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'Black day' protests leave 4 dead, 20 injured

Samar Qaed

SANA'A, July 8 - Southern Yemeni governorates witnessed several protests in condemnation of July 7, the date in 1994 when the army broke into Aden during civil war, resulting in the defeat of the southern forces and the absconding of many leading socialist figures. Northern forces then took control of Aden in cooperation with some southern allies.

On Saturday, four people died and 20 were injured during protests in Aden, Seivon and Al-Makala.

Anees Mansour, a journalist in Aden who was present during mass protests in Al-Hashmi Square in Khawr Maksar, said the protests were large and all social factions took part. However, he said the protesters raised different banners indicating a divided stance.

"Such protest took place in Al-Makala but failed when they raised the pictures of Ali Salem Al-Beed," Mansour said. "Rows caused the removal of Al-Beed's pictures and the upholding Hassan Baom's, a prominent figure in the peaceful southern movement.

Mansour said protests were organized; yet rifts among the participants sparked chaos. Some young people tried to regain the square, which is now under the hold of the central security forces, according to Mansour.

"The demonstrators arrived in Al-Ghazl and Al-Naseej roundabout. The security forces prevented their expansion. Roof snipers killed two and wounded six others."

There was a fire exchange between the militants and the security forces, said Mansour, who added that Al-Qaeda has taken advantage of disagreements within the southern movement.

"A lot of southerners deem what happened in July 1994 as occupation. However, the government in Sana'a, represented by the General Peoples' Congress (GPC), considered it as an attempt to unify Yemen and end separation."

Political analyst Abdul Rakeeb Al-Hadiani said all observers admit armed men confront the security forces. Two days ago, the parliamentarian committee in Al-Mansoura declared that militants open fire from the roofs in the vicinity of Al-Mansoura Square.

Qasim Askar, the former ambassador and the general secretary of the southern movement, said protesters came out to condemn July 7

as a "black day."

"The central security forces confronted the southern protesters, and they were fully encircled," Askar said. "It is an occupation."

Khalid Haidan, information assistant in the Islah party said people who confronted the security forces are the ones who refuse to take part in the National Dialogue.

"They are violent southern militants affiliated with Al-Beed and who call for the end of unification," Haidan said.

Askar, on the contrary, denied the accusations.

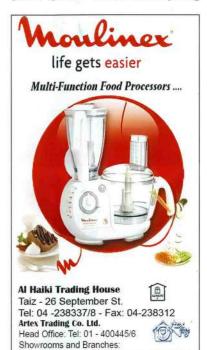
"The southern movement choice is peaceful one," he said. "There were no weapons used by the southern movement five years ago. The Islah party intentionally launched a media campaign, and we deny such accusations."

Mohammed Saleh Al-Qubati, a parliamentarian, said confrontations take place during a critical time for Yemen and create an unfit climate for the National Dialogue Conference.

"Violence is rejected in any activity in the south," Al-Qubati said. "There are political problems that need a national solution, not violence."



Continued on page 4 A protester flashes the peace sign amidst deadly protests in the southern region of the country.



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Yemen demands discontinuation of US strikes

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, July 8 — Journalists have reported that the Yemeni government informed U.S. ambassador Gerald M. Feierstein that it cannot accept U.S. involvement in air raids on Yemeni territory.

The Yemeni government said that, because the war between the Yemeni military and Ansar Al-Sharia ended, the U.S. should honor its agreement to discontinue action.

Abdusalam Mohammed, head of the Abaad Studies and Research Centre, a think-tank based in Sana'a, said the agreement between Yemen and the U.S. to stop the air raids carried out by U.S. drones will help soften attitudes toward the U.S.

Abdusalam said the agreement will lessen the spread of hatred toward the U.S. that some groups, such as the Houthis and Ansar Al-Sharia, try to spread. He said the agreement will have a positive impact and will decrease the number of civilians killed during U.S. strikes.

There are currently fewer air raids than what were carried out by the former Yemeni regime. According to Abdusalam, there are fewer victims from strikes now than those killed in the Al-Ma'jala air raid conducted by the U.S. in 2009.

In addition, Abdusalam said there

ever before, particularly regarding the southern secessionist issue in which Iran plays an essential role. He said the agreement between Yemen and the U.S. could prevent external intervention in Yemen.

It also should be honored because Ansar Al-Sharia militants are weaker now, according to Abdusalam.

Journalists reported that more than 40 militants were seen passing through the governorate of Dalea', heading toward Lahj and Aden.

According to the Yemen Defense Ministry website, "Information indicated that those militants came from Rada'a in Beida'a governorate. They were targeting the Cenare more disputes in Yemen than tral Prison in Dalea' because they

thought the militants arrested in Al-Shoaib district are being held

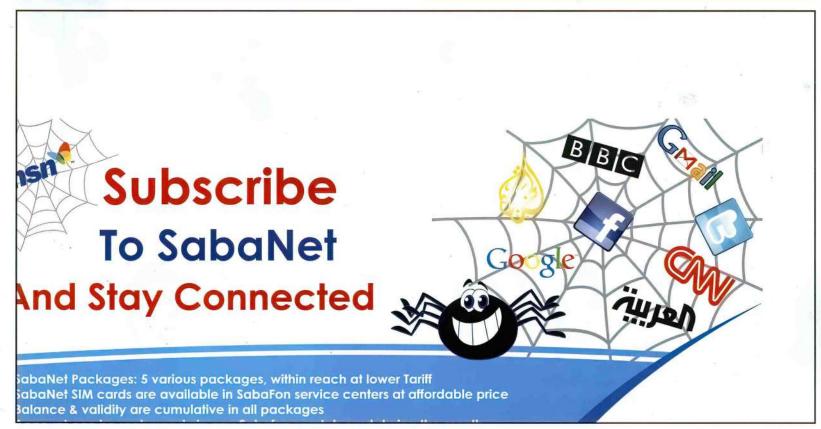
Anees Mansour, a journalist and political analyst in Aden, said militants infiltrated the Al-Mansoura area in Aden after confrontations broke out between security services and members of the southern movement on Saturday.

"I saw some people inside a Toyota Corolla distributing brochures of Ansar Al-Sharia and writing slogans on the walls," Mansour said. 'Not one of them was caught."

The Yemen Times tried to contact Sadeq Haid, Aden's security chief, but he declined to make a state-











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OMV's Labor Day Festivities:

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OMV recently held its sixth annual Labor Day celebration which was attended by Deputy Labor Minister Abdo Al-Hakimi, company management, employees, and government, officials. At the gathering OMV honored its employees and voiced a commitment to long-term operations in Yemen.

After a challenging year for the oil sector, those OMV employees who were present appeared ready to look to the future with hope and confidence.

While OMV is truly an international company, it has steadily built up its Yemenis workforce. Currently, about 80% of OMV's employees are Yemeni.



"Really, it's an honor – you can see that the Yemeni team is strong, committed, and proud to be part of the OMV family," said general manager Norbert Groeschner when asked how it felt to spend the day with his employees.

Throughout the celebration, it was clear that a close bond existed between OMV employees and management.

"We respect our labor force, and Labor Day gives us a reason to celebrate.

We are giving awards to our best employees – to those employees who have made the longest commitments .

to the company. It is a pleasure and honor, I must say, to work with our Yemeni colleagues," added Mr. Groeschner.

Mr. Groeschner placed special emphasis on OMV's future plans in Yemen: "We have long-term plans here in Yemen, to educate people and to do all we can to build the company's future and participate in Yemen's growth as a nation."

From its first operations in Yemen in 2006, OMV has focused on developing the abilities of its Yemeni workers. In order to prepare them for a full variety of positions within the company, Yemeni workers have been sent abroad for various training programs. One such program which runs for two to three years provides training for employees in Vienna before giving them the opportunity to learn on-site in Yemen.



Human Resources and Training Manager Fadie Shaif said,

"OMV always works to foster good communication between the company and employees at all levels."

Speaking to those present, Human Resources and Training Manager Fadie Shaif said, "We are happy to celebrate Labor Day with our general manager, who couldn't share last year's celebration with us. Even with the challenges that face the oil sector these days, OMV has set up a working plan for its staff in 2011. We have taken our local staff and put them alongside foreign workers abroad. We have managed to benefit from the suspension of oil operations by focusing on building our workers' capacities and by putting them to work with OMV colleagues in Dubai."





In a speech delivered to OMV management and staff, Minister Abdo Al-Hakimi said,

"I am proud of OMV because it has a human rather than a commercial character. OMV stood by its labor force last year – even with contracted staff."

Labor Minister Abdo al-Hakimi, added, "In the last year, when operations were on hold, OMV insisted on putting pressure on contractors to continue paying subcontracted employees. The company has held onto its local workforce and has sent back many foreign employees. OMV worked to balance the needs of its Yemeni labor force and has made a good example for other companies to follow in coming years."

Speaking about the results of such programs, Mr. Groeschner said, "We then have well-trained and well-educated engineers from our Yemeni workforce. Sooner or later, these gentlemen and ladies must replace our foreign experts."

OMV also provides its Yemeni employees with the opportunity to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees abroad, in subjects ranging from environmental engineering to geophysics.

Even though such efforts may take up to five years, Mr. Groeschner said, "OMV is happy to support our employee's educational pursuits. We are really proud to have the chance to witness these young students - these ladies and gentlemen are really brilliant."

