumes. Use natural household cleaners (such as borax, baking soda and distilled white vinegar) instead of commercial cleaners which often contain harsh chemicals. When you buy new household appliances (viz. fridge), mop the inside with baking soda and clean them with pure water. Your bathroom can also be a source of hazardous chemicals. Avoid strong cleansing agents, soaps, shampoos and creams. Clean your showers regularly.
- 3. Make Space for Exercise:** Make sure you figure out a space in your house that you can use to exercise and yoga. It should be clear of clutter or large objects. It should have enough space to roll out an exercise mat.
- 4. Get Water Sources Checked:** Check your tap water for any impurities. There are kits that you can buy to filter your water or even better get a water purifier. Also, regularly clean overhead tanks to be on the safer side.
- 5. Utilize Sunlight:** Studies show that natural light (sunlight) has a calming effect on mood and concentration. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, people who work in daylight are more productive. Make sure there is ample sunlight throughout your different rooms. Use strategically placed mirrors and bright interior finishes (like the yellow colour and high-gloss paint) to reflect whatever sunlight you have. Remember, sunlight is also a very valuable source of Vitamin D.
- 6. Paint Your Rooms Appropriately:** Colour has a powerful effect on your mood, behaviour and health. Colours have the ability to soothe and also to stimulate you. Each colour represents a certain kind of energy. By vigilantly picking each colour, you can paint each room to have a maximum health benefits. While decorating with soothing colours (blue and green) can help lower blood pressure and set the scene for more calm and relaxed mind, decorating with bright colours (yellow) can stimulate your brain making you more alert and decisive.
- 7. Great Ventilation:** Fresh air is one important factor for a healthy family. Permit fresh air to circulate throughout the house. Ventilation can reduce heat all throughout the summer and keep you warm in cold winter months.
- 8. Service Your AC Regularly:** The inside part of air conditioner can be an optimum condition for different kinds of moulds and microbes to breed. Sometimes turning the AC on can disperse these moulds and moulds spores into the atmosphere. So, get your AC checked and cleaned regularly to maintain the quality of air. Use one which has ionizer to purify and maintain it cool and healthy.
- 9. Plants and Flowers:** Potted plants or flowers in a vase instantly add life to your home. Green plants not only bring beautiful natural accents room design, but they also help cleanse air. Some of the indoor plants you can get for your home include money plant, areca palm and snake plant. Money plant is one of the best for cleaning air in the bedroom. It not only releases oxygen in the air, but it can also filter formaldehyde from the air that is commonly released by adhesives (used with wood furnishings) and cigarette smoke. Green colour and flowers also rejuvenate your mood.
- 10. Regular Pest Control:** It is very important to get Pest Control done in your house on an annual basis without fail. Also, it makes sense to use herbal pest control instead of chemicals to avoid any future allergies or reactions.

Remember the old saying 'Home is where the heart is'. When the house has a healthy environment, then it is called a healthy home.