In strict business terms, OMV feels positive about its future prospects. In addition to blocks already under development, OMV is currently carrying out exploration activities atmultiple sites.

OMV is willing to make further investments in this country... we have quite ambitious targets here in Yemen," said Mr. Groeschner. What sets OMV apart from the competition? According to Mr. Groeschner, "OMV has special know-how, especially in the development of basement reservoirs. Not too many countries in the world have knowledge in this area. It's a win-win situation for the Yemenistate, because OMV is able to produce from very challenging reservoirs."















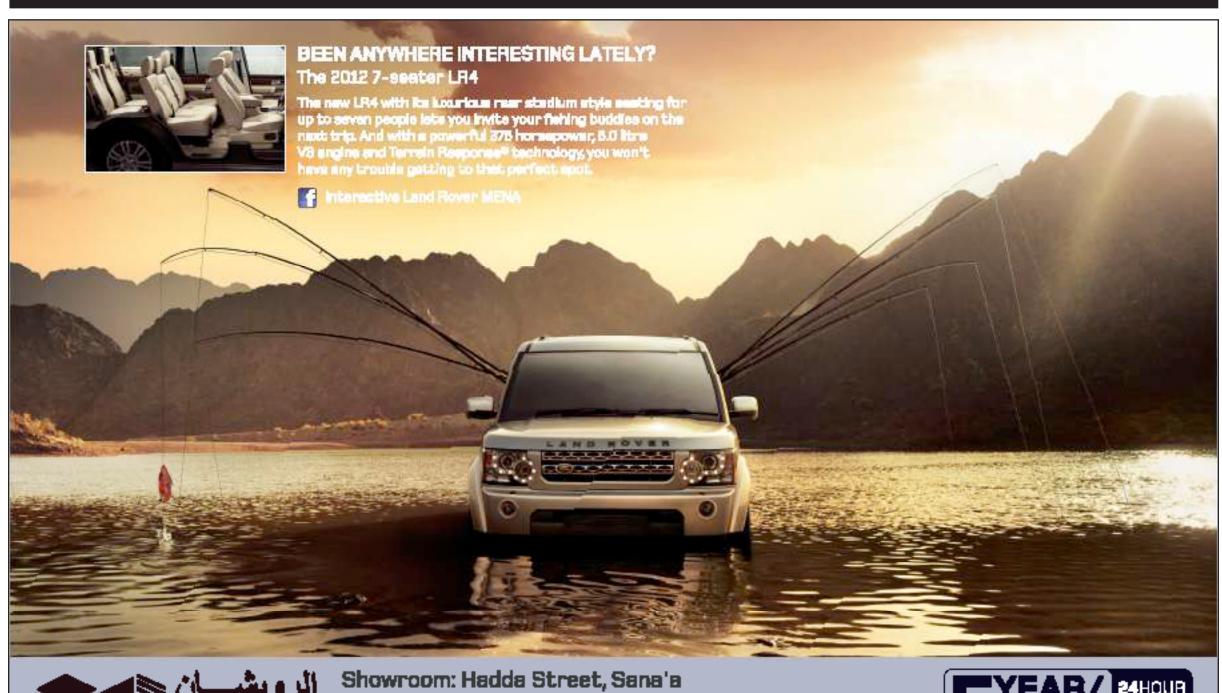












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Businessman Ahmed Hail Saeed Ana'am dies in Taiz

Mohammed Al-Samei

TAIZ, July 8 — Well-known Yemeni businessman Ahmed Hail Saeed Ana'am died Wednesday in Taiz.

Journalist Taiseer Al-Samei said Ana'am died in his house and was later taken to the hospital.

Ana'am is the eldest son of the late businessman Hail Saeed Ana'am. He was born in the Hayfan district of Taiz in 1932, and he studied the Holy Qur'an, Arabic grammar and mathematics in the local religious school.

During his studies, he started working with his father, later becoming director of their importing company in Barbara, Somalia. He was the first Yemeni businessman to establish relations with the Soviet Union in 1957, was honored by Denmark in 1973 and received an honorary doctorate from the Africa International University.

He was a member of the administration of the Yemen Bank for Construction and Development.

Since 1970, Ana'am acted as chairman of the board of directors of Hail Saeed Ana'am Companies, chairman of various other companies, vicechairman of the Hail Saeed Ana'am Charitable Group, head of the Commercial Chamber in Taiz and member of Arab Investors Union in



Ahmed Hail Saeed Ana'am

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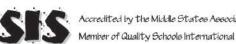
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Psychological disorders prevalent in Yemeni society

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, July 4 — Amat al-Razzak Hammed, the Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, confirmed that the number of people suffering from psychological disorders in Yemen is increasing daily, due to the difficult circumstances in Yemen.

In a seminar held in Sana'a about addiction, depression and the rights of the mentally disabled, Hammed said many people suffering from psychological problems are held in prisons. Others are kept in psychiatric hospitals that lack appropriate remains an issue due to Yemen's tools and medicine.

The minister said the reasons behind the increasing numbers of mentally disabled in Yemen include a lack of specialist hospitals available in the country to treat them. She also said poverty played a significant role, as families of the mentally disabled are often unable to afford the high prices of medicine.

Hammed declared that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has a plan to take care of the mentally disabled; funding, however, current political and economic climate.

For his part, Sameer Khairi Redha, a member of the Yemeni parliament and a member of the Health and Population Committee in parliament, said Yemen is undergoing a very difficult phase, especially for politicians. He warned that politicians will suffer psychological disorder because of the "situation".

He stressed that those who carry out acts of sabotage against power lines are suffering from psychological disorders and must be treated. Dr. Ahmed Qasim Al-Ansi, the

Minister of Public Health and Population, said the situation in Yemen requires the support of all Yemenis to overcome the factors causing such psychological problems.

"Societal ignorance causes the spread of mental disease," Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Khulaidi, head of the Yemen Association of Psychiatrists and Neurologists, said. His work confronts the difficulties and challenges that face potential mental health laws.

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Club Beat Sanaa challenger by 4 wickets, Sanaa Challangers won the Toss and elected to bat first and bowled out by Dove on 96 runs in 14 overs. The Dove Club chased total in 12.4 overs with 4 wickets remaining, Raga played very well and hit first 50 of the tournament and played vital role to take his

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Continued from page 1

'Black day' protests leave 4 dead, 20 in-

Qasim Dawood, the second secretary in the Socialist party, said he condemned the deaths in Aden, describing it as a crime against the "peaceful" protests.

"The southern issue has to do with southern ers," Dawood said. "We respect those who hold the southern issue in esteem. Why doesn't the the protests?"

Saeed Al-Aghbari, information assistant in the political authority in the General Peoples' Congress, belittled the importance of protests, dubbing them as futile.

Al- Aghabari said local authorities don't pre-

violence and confrontations with the security forces are considered unacceptable.

Mohammed Nassir Al-Musallami, a member of the Higher Council for the Movement of Military Retirees, said the group demands that the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen be restored.

"The unification was stabbed on July 7, 1994," he said.

Askar agreed with Al-Musallami, saying that chances for unification ended in the war

"Our struggle is peaceful and we ask our friends in the Yemen Arab Republic to divide and maintain our relations as they were before the unification," Askar said. Several southern political figures con-

demned the celebration of the ousted regime on Saturday "What was caused by the ousted regime made people rebel against the unification. Haidan said JPC and the southern movement

This week, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) adopted a 12-point plan given to Presiden Abdu Rabu Mansur Hadi and the Yemeni government by the Socialist party. The plan tackles

Askar said he doesn't recognize any compromise with the southern issue, especially if this compromise was provided by the JPC.

"Until now, the policy of the JPC is a part of the occupation's policy," he said. "There is no difference between the former regime and the current one.

"This is the issue of a homeland, and we will struggle not only for a martyr or a detained person, but our struggle is to restore a land that

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Mediation fails in bid for commander's release

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, July 8 — Tension persists between Khawlan and Sanhan district tribes to the east of the Sana'a after the abduction of Murad Al-Awabali, a commander in the Republican Guard from the Sanhan district.

Abdulkareem Naji, a Khawlan local, said sheikh Mohammed Bin Naji Al-Ghadir, a leading figure in Khawlan, is mediating the kidnapped commander's release, promising the kidnappers will be reinstated as soldiers and their salaries paid.

Naji said the offer was declined, and the kidnappers demanded Al-Ghadir recruit them to military units other than the Republican Guard, which they claim to be in.

The kidnapping has sparked disputes between Khawlan and Sanhan tribes, and tribesmen from Sanhan attacked students from Khawlan during secondary school examinations in Bait Al-Shatbi





The Khawlan and Sanhan tribes continue clashing in the aftermath of Murad Al-Awabali's kidnapping last week.

Village, a Sanhan village.

Mohammed Darwish, an eyewitness in Khawlan, said confrontations between the two districts broke out, resulting in one Khawlan injury: Arafat Mohammed Al-Kadi was hospitalized after sustaining a bullet in his leg.

Darwish said clashes lasted for more than half an hour.

Currently, Sanhan tribesmen have checkpoints on Khawlan-Sana'a road, preventing anyone from Khawlan's 30 villages to enter Sana'a, 30 km away, in a bid to lobby the abductors to release Al-Awabali.