Sources: Web MD, Life Mojo & Encyclopaedia of Health



Jamal Goumay Mobarak
Construction Supervisor
Field



Muhib Shamsan
Drilling Engineer
Sana'a



Omer Salem Billahwal
Warehouseman
Field



Sumaia Ali Sharhan
Procurement Services
Coordinator
Sana'a



Sami Abdullah Mohammed
Field HSSE Technician
Field



Saeed Obaid Al Hasaini
Field HSSE Technician
Field



Osama Muqbil
Travel & Transport Coordinator
Sana'a



Faisal Al-Shoa'ibi
Field Security Officer
Field



Fahmi Al-Hamza
Field Doctor
Field



Abdullah Al-Fakeer
Field Sr. IT Support Engineer
Field



Sadiq Ahmed Dobyah
Budget & Planning
Supervisor
Sana'a



Fathi Bedr Alsanee
Field Sr. IT Support Engineer
Field



Fatma Najuib Al-Najar
Drilling Office Administrator
Sana'a



Tameem Al-Aghbari
Sr. Field Administrator
Field



Munser Abdo Al-Arwani
Sr. Field Administrator
Field



Nashwan Masoud
Sr. Accounting Supervisor
Sana'a



Amel Al-Qatta'a
Administration Services
Coordinator
Sana'a



Mohammed Al Akbari
Field Drilling Engineer
field



Nabil Sa'eed Ali Saleh
Warehouseman
field



Jamil Saleh Al-Aqrabi
Warehouseman
Field



بمناسبة عيد العمال العالمي الأول من مايو 2012
يطيب لنا أن نتقدم بأصدق التحايا إلى
المشير الركن / عبدربه منصور هادي
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

و الى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني و العاملين بشركة أو أم في - يمن
والمكرمين لهذا العام
وكل عام وأنتم بخير

السيد نوربرت جروشني
المدير العام - شركة "أو إم في" وكافة العاملين في الشركة

On the occasion of the
International Labor Day May, 1st, 2012
We would like to present our heartfelt congratulations
to

H.E Field Marshal,
Abdu-Rabbo Mansour Hadi
President of Yemen

to the Yemeni people and to all OMV Yemen Staff
And the Company's Outstanding Employees of
the year.

Many Happy Returns

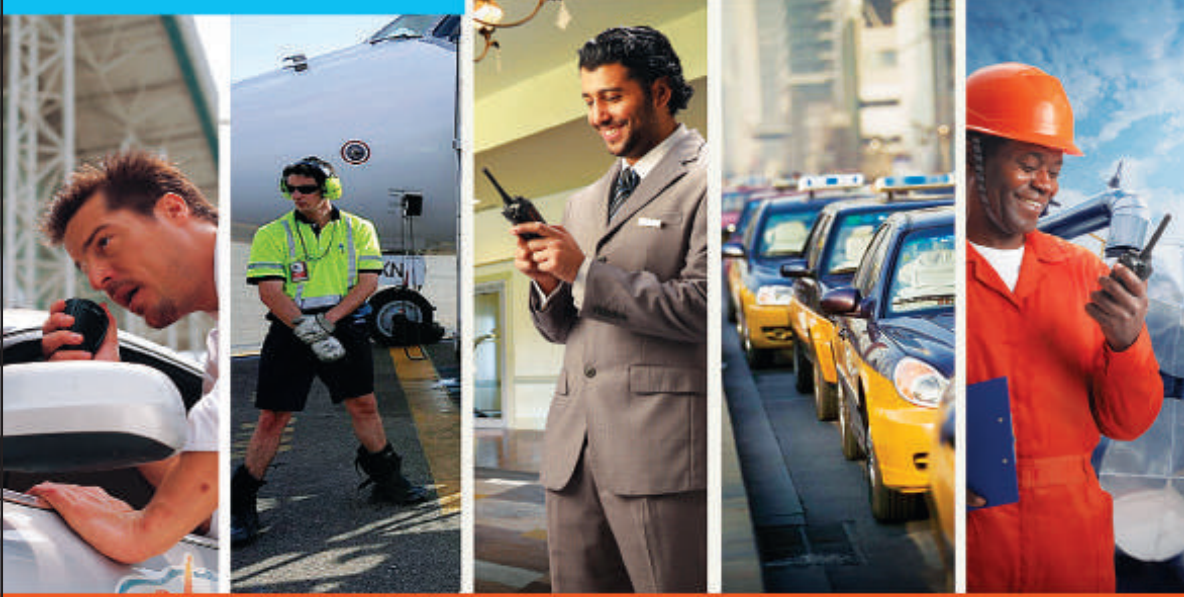
Mr. Norbert Groeschner
The General Manager of OMV Yemen & All staff Members



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الوكيل الوحيد والحصري
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دوام الصحة مع حليب الهند



IT PROGRAMMER/ANALYST Position # 31-15 CPF - Masila (B14) For Yemeni Nationals Only

Basic Function:

Responsible for developing customized software applications and ensuring existing applications are maintained to required standards. As new projects are identified, assists in developing programming solutions as required.