The 10-village Sanhan, which lies to the east, is 10 km from Sana'a. A group of armed tribesmen from Khawlan abducted the Republican Guard's 62nd Brigade commander last week in Juhana.

The abductors claimed to be former Republican Guard soldiers, but they sided with the revolution, and their salaries were not provided.

They said they won't release Al-Awabali until salaries are paid.



Yemenis like 'flock of goats,' Dubai police chief tweets

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, July 6 — Factions of Yemeni society reacted sharply to critical comments by Dhahi Khalfan, the police commander in Dubai, who compared Yemenis to goats.

On Friday, Khalfan used his Twitter account to tweet that Yemenis are like "a flock of goats wrongly vaccinated by the guru of the Muslim Brotherhood (Mohammed Badee)."

Recently, Khalfan similarly criticized Egyptians and newly elected Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

In Yemen, the Islah party rep-



Dhahi Khalfan used Twitter to make comments deemed critical by Yemeni groups.

resents the Muslim Brotherhood, considered the strongest political party in the Arabian Peninsula. However, Mohammed Kahtan, a leading figure in the Islah party, said negative reactions to Khalfan's comments should be confined to Twitter.

"It is better to blame Khalfan without any insult to the United Arab Emirates as a government or to Dubai as a city, which all Arabs take pride in," Kahtan said. "Khalfan has the right to have his say about Yemen and Yemenis. However, defaming others is unfit because he is the commander of police in Dubai."

Abdulhadi Al-Azazi, a member of the Organizing Committee

of the popular youth revolution, said Gulf regimes fear the Muslim Brotherhood's dominance in Yemen. According to him, Khalfan's "frivolous" statements are appreciated by the Gulf regimes.

"Khalfan stands for the Arabian police that have been grown under the auspices of despotic regimes," Al-Azazi said. "The Arab Spring came to disintegrate these regimes. The Arab Spring has paved the way for the Muslim Brotherhood."

Faris Al-Himyari, a Xinhua News Agency correspondent, said Khalfan adopts the policy of his nation and its stance toward some countries through tension-sparking declarations.

He said Khalfan's declarations

cause headaches.

"His statements have nothing to do with diplomacy, tactfulness and shrewdness," Al-Himyari said. "It is disgusting and slanderous to depict the whole nation as goats."

Al-Himyari said the Yemeni government should not be deaf to such declarations. He said insulting Yemenis is unacceptable, and the government should mention this to the embassy of United Arab Emirates in Sana'a.

Also on Twitter, Khalfan wrote, "Veterinary clinics are like the yard in Yemen. Hey, find a solution for the qat."

"I have been to Yemen. The guide informed me about Marib civilization as an Ethiopian one," said Khalfan.

"They have Marib dam that made an outstanding civilization in the past. Can they take advantage of this dam?" he added.

Khalfan's tweets sparked angry reactions on Twitter in response to the "arrogant, degrading comments."

The Financial Times newspaper reported that Khalfan's comments demonstrate fear of the reform movements in the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf states.





Abyan radio station to resume programming

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

ABYAN, July 8 — On Tuesday, Abvan radio station will resume broadcasting after more than a year off-air because of military confrontations between Yemeni forces and Al-Qaeda militants.

An experimental broadcast aired this past Thursday.

Saleh Hanash, the radio station's general manager, said the aim of the broadcast was to raise morale as daily life begins to nor-

He said Thursday's experimental broadcast was set in motion based on individual efforts and the help of a specialized team from Taiz and Laĥj radio stations. He said the station's FM machines were subject to looting estimated

at millions. A new FM and a generator were stolen. Ansar Al-Sharia took control of the generator and sold it, according to Hanash.

Hanah said broadcasts would depend on rooms for relaying and recording programs. He said the governorate and the General Corporation for Radio and Television should make a collective effort to help the radio station restart its media-educating role.

In the past, Abyan radio station has been subject to robberies and destruction by Al-Qaeda militants. The station has a long history in media activities since its establishment in the 1970s. It was a pioneer in the media field through its production of educational and quality programs as well as its high news circulation.



After more than a year, broadcasts in Abyan will resume

Hodeida airport land hijacked

Eman Tuhama

HODEIDA, July 8 — Several powerful figures affiliated with the Air De-

fense Forces and Air Police officers, as well as merchants and tribal figures, are attempting to control areas in and around Hodeida's air-

tion isn't taken, the airport could be forced to close.

Airport Manager Saleh Ahmed said the hostility impacts safety, so the airport could close for security

Ali Al-Twaiti, the deputy manager of the airport, said high-ranking officials such as air force commanders in Sana'a and in Hodeida have been informed. He said he urged them to resolve the problems

"According to international standards, the minimum space needed for an airport is between 1,200 and 1,500," Al-Twaiti said.

officials held Saturday in Hodeida

Officials warn that if further ac-

immediately.

Al-Twaiti said the total area of airport-owned land is estimated at 1,200 square meters; however, because different entitites have seized control of much of the area, the airport currently controls 400 square meters, or one-third.

He said a meeting with several

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was intended to negotiate with those controlling the airport's land, to hear their demands and to peacefully resolve the situation.

Ahmed Al-Makbooli, deputy manager of the General Authority for Land Survey and the Urban Planning branch, said those assigned to protect the land should be held accountable.

"It is absolutely disgraceful that thieves are the ones assigned to protect the resources," Al-Makbooli

Al- Makbooli said that sources said the group controlling the airport's land plans to split it among themselves into 250 meter plots.

"It is a big problem, and they have no justification for being absent from the meeting," he said.

Al- Makbooli said that they're trying regain control of hijacked land.

"The bulldozers are being escorted by armed guards. Work is currently progressing."

He said the government is doing its best to settle the issue.





Request for Expression of Interest – Consulting Services

Yemen-Healthy Mother Project

Grant No. JSDF Grant no. TF094846

Consulting Services

Managerial and Development Training Proc ref 1.4

This invitation for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in the Development Business on 31 October 2010.

SOUL for Development has received financing in the amount of US\$ 2,850,000 equivalent from the International Development Agency (IDA), the administrator of grant funds provided by Japan under the Japan Social Development Fund, toward the cost of the Healthy Mother Project (HMP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance Capacity Building programs for the Project Management Team.

The services include provision of managerial and development training program covering the following subjects: (1) Project Management, (2) Self-Leadership Skills, and Time Management, (3) Communication skills, (4) Energy Management and (5) English Business

Those training should be conducted between September 2012 and January, 2013.

SOUL for Development now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, general qualifications and number of key staff, and so forth). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004; revised October 1, 2006).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address mentioned below during office hours [0800 to 15:30 hours].

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 22July, 2012

SOUL for development Attn: Dr.Kawkab Al-hadaad, HMP Technical officer 16th street, Behind Academic Community University P.O.Box: **18383** Sana'a Yemen

Tel: 00 967 1 474732; Fax: 00 967 1 204524

E-mail: **soul-yemen@y.net.ye**, Web site: www.SOUL-Yemen.org





REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - INDIVIDUAL **CONSULTANTS**

Yemen-Healthy Mother Project Grant No. JSDF Grant no. TF094846

Consulting Services Arabic Business/Correspondence Writing

This invitation for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in the Development Business on 31 October 2010.

Proc ref 1.5

SOUL for Development has received financing in the amount of US\$ 2,850,000 equivalent from the International Development Agency (IDA), the administrator of grant funds provided by Japan under the Japan Social Development Fund, toward the cost of the Healthy Mother Project (HMP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance Capacity Building program for Project Management Team.

The services include the provision of Arabic business/correspondence writing training to the Project Management Team.

Detailed terms of reference (TOR) for the post indicating expected consultants qualifications and assignment duration are posted on SOUL website at the following address:

www.SOUL-Yemen.org under the section dedicated to the Healthy Mother Project.

SOUL for Development now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The expression of interest should be in the form of the CV template published on the web site with the TOR.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004; revised October 1, 2006).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address mentioned below during office hours [0800 to 15:30 hours]. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 22July, 2012.

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Flaws in America's Yemen policy

Patrick Seale **Gulf News** First Published July 6

emen, like Pakistan, is a country where America's counter-insurgency strategy has failed. The Obama administration has this year greatly increased the number of drone attacks in Yemen carried out by the CIA and by the U.S. Military's Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC).

Some 150 militants are said to have been killed as well as unnumbered others who happened to be in the area of the strikes. It appears that any man of military age is automatically considered a 'terrorist'. Large numbers of villagers have fled in terror from their homes.

The targeted killing of suspected 'terrorists' - the centerpiece of current U.S. strategy — has been at great political cost. It has aroused fierce anti-American sentiment among the local populations, largely because missile strikes inevitably cause the death of inno-

Far from defeating the radicals, these cruel and somewhat indiscriminate strikes by unmanned predator drones drive volunteer jihadis into 'terrorist' ranks while discrediting and delegitimising local political leaders who — since they feel compelled to back U.S. aid — are seen as U.S. stooges.

Pakistan has tended to receive more attention than Yemen, because of its close links to the catastrophic war in Afghanistan, now in its 11th year. The U.S. needs the support of Pakistan — and indeed of Iran — if it is to manage something like an honourable withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014. But the U.S. cannot cripple Iran with sanctions and expect it to lend a hand in Afghanistan.

In turn, U.S. relations with Pakistan have come under great strain because of the drone attacks and a host of other violent incidents in which the U.S. is seen as trampling on Pakistani sovereignty — such as the killing of Osama Bin Laden in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad in May 2011. The Pakistan Foreign Ministry has stated that drone attacks are "in total contradiction of international law and established norms of interstate relations".

The breakdown in U.S.-Pakistan relations, and the corresponding support Islamabad is giving to certain militant Afghan groups, have greatly complicated NATO's task in Afghanistan. Yemen is as important as Pakistan for regional peace, not least for the threat which its instability poses to the security of its northern neighbour, Saudi Arabia. Violent ripples from Yemen have also spread to Somalia, where the

policies in exchange for financial local Islamic militants, Al-Shabab, are said to have established close ties with their opposite numbers in the south of the region.

Yemen continues to be in the grip of intense political turmoil. It has by no means recovered from its long struggle to oust Ali Abdullah Saleh, its former president, who was in power for 33 years. Earlier this year, he was at last persuaded and pressured — to step down in favour of the former vice-president, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

The new president inherits a number of tasks of extraordinary difficulty: he must relaunch the collapsed economy, set in train a much-needed process of national reconciliation, tame the sons and nephews of the former ruler who still occupy important commands in the army and security services, while at the same time fight a rebellion in the north, a secessionist movement in the south, and Ansar Al-Sharia, a militant group aligned with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

This AQAP franchise, if that is what it is, appears to have won considerable local support in and around the southern port of Aden and its neighbouring provinces by administering Islamic justice, helping the poor and giving the locals a taste of clean government.

The man President Hadi appointed to fight Ansar Al-Sharia, Maj Gen Salim Ali Qatn, was killed by a suicide bomber, said to be a Somali, in Aden last month after he claimed to have made some headway against militants in Abyan province.

These many conflicts apart, Yemen is in desperate need of economic aid. U.N. agencies say that famine threatens 44 per cent of the population. Nearly one million children are acutely malnourished. UNICEF says that half a million of them are likely to die in the coming months if immediate action is not taken. Water and oil are running out. The government's budget deficit is estimated at \$2.5 billion (Dh9.1 billion).

At this critical juncture, when President Hadi urgently needs international support, a donors conference, which had been due to be held in Riyadh at the end of June, has been displaced to New York and postponed until late September. This is a bitter blow to the new government. It is bound to undermine its legitimacy, increase instability, and play into the hands of the militants.

Instead of encouraging, coordinating and overseeing a large and much needed aid programme for Yemen — which in any event would be largely financed by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States — the U.S. has over the past ten to fifteen years tended to view the country through the narrow prism of counter-terrorism. That remains the fundamental weakness of U.S. policy towards Yemen today.

The U.S. preoccupation with terrorism is understandable but wrong-headed. It suffered a severe shock when the USS Cole was attacked in Aden harbour on Oct. 12, 2000. A speedboat piloted by two members of Al-Qaeda exploded several hundred pounds of explosives into the hull of the vessel, killing 17 U.S. sailors. The U.S. has pursued the terrorists relentlessly ever since, but with only mixed re-

Regrettably, the U.S. has failed to ask itself why militants hate it and want to punish it. Even the devastating attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, failed to stimulate an American national debate of sufficient seriousness and depth into the motives for the assault. Many Americans seem to have contented themselves with the simplistic view that their country was 'good' and their Islamic enemies 'evil.'

In Yemen, the emergence of a militant movement over 20 years ago was largely the work of the socalled 'Afghan Arabs' - that is to say of former mujahideen whom the U.S. had recruited, armed and trained to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s, but which it then callously abandoned once the Soviets withdrew. Another grievance which has fed anti-American sentiment in Yemen is the way the U.S. punished Iraq - acountry which had very close ties with Yemen — after the first Gulf War of 1991. Crippling sanctions were imposed on Iraq for thirteen years, much like those now imposed on Iran. Needless to say, the destruction of Iraq by the Anglo-American invasion of 2003 and the horrors of the long occupation that followed have not made America many Arab friends. And then there is that other major factor, which is forever eating away at America's reputation and standing: its blind support for Israel in its continued oppression and dispossession of the Palestinians.

Far from easing these grievances, drone attacks only make them worse. A radical policy rethink allied to a massive aid programme might go some way to restoring American authority. But, in Washington's current political climate, this task would seem to be at least as daunting as that confronting Yemen's new President, the luckless Abd Rabbu Mansour Al Hadi.

Patrick Seale is a commentator and author of several books on Middle East affairs, Al Assad of Syria: The Struggle for the Middle East and Abu Nidal: A Gun for

A hollow victory

Adam Baron foreignpolicy.com First published July 2

t's over: Al-Qaeda's leaving Zinjibar," the secessionist activist who had moonlighted as my driver in this southern Yemeni city an-

My initial response, if I remember correctly, was a skeptical laugh. Since the militant group Ansar Al-Sharia seized swaths of Yemen's Abyan province last year, government officials had often made overly confident claims about the progress of the battle to oust the Al-Qaedalinked fighters. But as I'd personally confirm the next day, the militants' retreat was real. After more than a year, Yemeni forces had — at least temporarily — finally managed to regain control of the provincial

towns in Abyan last spring, seemingly taking advantage of a growing power vacuum as the Yemeni government became consumed with a power struggle set off by nationwide anti-government protests targeting then-President Ali Abdullah

At the time, many in Yemen characterized the group's rapid gains as the result of an intentional retreat by government forces, claiming that Saleh had deliberately abandoned the province – long a hotbed of secessionist sentiment and Islamic militancy — in a bid to divert attention from the demonstrations calling for his ouster.

And indeed, until the inauguration of Saleh's successor, longtime Vice President Abdo Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the campaign to take back Abyan seemed sidelined by the tense standoff between pro- and

Ansar Al-Sharia began seizing anti-Saleh factions of the Yemeni military. But shortly after taking office, Hadi initiated a renewed offensive to expel the militants, who despite fighting under a different banner, are formally led by Nasser Al-Wihayshi, leader of the Yemenbased Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

Backed by local fighters and U.S. intelligence and air support, the Yemeni armed forces gradually began to take back territory in the weeks before the so-called liberation of Zinjibar. Even as I set off to Abyan the morning after government forces announced their victory, it was hard to shake my general sense of disbelief. Few journalists had ventured to Jaar and Zinjibar over the past year, and those who made it into Ansar Al-Sharia-controlled areas brought back tales of the militants' seemingly unquestioned

As the desert gave way to the rural suburbs of Zinjibar, once a town of approximately 20,000, the nearly apocalyptic level of destruction jolted me into reality. On the front lines of what some military officials described as a yearlong war of attrition between militants and Yemeni forces, nearly every building had been totaled. Graffiti blaming the destruction on the Yemeni government's alliance with "American infidels" attested to the propaganda war, looming ominously over seemingly complacent farmers as they worked the fields surrounding the wreckage of their homes.

As we reached Zinjibar, checkpoints manned by the Yemeni military and its local tribal allies seemed to gesture at the government's intent to maintain its hold, though the handful of civilians milling around the city's bombedout streets - a minuscule percentage of the tens of thousands forced to flee the fighting — largely seemed to be taking stock of their losses, even if many expressed a somewhat discordant sense of optimism.

Even the most upbeat civilians seemed almost taken aback by the devastation. It might have prevented militants from consolidating their hold on the city, but ultimately, the offensive had destroyed Zinjibar in the process of "saving" it. "It's great that they're gone," said Said Allawi, a Zinjibar resident, gesturing at the wreckage surrounding us. "But we're still left with the destruction they've left behind.'

Some 10 miles north of Zinjibar in Jaar, another "liberated" town, Ansar Al-Sharia had carved out a base, winning support — or at the very least, compliance — from the town's long-neglected inhabitants by providing security and basic services. But in their former bastion, once rechristened the "Islamic Emirate of Wagar," the militants were seemingly absent — even if traces of their stav were omnipresent.

Under the nearly inescapable shadow of Al-Qaeda graffiti, my military escort undertook a paradoxical quest to find cold water, demonstrating the government's confidence in its control of the city while seeming strikingly disconnected from the already building angst of the sweltering town's inhabitants. Suffering from a seemingly indefinite power blackout, the responses of civilians ranged from perplexed to perturbed, signaling an apparent acceptance of the end of Ansar Al-Sharia's rule paired with a deep skepticism that things would improve, in some cases, openly scoffing at my escort's assurances of the imminent return of government services.

Still, standing on the top of Mount Khanfar, a former militant bastion and, according to soldiers I spoke with, a frequent target of U.S. drone strikes, lording over the city, it was hard to take issue with the scores of joyous soldiers mobbing government dignitaries as they toured the area. But as top military brass admitted, the battle was far

"The battle continues in Shugra; the battle continues in Shabwa," Yemeni Deiense Minister Monamed Nasser Ali told me as we spoke. The government would announce the fall of the coastal town of Shuqra, the militant's last remaining bastion in Abyan, a few days later. But it was east, to the neighboring province of Shabwa, where many expected the militants to head, taking refuge in the same rugged mountains that are believed to host the bulk of AQAP leadership.