Job Duties:

- a. Develops customized programs and modifies existing systems using corporate standards. Lotus Notes, Visual Basic .NET/ C#, MS-Access, MS-SQL Server and Oracle are the standard programming languages and databases used for developing customized software applications. User requirements and client interviews are documented and conducted by the Programmer, in conjunction with the Applications Specialist, and ultimately approved by the IT Supervisor prior to any work commencing.
- b. Performs all necessary system maintenance, under the guidelines established by the Applications Specialist, on major applications used by departments such as Drilling, Production, Construction, Human Resources, HSE/BSR, and Training. Such applications include, but are not limited to DMS, DriveRight, LIMS, NEMS, SmartPlant Implementation, Lotus Notes, RealFlex, ACET and OFM
- c. Provides general maintenance for all business applications. General maintenance includes, but is not limited to, small program modifications, program fixes, application interfaces, report changes, file repair and ad-hoc reporting.
- d. Assists in testing systems and ensuring proper software application operation in compliance with Company's standards.
- e. Provides general IT end-user support and troubleshooting, which includes Arabic/English operating systems and MS-Office Suite.
- f. Follows standard project management methodology for development projects including estimating, time-keeping, monitoring and variance explanation of man-days used.
- g. Responsible for adhering to the corporate IT Change Management guidelines as directed by the Applications Specialist and the IT Supervisor.
- h. Performs other similar or related duties as assigned by the Applications Specialist.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Technology
- b. 3-year experience, which would include a strong programming background specifically with new PC-based development tools. Strong Computer skills on Lotus Notes, Visual Basic .NET / C#, MS-Access, MS-SQL Server and Oracle.
- c. Very good knowledge of English.
- d. Industry specific certifications: e.g. MGTS or MCPD are a plus

◆ To Apply for this Job please apply to: Recruiting_YEMENIA@petromasila.com
◆ Applications should be e-mailed and NO later than May 28th, 2012. Faxed applications will not be considered.
◆ Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
◆ Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



IT Support Specialist Position # 0851 CPF - Masila (B14) For Yemeni Nationals Only

Basic Function:

Provides first- and second-level technical support to clients. Performs third-level technical support in conjunction with other resources or in areas of their expertise.

Job Duties:

May carry out any or all of the duties of the IT Workstation Technician. In addition carries out any or all of the following duties:

- a) Provides first and second level IT support for all applications and desktops at all facilities and remote locations. As their expertise increases they are expected to assume third-level technical support duties in those areas.
- b) Escalates issues to third-level technical support when required and ensures that resolutions meet customers' needs and requirements.
- c) Interacts closely with clients on a daily basis. Is expected to maintain a professional attitude and handle customer issues promptly and efficiently to the client's satisfaction.
- d) Repairs PCs, monitors, printers, scanners, UPS.
- e) Assists and trains junior IT staff. Assists all other team members as required
- f) Assists Network Administrators in maintaining accurate records for all network equipment. This includes network layout diagrams for all equipment connected to the network (routers, switches, hubs, servers, printers, modems, etc.).
- g) Maintains all IT systems to PetroMasila IT standards. Identifies and reports violations of company policies and standards.
- h) Assists Network Administrators in performing daily checks on network backup system, disk space monitoring and gateway communication.
- i) Makes recommendations regarding hardware and software acquisition based upon consultations with clients and supervisors.
- j) Tests all new equipment thoroughly to PetroMasila standards before issuing to clients. Works with clients to ensure that equipment functions as expected and then resolves any issues that may arise.
- k) Maintains and updates IT inventories. Makes recommendations regarding inventory levels. Ensures that end-of-life materials are delivered to the Logistics Department in a satisfactory manner for proper disposal.
- l) Responsible for managing and maintaining the Help Desk system. Ensures end-users are receiving the appropriate assistance on their issues. Ensures that Work Orders are entered correctly according to IT directives. Closes out Help Desk Work Orders after confirming with clients that Work Order resolutions are satisfactory.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences or Information Technology.
- b. Extensive knowledge working with MS-Windows O/S and MS-Office Suite.
- c. Good working knowledge of structured wiring, router and Ethernet switch technology, fiber-optic cable and dial up communications.
- d. 5-year experience in the operation and maintenance of desktop computers.
- e. Good working knowledge of English.
- f. Industry specific certifications: e.g. MCITP (Enterprise Support Technician), N+, A+, and GCNA are a plus.