"It's ultimately about sending a message," one Yemeni analyst who spoke on condition of anonymity told me shortly after the battle in Abvan began to heat up earlier this spring, painting the offensive as a result of Hadi's desire to show a decisive break with the past. "And regardless of the long-term effects of the battle in the province, Hadi will manage to send it, even if the message will be written in Yemeni blood rather than ink."

After only a few months, many Yemenis optimistically noted, Hadi had managed to achieve the seemingly impossible, confounding the

expectations of those who had dismissed him as an empty suit. But even as some government officials trumpeted Al-Qaeda's defeat in Abyan, there was little doubt that the group would live to fight another

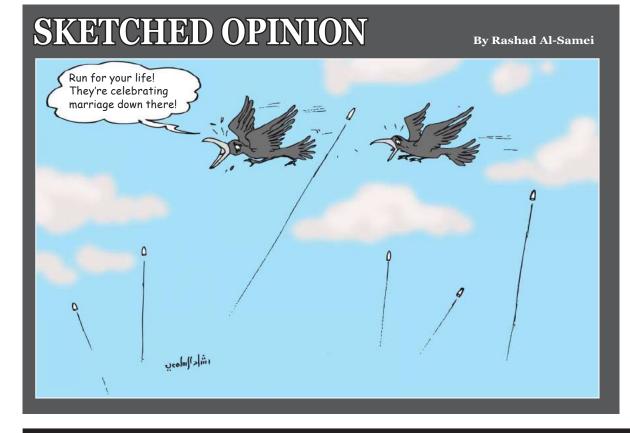
Although the militants — escaping armed and largely unscathed had abandoned the flat, difficult-todefend terrain of southern Abyan, few doubted their ability to regroup at more secluded hideaways elsewhere. And even with the militants temporarily out of the picture, a return to calm in Abyan seems dis-

Although government officials have hailed the role of the so-called "Popular Committees," groups of armed tribesmen who fought against Ansar Al-Sharia on the side of the military, many of the committees' fighters aim openly for the restoration of southern Yemen's independence, while others have been dismissed by some in the governorate as little more than unprincipled mercenaries.

For civilians, any semplance of a return to normalcy seems almost unimaginable. Even before last spring, residents of Abyan were quick to complain of neglect from the central government, and in the wake of the militant's pullout, basic services remain all but absent in much of the province. From what I saw, the destruction of Abyan's economic and social fabric seems near total, and estimates of the financial toll of the past year cross into seven figures.

As cautious optimism fades and if lingering resentments continue to harden, it's not hard to see violence erupting in Abyan yet again — regardless of Al-Qaeda's intentions. Pushing the militants out was one thing. Repairing the damage of the past year is quite another.

"Even if we've achieved victory in this battle with weapons," an opposition politician told me upon my return to Sana'a, "we can only win the war through economic progress and real efforts towards development."



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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 development programme:

Project Manager; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justice' Project

Location: Sana'a **Contract Duration: One year**

The role

In this key role you will have proven experience of leading a team, proven experience and/or contribution to advocacy and policy development for gender injustice related aspects. You will have strong project management skills, and will be able to develop and deliver quality programmes. You will be able to demonstrate a high level of coordination with civil society partner organizations and staff in the country and region within a dynamic and changing context, and will be capable of managing all elements of the project, from planning, monitoring, and evaluation through to learning. You will oversee budget preparation and project monitoring, and will assist in fundraising and proposal writing for new initiatives.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with a minimum of 5 years progressive experience managing and implementing development projects, with preferably a post graduate degree in social sciences or related discipline including law and gender & development. You will have proven knowledge of project management, and experience of working in the development sector, ideally with knowledge of gender injustice and gender inequality and its relevance to poverty and vulnerability. You will be able to demonstrate outstanding

analysis skills and will show excellent organisational skills. You will be able to translate strategies into actions that make a difference on the ground. Equally important will be your creative approach to problem solving and your influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

Project Officer; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justices' (2 Positions)

Location: Mukalla & Taiz **Contract Duration: One year**

You will have a proven track record of contributing to overall project development by emphasising appropriate approaches to mainstreaming gender in all project activities. You will be able to provide intensive gender-focused and needs-based technical support to project partners, as well as an ability to monitor project activities, both technically and financially. You will undertake project budget preparation and monitoring, and will assist in fundraising and proposal writing for new initiatives.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with 3 years of experience working in gender programmes, with a degree in social sciences or a related discipline including law and gender. You will have an understanding of the country context, including the political context and implication on women, and experience of working in the development sector. You will show sensitivity to gender and equity issues. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills, willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time, and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justices' Project

Location: Sana'a

Contract Duration: One year

The role

You will be participating in the development of the project's participatory monitoring and evaluation system, training project partners on Oxfam's MEAL concepts and tools, including the report writing. You will assist the Manager in the creation of the project with necessary updates on the system, conduct monitoring visits to field locations and meet partners and beneficiaries. You will be participating in specific research studies related to project components, supporting in the collection and documentation of the case studies, in coordination with Communication and Media

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with 2 years intensive experience of working in gender or women centered projects, with a university degree in Social Sciences. You should have sound knowledge and experience in monitoring, evaluation and learning (Data analyses methods, assessment methods and tools). You should have proven experience of using MS Office applications, good knowledge of graphic design programmes is preferable. You should have the ability to gather information, collate and systemize for effective communication and networking. Your ability to be a self starter who can work with some support and at the same time to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively is essential, so you will need to be fluent in English and Arabic.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in any of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job and the location of the job you are applying for in the e-mail subject, to vemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk

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Vacant Position

صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان

UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the posts of:

Finance/ Admin Associate

Unit: Operations Post Level: G7

Under the guidance of the Head of Office and direct supervisor the Finance Associate ensures the effective functioning of financial operations and systems in support of the programme and office management.

He/she works closely with programme and project staff providing financial monitoring and analysis of projects and advising managers on expenditure trends and implementation rates. The

Finance Associate is also a member of the Country Office management services team managing financial aspects of Country Office operations. He/she may supervise clerical and support staff.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Supports the monitoring of programme financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis. including implementation rate against indicators/ results. Detects potential over-under expenditure problems and suggests remedial action.
- Develops tools and mechanisms for effective and efficient monitoring of programme and project budgets, coordinates compilation of financial data and provides accurate and up-dated financial information to HQ on a continuous basis.
- Interprets financial policies and procedures particularly relating to NEX and provides guidance and training to staff and project managers. Strives to identify ways in which programme financial needs can be met within existing policies.
- Assists in the management of the Country Office budget by budget formulation, controlling allotments, monitoring expenditures, and preparing revisions according to the needs of the office. Ensures the effective financial recording and reporting

system, internal control and audit follow-up and

processes financial transactions in an accurate and timely way. Reviews and monitors charges for common services and cost recovery taking into account maximum cost efficiency and represents UNFPA's interest in related negotiations and agreements

FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCIES ☐ Business acumen

Independently gathers analyses and interprets data and information from a wide range of sources using appropriate analytical tools and professional standards. Identifies warning signs based on financial analysis, probes for clarification or points of concern and presents findings

Establishes effective relationships with internal and external clients, actively supports the interests of the client and researches potential solutions to client needs Organizes and prioritizes work schedule and addresses client needs and deadlines promptly and diplomatically

Implementing management systems

Maintains information/databases on system design features and develops system components. Makes recommendations relative to work-processing approaches and procedures which would lead to more efficient systems design.

CORPORATE COMPETENCIES:

Integrity/Commitment to mandate

Acts in accordance with UN/UNFPA values and holds himself/herself accountable for actions taken. Demonstrates personal commitment to UNFPA's mandate and to the organizational vision.

Knowledge sharing/Continuous learning

Takes responsibility for personal learning and career development and actively seeks opportunities to learn through formal and informal means. Learns from others inside and outside the organization adopting best practices created by others. Actively produces and disseminates new knowledge.

Valuing diversity

Demonstrates an international outlook, appreciates differences in values and learns from= cultural diversity. Takes actions appropriate to the religious and cultural context and shows respect, tact and consideration for cultural differences. Observes and inquires to understand the perspectives of others and continually examines his/ her own biases and behaviors

MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS Working in teams

Works collaboratively with colleagues inside and outside

of UNFPA to allow the achievement of common goals and shared objectives. Actively seeks resolution of disagreements and supports the decisions of the team.

Communicating information and ideas

Delivers oral and written information in a timely, effective and easily understood manner.

Participates in meetings and group discussions actively listening and sharing information

Frankly expresses ideas with the intent to resolve issues, considers what others have to say and responds appropriately to criticism.

Conflict and self management

Manages personal reactions by remaining calm, composed and patient even when under stress or during a crisis and avoids engaging in unproductive conflict. Expresses disagreement in constructive ways that focus on the issue not the person. Tolerates conditions of uncertainty or ambiguity and continues to work productively.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE

Empowerment/Developing people/Performance management Integrates himself/herself into the work unit seeking

opportunities to originate action and actively contributing to achieving results with other members of the team. Knows his/her limitations and strength, welcomes constructive criticism and feedback and gives honest and contractive feedback to colleagues and supervisors. Seeks new challenges and assignments and exhibits a desire to learn. Accepts responsibility for personal performance participating in individual work planning and objective setting seeking feedback and acting to continuously improve performance.

Personal Leadership and Effectiveness

Analytical and strategic thinking

Uses appropriate analytical tools and logic to gather, define and analyze information, situations and problems and draws logical conclusions from data. Demonstrates an ability to set clear and appropriate priorities focusing on tasks and activities which have a strategic impact on results. Anticipates and meets information needs of the team and other stakeholders.

Results orientation/Commitment to excellence

Strives to achieve high personal standard of excellence. Takes action that goes beyond responding to the obvious needs of the situation and persists until successful outcomes are achieved.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in accounting, finance, economics or any related field:
- Extended experience (5 Years) in Programme/Project management and development issues at the national or international level:
- Excellent knowledge of computer and Internet use including mastery of word processing;
- Excellent drafting and communication skills
- Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages.
- Yemeni Nationality only

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

Corporate Responsibility & Teamwork: Serves and promotes the vision, mission, values, and

- strategic goals of UNFPA:
- Plans, prioritizes, and delivers tasks on time;
- Participates effectively in a team-based, informationsharing environment, collaborating and cooperating with others:
- Responds flexibly & positively to change through active involvement.

People Skills

- Recognizes & responds appropriately to the ideas, interests & concerns of others; gives credit to the contributions of others:
- Establishes clear performance goals, standards & responsibilities; manages them accordingly; Promotes a learning environment; facilitates the
- development of individual and team competencies.

Innovation & Judgment

- Contributes creative, practical ideas and approaches to deal with challenging situations; Pursues own personal and professional development.

Communication: Formulates

- written information clearly and persuasively:
- Presents oral information clearly and persuasively.

Job knowledge & Expertise

- Executes day-to-day tasks systematically & efficiently:
- Uses Information Technology effectively as a tool and resource:
- Is motivated & demonstrates a capacity to pursue personal development & learn.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience.

TIMES

Painting a greener world

Muaad Al-Maqtari

t the Green Economy National Conference, held in Hodeida from June 16 to 19, 120 students representing 46 schools competed in an art competition, with 10 photos selected as winners.

The students' original artwork represented how they view the green economy, which the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) defines as, "One that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive."

According to Yasser Ghobair, head of the General Authority for Protecting the Environment, the ten paintings will be hung in different places around Hodeida to spread awareness of the importance of the environment among residents.

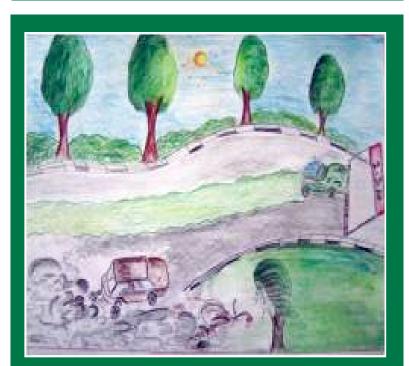
Ali Al-Ademi, a Yemeni sustainable development expert, said the ten paintings were displayed at the World Summit (Rio+20), held from June 20 to 22 in Brazil.



This painting belongs to Lamia Fawzi Al-Ariqi, an eighth grade student in Al-Zubairi School. She was awarded first place by the General Authority for Protecting the Environment. Al-Ariqi's painting conveys that the universe will remain healthy if only people depended on alternative energy, depicted in her painting by solar panels.



This painting belongs to Yasmeen Al-Qobati, a sixth grade student in Al-Ansar School. It shows the importance of linking human life to the environment.



This painting belongs to Thikra Ibraheem, a high school student. It shows the impact of car exhaust on the environment. The painting shows a women weeping from the effects.



This painting belongs to Baraka Al-Kobati, an eighth grade student in Al-Ansar School. The painting depicts the importance of protecting the environment. It shows two children stopping a third from trying to destroy a plant.



This painting belongs to Rasha Dawood, a high school student in Al-Saeed Educational Compound. The painting shows the need to properly dispose of garbage.



This painting belongs to Hanan Talal, a high school student in Mos'b Bin Omair School. The painting shows the universe heading toward an unknown future because technology environment. There was an argument about giving the painting ninth place, as some environmental activists believed it deserved a better ranking compared to other paintings.



This painting belongs to Saleh Shioaee, a high school student in Sa'd Ibn Aby Waqas School. He was the only male among the ten winners. His painting reflects environmental balance in the universe.



This painting belongs to Manar Nairan, a high school student in Hail Saeed Ana'm School. This painting shows the universe as a wilting sunflower, indicating global warming resulting from worldwide deforestation.



This painting belongs to Najwa Jaber, a ninth grade student in 22nd of May School, depicting smoke from cigarettes, cars and nuclear waste. The painting shows the universe in the hands of a goblin laughing at human beings.



This painting belongs to Samar Al-Oshbi, a high school student in Mos'ab Bin Omair School. The painting shows a human wasting water. It indicates it is the mutual responsibility of men and women to protect water supplies.

Feature 9 July, 2012

Marriage: thousands of dollars buys a wife and her citizenship



Having a foreign citizenship will raise the cost of a dowry to tens of thousands of dollars.

Story and Photos by Ashraf Al-Moragab

ohammed Ali, a 25-year-old Yemeni, works in a telecommunications center from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. All what he wants is to get married and to have a family.

He knows who he wants to marry. But so far, he hasn't been able to afford the cost of marriage, and so they are not engaged.

"When I proposed to her, her family welcomed me, but they asked for a \$40,000 dowry because she has travel and work in America." an American citizenship," he said.

Ali said the high dowry has forced him to give up the idea of marriage until his financial situation im-

He is not the only one in Yemen who experiences this problem.

"I paid a \$35,000 dowry, and I saw my wife only on the wedding day," Abdulnasser Al-Rifi, a Yemeni youth, said.

"Marriage is an agreement between the groom and the bride's father," Al-Rifi said. "It is for the bride's citizenship and the ability to

A citizenship marriage is a marriage where a man marries a Yemeni woman with U.S. or other foreign

"The bride knows that her husband doesn't love her."

citizenship, for the purpose of gaining the same citizenship as his future wife. It's a common occurrence in the governorate of Ibb, where many American-Yemenis originally

Ma'moon Al-Bana, a resident of Ibb, said that "dowries are high in Ibb because only a few girls have American citizenship. Girls become goods that can be sold."

"It is like an open market," Fawaz Abdo, another resident of Ibb, said. "The dowries of girls who have citizenships are \$40,000 minimum and maximum \$80,000. A friend of mine paid \$80,000 for dowry and is now living in America."

An opportunity to be seized

Some fathers only consider the financial prospects offered when someone proposes to their daughters. They don't pay attention to the daughters' future.

"Fathers care about money and ignore their daughters' wishes," Qaed Nasser, an authority on marriage, said. "This causes social problems as well as psychological disorders for girls.

"The bride knows that her husband doesn't love her and that he paid a dowry of \$40,000 only to marry her for American citizenship. He will go there, work there, marry someone else that he actually loves,

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and all this will cause stress and now. My citizenship has prevented problems for her.

"Greediness changed marriage into a matter of buying and selling. The high cost of marriage made many young men stop thinking of getting married and increased spinsterhood rates among Yemeni women," Nasser said.

The story of a woman with a citizenship

Afaf, a Yemeni woman who has American citizenship, said, "I'm alone and sad. Many female friends of mine got married and are happy me from choosing the husband I want because my father asks for a high dowry."

hood increase in Yemen as a result of the high cost of marriage and unemployment. Moreover, some girls refuse to marry, preferring to pursue their education. A 2009 survey focusing on fam-

Studies suggest rates of spinster-

ily and marriage affairs conducted by the Mojtama Foundation found that, at the time, the rate of unmarried women between the ages of 30 and 49 was 11 percent.



Health 9 July, 2012

Yemen's ailing healthcare affects mothers, children

Amira Nasser

he died before she reached the health center; she died with her baby before it saw the light," Salma Al-Bahr of Taiz said, grieving over her sister.

While Yemen covers 555,000 square kilometers, it only has approximately 2,000 reproductive health centers, with 60 percent of them offering different services such as labor and pregnancy, after-delivery and family planning methods. 520 centers offer more extensive emergency services, and 69 hospitals cover essentially everything else, according to Dr. Iman Al-Qubatti, general manager of reproductive health at the Ministry of Health.

Al-Qubatti said that according to international standards, for every 500,000 people, there should be a comprehensive emergency delivery

health centers. However, Yemen is a special case as much of its population lives in potentially inaccessible rural areas.

"Yemen has roughly 130,000 residential areas, sometimes in very remote areas," Al-Qubatti said.

Because some areas are far from health centers and only accessible by rough roads, when people have medical emergencies, then they often reach hospitals too late for effective care.

Ali Al-Seraji, head of a health unit in Sahar, Sa'ada, said most patient fatalities happen in rural areas, especially near the Saudi Arabian and Omani borders, which are unreachable by health services.

"The mortality rate for mothers giving birth is increasing because of the lack of services as well as the rugged roads," Abdol-Ellah Al-Mwtawakel, health officer in the Executive Center in Sahar, Sa'ada,

hospital, in addition to four basic Health is trying to overcome the challenges facing medical services in the country, and geographical and cultural problems in rural areas are recognized as serious chal-

> "We try to build facilities so that for every 250,000 people there is one comprehensive emergency delivering center and four basic service emergency delivering centers,"

Al-Seraji said there are several different obstacles preventing teams from effectively working such as a lack of financial support, medicine, doctors, medical equipment and more, which add up to too few facilities in rural areas.