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Do'an valley: A historical and cultural legacy

By: Saleh Al-Batati

Considered one of the most important valleys of the Wadi Hadramout region—located in the south of the Arabian Peninsula in eastern Yemen—the Do'an Valley has become an international tourist attraction.

The Do'an Valley is divided into two branches, with most towns located along the banks of the valley. The ecological diversity the valley boasts – a combination of valleys and mountains, mud brick structures and modern buildings, has rendered Do'an a popular destination, with thousands of visitors every year.

Landmarks

The Do'an Valley hosts archaeological sites that distinguish it from the rest of Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula. Al-Quza cave and the ancient Raybun oasis are among the Do'an's treasures. The sites were unknown until 1983, when a joint Yemeni-Soviet archeological mission excavated them. Today, Al-Quza cave, which is located in a small historical village 102 km southwest of Sayun, the capital of Wadi Hadramout, is renowned for its canyons, springs, pools and historical monuments.

The cave's origins go back one million years, an indication of Do'an's history and the length of time people have lived in the valley. "It is the first discovery in the Arabian Peninsula of its kind," an archaeologist from Hadramout, Dr. Abdulazez bin Aqail said.

Remains of embalmed corpses and mummified camels were unearthed. After analyzing the remains, historians and archaeologists estimated that the artifacts date back to the Paleolithic-age.

The same team discovered Ray-



Al-Quza cave and the ancient Raybun oasis are among the Do'an's treasures. The sites were unknown until 1983

Dating back to the pre-Islamic period, the town of Al-Hugrain is known for its unique architecture. Some describe it as "The Island of Do'an" when flood waters surround it.

Al-Hugrain was built on the side of a mountain, and the mountain worked as a defense against potential invasions, making Al-Hugrain Do'an's gatekeeper overlooking both branches of the valley.

Famous for its high, mud-brick buildings that have endured hundreds of years of climate changes, the city has become the Do'an's main tourist attraction since it was declared a cultural and historical settlement in 2006.

On the right side of the Do'an valley is Hudon, a village considered a shrine for sheikhs and Sufis, who hold annual ceremonies in the village. It is 147 kilometers southwest of Sayun, and sheikhs and Sufis arrive from across the country and around the Gulf region to participate in special ceremonies held

irrigation system known as Sawaqi, irrigation water conduits into which floodwater is directed, which distribute surplus water to the fields and then drain off.

The other system of irrigation is *Karafan* (The Arabic plural of *Kareef*), or dams, where water is stored until times of scarcity. A small-scale irrigation system, called *Jawbi* (The Arabic plural of *Jabya*), or pools, is one in which groundwater fills pools and then drains through a tiny hole so that farm lands can be irrigated without water waste.

In the smaller springs, where the flow is weaker, irrigation pools are dug out near the farm fields. Water is then gathered during the night and used in the irrigation system the following day. This creates enough water to fill the channel and avoid water waste. Some *Shurooj*, plots of land, are directly irrigated by rainwater, whereas other *Shurooj* are irrigated by way of the systems described above.

Local customs dictate all agricultural work, including the construction and maintenance of the *Saqayya* (water conduit). The water is distributed according to certain priorities: landowner-farmer relations and the resolution of disputes.

Residents have to implement the traditional agricultural practices in full. Elders and sheikhs of tribes are tasked with monitoring these practices. In an event that someone breaks the rules and refuses to abide by them, a committee is formed by sheikhs to arbitrate. However, if the committee's decisions are not followed, sheikhs intervene and make the final arbiter to which everyone should submit.