"Most health centers don't have enough doctors; they only hire one general practice doctor who assumes the role of doctor, midwife and pharmacist," he said.

Al-Qubatti said recruiting enough medical staff is also a challenge. She also said a system where doctors ro-Al-Qubatti said the Ministry of tate shifts doesn't exist in medical



"The mortality rate for mothers giving birth is increasing."



Only 2,000 reproductive health centers cover Yemen's 550,000 square kilometers.



According to Hadi Mosed, the Ministry of Health will be able to provide finances to governorates by 2013.

centers. Thus, there is limited time dedicated to emergency cases.

"The lack of budget has caused the disappearance of the shift system for doctors in health centers," Al-Qubatti said.

Hadi Mosed, manager of Sahar's health office, said they presented the issues to local councils but have not seen any serious action as a re-

"Even if there were financial support, it wouldn't be enough to cover the center's different needs," Mosed

In the aftermath of last year's political unrest, in many rural centers, financial support comes from donors providing medical teams or equipment, even furniture.

area were given as gifts such as medicine and furniture from organizations to aid our missions," Al-

The Ministry of Health has focused on increasing the number of midwives, particularly in areas without a health center to serve women, in an effort to improve the lack of immediately available healthcare. Midwives come to other women's houses to provide pregnancy and delivery services.

Mobile medical teams also visit rural areas to serve people about four times annually, according to Al-Qubatti.

Mosed said suggestions they are given are taken very seriously, such as creating committees to survey the needs of health centers in rural

He said that in 2013, the Ministry "Most of the health units in our of Health will support ten governorates with additional finances and will increase the number of health centers from 69 to 93.

"The major problem Yemen is facing is understaffed medical centers," said a representative of DWF.

Salah Draghma, the general representative for Doctors of the World-France in Yemen (DWF), said several medical centers in Sana'a are understaffed and have inadequate medicine supplies.

He added that DWF, first established in Yemen in 2007, works in cooperation with officials to aid in providing medical support for people in the country. Ahmed Dawood of the Yemen Times met with Draghma and conducted the following in-

Could you give us some information about DWF?

The organization is present in 60 countries worldwide. We work to make health services accessible, especially for the needy. We strive to provide these services by partnering with local government and civil organizations.

When did you start working in Yemen? What are the most significant projects achieved?

We started working in Yemen in 2007. We work to support people through medical services. Our projects focus mainly on primary medical services including caring for pregnant women and children. We also provide food support and medical testing. We endeavor to give people access to these services easily and free of charge. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population we executed projects in several governorates nationwide by supporting repair on medical centers, clinics and mobile medical teams. Over the past few years, we've worked in Hajja, Al-Mahweet, Sa'ada and Sana'a.

Are patients sometimes required to pay for services in your medical centers?

Yes they are, as the centers attempt to cover operating costs. This is in keeping with the general policy of the Ministry of Health and Population regarding these centers; however, they operate as non-profits.

As you're familiar with medical centers in Yemen, what do these centers lack?

As an international organization,

I concentrate on the medical staff and their reasons for going into the healthcare industry. The morale of personnel regarding work leave something to be desired due to numerous circumstances physicians face in Yemen. We work with the Ministry of Health and Population



We work to support people through medical services. Our projects focus mainly on primary medical services including caring for pregnant women and children



The major problem the local community is experiencing in Yemen is the shortage of specialized doctors in public medical centers or clinics



Salah Draghma, general representative for Doctors of the World-France in Yemen.

to boost morale in the staff.

It can be said that the major problem the local community is experiencing in Yemen is the shortage of specialized doctors in public medical centers or clinics. Private doctors are too expensive for lowerincome people.

When medical centers fall short in supplies of medicines; the organization tries to cover these needs in accordance with our resources.

Medical centers often lack essential medical equipment because of the high cost. For instance the Ministry of Health and Population could not provide essential equipment to examine pregnant women. It is difficult for a doctor to diagnose an illness without medical tests.

Three months ago, you launched a project aimed at backing the medical centers

in the Shoob and Al-Thwra districts in the capital city of Sana'a. What progress has been made?

I believe we have achieved 80 percent of the objectives. 20,000 patients have been reached by these centers the past three months. This is a great achievement.

Why only the Shoob and Al-Thwra districts?

Because of last year's turmoil, these and other areas sustained considerable damage. People didn't have access to medical services, doctors or medicines. When we received support and funding from the Ministry of Health and Population and the city of Sana'a, we started re-opening medical facilities. We provided fundamental things so they could start operating. We covered the operating costs and provided fuel, water and electricity.

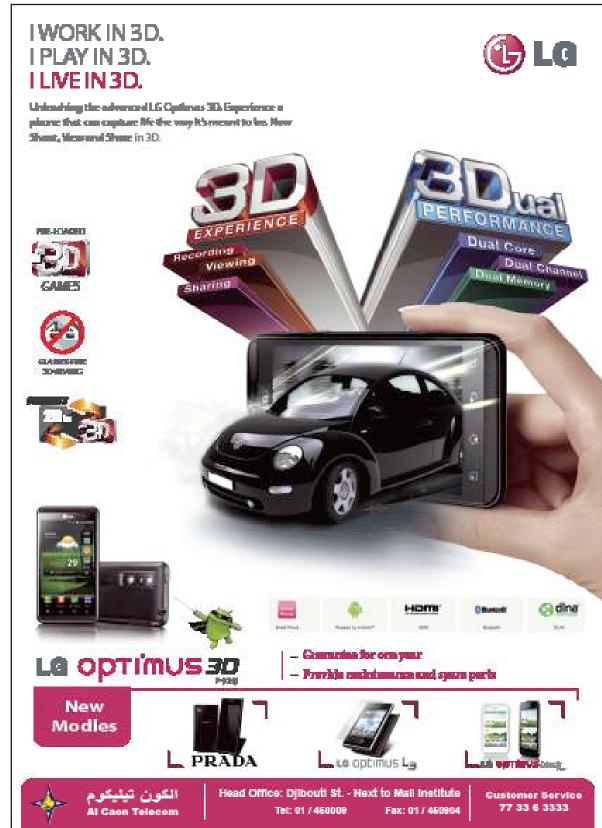
What future projects do you intend to implement in Yemen?

After Ramadan we will launch a new project to improve psychological and reproductive health and nutrition. It will be a long-term project. It will occur over three phases. The first phase will depend on private funding from DWF. The second and third phases will target areas outside the capital city. I hope people will talk about the subject of psychological health without worrying about facilities two or three years

from now. I'd like to affirm here that this work requires cooperation from all sectors; from the organization, its partners, the Ministry of Health and Population and from private organizations so the project will be comprehensive and cover all people.









TIMES

Dramatic productions a seasonal lifestyle

Mohammed Al-Samei

ctors in Yemen are faced with many hurdles. Perhaps the most concerning of all, though, are the low wages and the seasonal nature of the dramatic productions.

Ahmed Al-Mamari, an actor, complained that "actors suffer from poor salaries; the main character is given only YR 15,000 for one episode."

However, he anticipated a rise in salaries at the channel Yemen TV. Following the appointment of Abdulrahman Dalak as director of the channel, salaries are expected to increase to YR 25,000 or YR 30,000 per episode.

"Some companies pay quite handsomely; others don't," he said.

Al-Mamari also noted the seasonality of dramatic work.

"Work starts to increase two months before Ramadan," he said. "The actor is required to film thirty episodes in a very short period of time. It's exhausting."

Actor Fuad Al-Kuhali agreed. He said the actors' salaries have worsened and that "the Yemeni actor is confronted by a multitude of difficulties, such as inadequate pay and insufficient time to film episodes."

Al-Kuhali said that this year, some actors have started preparing episodes a month and a half before Ramadan. By contrast, actors last year began preparing episodes three months in advance.

"The low salaries and the inadequate time negatively impact the quality of drama in Yemen. The actors cannot achieve quality work while pressed for time."

Al-Kuhali said private companies and their channels are worse in these respects than those owned by the government, though the actors had hoped they would pay better.

Abdullah Yahiya Ibrahim, a young actor, said the increase of TV channels and drama production companies has improved salaries, yet they remain inadequate.

"Only Yemeni actors suffer from

such a problem," Ibrahim said. "Actors in the Arab world receive twice the salary compared to us."

He said increasing salaries encourages actors to work harder and to produce higher quality work.

However, not everyone agrees with this overview. Mohammed Al-Hubaishi, director and writer, said the problem is not simply low salaries; instead, the issue lies with recognizing quality.

"There are no assessment reports," he said. "The actors are evaluated so that their talents would be discovered. The salary will be in accordance with the quality."

According to Al-Hubaishi, there is little appreciation for drama in Yemen. He said he hoped the government would play a role in improving drama in the country through encouraging and buying the works of private companies.

Dr. Ibrahim Mutahar, professor of Context Analysis at the College of Mass Communication at Sana'a University and the head of Tawasul Corporation for Media and Art Production, said drama in Yemen faces two significant problems. The government represented by the Media Ministry's role is still limited, which restricts the quality of Yemeni drama. Moreover, the state has institutionalised the view of drama as a seasonal luxury, which is only permitted in Ramadan.