Farmers in the Do'an Valley grow wheat, corn, dates, and lemons irrigated via springs or rainwater, and tobacco irrigated via wells. Most of the Do'an Valley is covered with palm trees, and their fruit is considered to be of the highest-quality because of its distinctive taste.

Pastures are spread across the valley. However, they are not always open for livestock, and shepherds must abide by the rules regarding grazing hours. When floods irrigate the land, grazing animals on the grass of the newly irrigated lands is banned until after the harvest. If caught breaking these rules, there is a fine upwards of five hundred Rials for grazing a goat and two thousand Rials for a camel.

Lifestyle in the Do'an
Arab hospitality is ingrained and rooted in the people of Do'an. A

warm reception of foreigners is a trademark of the region's people.

The people of Do'an live very simple rural lives. Some work in agriculture as farmers and ploughmen, while others work as builders or masons building traditional mud homes.

Western-imported culture is absent from everything including food and clothes. The people of Do'an do not eat hamburgers or wear jeans. Even at weddings, they stick to traditional music, *Mizmar*, and dance, *Shareh*, swaying back and forth.

Vendors gather in the most popular Souq, or market, called *Al Raboo'*, which means "Wednesday." This is the day of the popular bazaar. Quaint shops and souvenir stalls cover every corner in the bazaar with their respective goods, which people from across the Wadi come to see. Tourists intermingle with shoppers and sellers, and haggle over prices.

Businessmen of Do'an

The question, "Why have Saudi

businessmen of Do'ani origin become successful businessmen?" is on the tip of every tongue.

Do'ani businessmen pool resources and invest in many Asian, African and European countries. Aidh Al-Qarni, a well-known Saudi preacher and writer, wrote that he visited Hadramout to look for the secret behind the success of the businessmen of Do'an. "I found the same earth, the same land as that which one we live on," he wrote. "I really wonder," he added, unable to find out why.

The answer can be found in an interview with Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Buqshan, a successful Saudi businessman of Do'ani origin, after he was asked by an American journalist about the secret of Do'ani business success.

"Saving money for the rainy day is the method we use in business," Buqshan said.

Do'ani businessmen have been involved in charity through paving roads, building model schools and

hospitals, financially supporting poor families, elderly and disabled persons, and offering scholarships to outstanding students.

Yet, the protracted turmoil that Yemen has been witnessing has led to a sharp drop in the number of tourists who would normally flow into Do'an. However, the people of Do'an have kept their fingers crossed that a new influx of tourists will come soon.

In addition, further difficulties for Do'an may come in the lack of protection for the unique architecture in the valley, diminishing its charm and beauty. Scant new government regulation is being introduced to preserve the traditions and culture of Do'an. What's worse, archeological sites in the area are exposed to damage, with no official safeguards. If there is real intention to boost the tourist sector in Yemen, much concerted effort has to be made on this treasure of a region to maintain its prominent cultural and historical position in Yemen.



Turmoil has led to a sharp drop in the number of tourists who would normally flow into Do'an.

bun, an oasis three kilometers away from Al-Quza cave. The oasis was covered with irrigation networks, graveyards and temples, according to a document produced in 2004 by the Russian mission. From the start of excavation, the ruins were identified as a temple dedicated to Syn, the principle god of ancient Hadramout. Mission data indicated that pottery fragments were also founded during the excavation.

The fragments date back to the eighth and ninth centuries. Fragments of inscriptions dedicated to deities found in the Raybun temples are now stored at the Sayun museum, located in the city of Sayun.

on the 15th of Shaban, the month preceding Ramadan in the Muslim calendar. The village is also thought to host the grave of the prophet Hadon, the son of the prophet Huud. The alleged grave, in a corner of a mosque, is almost ten meters tall.

Agriculture and Irrigation
The Do'an is known for its agriculture and irrigation system. It is considered one of Hadramout's most fertile valleys with abundant water sources (including rainwater, springs, pools, wells) and a unique traditional irrigation system of underground water conduits.

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