This should be reconsidered, according to Mutahar, who concluded that the Yemeni actor's sole focus is on material gain, at the expensive of creativity and quality drama.



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Yemen lacking cultural news

Ahmed Dawood

or more than two years, cultural journalism has been absent in Yemen, and several cultural newspapers have stopped publishing.

State-backed Al-Jomhoria newspaper stopped issuing their special cultural section, a well-known supplement that addressed different cultural issues elite Yemenis used to cover.

Ali Al-Moqri, a Yemeni writer, tries to make sure Yemeni newspapers pay attention to political issues. He said many Yemeni journalists who write about cultural issues are not qualified.

"A few years ago, there were specialized writers for cultural issues," Al-Moqri said. "The 14th of October Newspaper was writing about different cultural issues including theater, short stories and novels, but now there is no specialization in the cultural arena."

Despite the large number of online newspapers, almost none address cultural issues in Yemen.

"Many newspapers in Yemen don't pay attention to cultural issues," Al-Moqri said. "The cultural pages in these newspapers are often canceled by the newspaper's administration."

He said advertisements and national holidays are the sole focus of many Yemeni newspapers. But, he added, there are many readers in Yemen who don't care about political issues; they want to know about cultural news.

Cultural drain

Marib Al-Ward, a journalist for Al-Sahwa Net, said there are only two cultural foundations in Yemen, the Al-Afif Cultural Foundation in Sana'a and the Al-Saeed scientific and cultural foundation in Taiz. These two foundations try to cover the gap created by many of the official newspapers.

Al-Ward said many cultural journalists in Yemen end up writing for other Arab and Gulf newspapers, as they prioritize cultural issues more than Yemeni newspapers.



Ali Al-Moqri

A revolution is needed

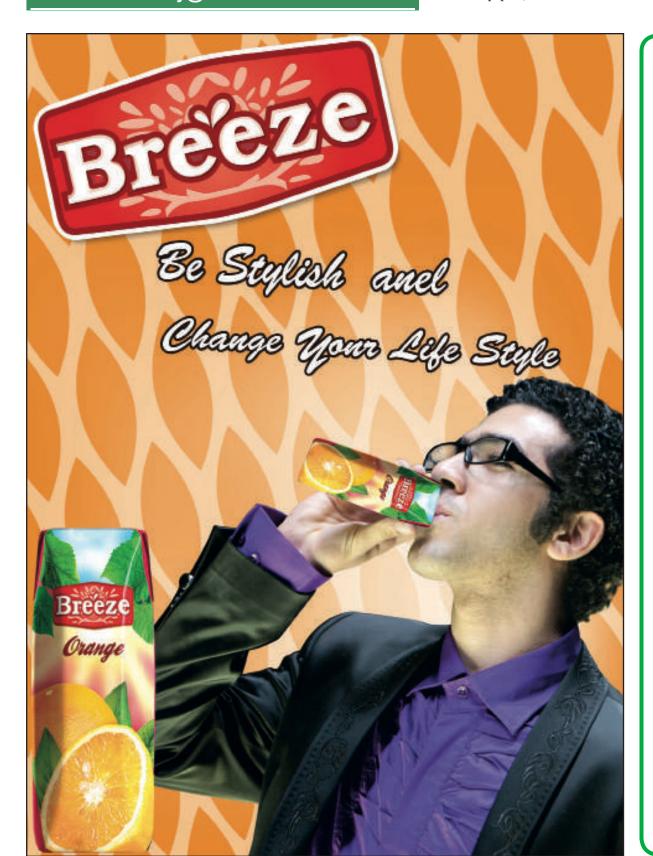
Mohiee Al-Deen Jormah, a poet and writer, said he regrets that Yemeni newspapers don't pay enough attention to cultural issues. He said people should pay more attention to culture because, in the aftermath of 2011's political unrest, national concepts and interests need to change.



Mohiee Al-Deen Jormah

Al-Moqri is hopeful that cultural journalism in Yemen will further develop. He said he advises students who study in the Mass Media College to enroll in professional specializations to improve cultural journalism in Yemen.

"No one in Yemen pays attention to experience," he said.





REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Yemeni Association for Reproductive Health (YARH)
Costing System Study- 2012
In country consultancy

Yemeni Association for Reproductive Health (YARH) is a Yemeni non-profit non-governmental organization member association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation –IPPF- Arab World Region (AWR).

YARH wishes to conduct a costing study and/ or system strengthening to enable the association to identify and utilize key service cost information that is relevant to their respective activity and service delivery model.

Objectives:

- To develop the capacity of the association to use financial and performance data to produce service cost information in respect of key areas of activity.
- To enable the association to become better equipped to make evidence-based decisions around resource allocation and performance improvement and to facilitate the long term financial viability of health centers in presenting reproductive health services.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Proposals are invited from Consultant/ professional firm profiles. Potential candidates to undertake the study will include:
- A Health Economist who holds PHD and has experiences of developing similar costing systems in a Developing Country Health Systems
- A professional finance firm or senior finance professional with experience of working with Developing Country Health Systems
- Academic Institutions who specialize in the fields of advanced costing/ financial/ economic systems.

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Soft copies of the CVs should be received 3 days from the date of this advert to the following emails addresses:

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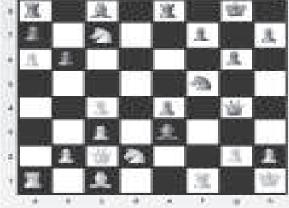
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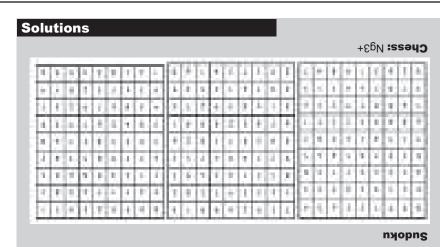
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Chess



Black plays and wins in the 2nd move







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Financing impoverished youth

Ghayda Al-Ariqi

program targeting approximately 20,000 marginalized and impoverished Yemeni youth began last week and will last two years.

The program was launched in coordination with the Selatak Foundation, Sanabel Microfinance Network in Yemen and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

"This program targets marginalized and poor people who don't have access to financial services in order to enable them to have all financial facilities, including savings," Ahmed Al-Zamzami, director of GIZ Microfinance, said. "Saving is very important, but banks usually do not open opening saving accounts with low amounts of money."

Al-Zamzami said the program



The program, which offers financial services, targets the marginalised

aims to teach the importance of saving and to establish good relations between banks and people so that they can get loans in the future. It was designed with cooperation by the Al-Kuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank, Al-Amal Microfinance Bank and Selatak Foundation.

In addition to aiding vouths with opening savings accounts, GIZ will provide a financial education program, training approximately 15,000 young men and women, Al-Zamzami said.

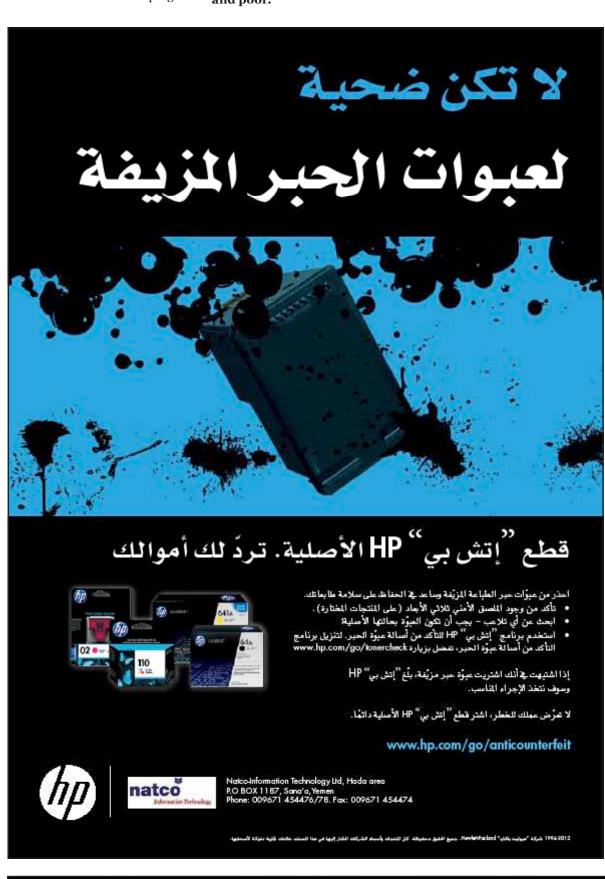
After applying and being accepted into the program, participants will be trained locally for 20 to 30 hours and provided with the resources to later train other youths.

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Dr. Mohameed Al-Maitami, a representative of the Selatak Foundation in Yemen, said the program aims to improve the lives of young Arabs through training; they will emerge qualified for various jobs or able to start their own businesses.

"The Selatak Foundation gives the youth the same amount they open the account with at the beginning to encourage them to save more," Al-Maitami said. "This way, marginalized and poor people will be able to save money, so that they can take loans and know how to use them."

Yusof Al-Kuraimi, the CEO of Al-Kuraimi Microfinance, said Al-Amal Microfinance Bank and Al-Kuraimi Microfinance Bank will be the official banks for the program.









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