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Yemen requires YR 22 billion to combat myiasis

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, March 5 — According to an official, Yemen needs YR 22 billion (\$110 million) to fight myiasis, also known as fly-strike or fly-blown, which appeared a month ago in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates.

Dr. Ghalib Al-Eryani, general manager of the Agriculture Ministry's Animal Wealth Administration, stated to the Yemen Times that the ministry last week presented a YR 700-million plan to the Yemeni Cabinet regarding preventing the disease's spread; however, the Cabinet allocated only YR 50 million.

According to Wikipedia.org, myiasis is an animal or human disease caused by parasitic dipterous fly larvae feeding on a host's necrotic or living tissue. Blowfly strike, also known as myiasis, is a common disease in sheep, especially in areas with hot and wet conditions.

Al-Eryani noted that field teams have been deployed to several districts in Hajjah and Sa'ada governorates to fight the epidemic with the support of the American Development Agency.

"While that agency has committed to covering the printing costs for 20,000 guidance brochures for Yemeni farmers, Yemen still is expecting more aid from various international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO," Al-Eryani said, further indicating that Yemeni government authorities are dedicated to preparing for a vast campaign to be executed immediately after the necessary requirements are provided.

Al-Eryani stated that an epidemic recording team was deployed to the two governorates following notifications by citizens regarding individuals infected with a strange epidemic a month ago. The team has recorded five human cases and 1,533 animal cases in the two governorates.

Agriculture Ministry sources report that both managers of the Agriculture and Irrigation Office and the Health Office in Hajjah governorate were dismissed from their positions last week following the disease's recent appearance in Hajjah and Sa'ada governorates.

Yemen's Ministry of Health and Environment has appointed Dr. Adel

Al-Moayad to replace Hajjah governorate's Health Office manager Dr. Abdulkarim Nassar, while the Agriculture Ministry has appointed Mohammed Al-Shihari to replace Mohammed Al-Nabbous, its former manager in that same governorate. The changes came after the two former managers failed to manage Hajjah governorate's health and agriculture situations following the myiasis outbreak.

Al-Eryani affirmed the importance of equal cooperation between both the government and private citizens in restricting the epidemic — which threatens humans and animals equally — before it spreads to other governorates.

He pointed out that this is the first time Yemen and the Gulf countries have witnessed such an epidemic, further maintaining that it first appeared in Iraq following the entry of U.S. forces into Baghdad. The disease then moved on to Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Al-Eryani clarified that the danger of myiasis stems from its rapid spread, which makes it a fatal epidemic causing tremendous humanitarian and economic losses within a short period.



Around 1533 cases of animals have been infected with Strike Fly, Myiasis. 5 human infection (right) of the disease have been reported in Hajja and Sa'ada governorates.

He added that the epidemic may attack humans directly via flies and may lead to death, particularly among those children living in polluted environments. Additionally, it may attack the elderly unless the larvae are extracted and purified via suitable

antibiotics.

According to Al-Eryani, an epidemic could cause losses represented in decreasing an animal's ability to produce milk and meat, in addition to the possibility of animals dying. He added that treating the disease sometimes

requires cutting out the infected organ.

"If the epidemic spreads, Yemen will suffer huge economic losses estimated in the billions from animal wealth revenues," Al-Eryani warned, adding, "We'll lose 18 million battles if the epidemic spreads nationwide."

Gaza rallies in Sana'a and Aden draw thousands

By: Sarah Wolff & Amira Al-Sharif

SANA'A, March 5 — A crowd of 5,000 people attended a support rally for Gaza sponsored by the president's ruling General People's Congress party. The rally, held in Sana'a's Al-Tahrir square, coincided with a similarly staged "Anger March" in Aden.

The Yemeni government and its citizens, as well as Palestinian nationals living in Yemen, protested the recent Israeli incursions into Gaza that killed over 100 people.

Many of the Sana'a attendees at the Al-Tahrir rally were public school students, since the event was co-sponsored by Yemen's education syndicates.

There was a similar support event for Gaza residents sponsored by the Palestinian Embassy and other Palestinian organizations on Monday night in Sana'a that drew over 350 people.

Recently, President Ali Abdullah Saleh offered to host both Hamas and Fatah, the rival groups ruling the Palestinian territories, in Yemen as long as both parties agreed to negotiate without conditions. The president proposed this idea during Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' visit to Yemen last month.

Hamas currently controls Gaza, while Fatah controls the West Bank. The two parties have been in near-constant discord since June of 2007, when Hamas took control of Gaza.

Mahmoud Abbas, who leads the Fatah party, has agreed to President Saleh's



A candle's light send a message of peace from Yemen to Gaza.

offer, though Hamas has yet to respond to the proposal.

"I would like to inform them that our agreement for this initiative is completely honest," said Ahmed Faouzi Al-Diek, the Palestinian ambassador to Yemen, on

Monday evening. "We are giving you our hand and if Hamas declares their agreement for this initiative, President Abbas is willing to send a delegation to negotiate with Hamas on Yemen's turf in Sana'a."

"We are waiting for Hamas to okay this initiative," said Mosa Jaber of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). "This is the only way to support our people against the occupation. Yemen politically supports Palestinian rights and goals and they help our people with money and everything they can," he added.

Hamas spokespeople denied that the organization has stalled on the Yemeni initiative to open dialogue with Fatah and indicated that they will send a delegation to Yemen now that the president returned from his trip abroad.

A press release issued by the General Union of Palestinian Students' Yemen Branch put it best: "The world will not be stable and peaceful until the end of Palestinian suffering."

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In brief

SA'ADA

UNHCR, deputy governor discuss aid to displaced residents in Sa'ada

Sa'ada Deputy Governor Salem Al-Wahishi and an officer from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or UNHCR, have discussed the situation at Sa'ada's refugee camps and their need for humanitarian aid following the end of the rebellion in some parts of the governorate.

The meeting dealt with UNHCR projects in Sa'ada, particularly those regarding lighting the camps and providing electric motors to cover residents' needs.

While Al-Wahishi highlighted the U.N. organization's efforts toward the governorate's affected areas, affirming the easing of the commission's duties in providing aid to displaced citizens, the U.N. official affirmed that his agency is working to increase humanitarian aid to the camps.

Educational, psychological program for Sa'ada children

The Sa'ada Women's Charitable Association and UNICEF have organized an educational and psychological program for the children of Sa'ada families fleeing confrontations between Yemeni government forces and Houthi rebels.

The 24-day program aims to build the skills of Sa'ada children and re-qualify them both educationally and psychologically in order to eradicate the consequences resulting from the rebellion in the northern governorate.

SANA'A

Popular census training for politicians

Forty members from the General People's Congress and the Joint Meeting Parties have concluded the first phase of training on how to conduct a popular census.

Organized by the Yemeni Polling Center and funded by the National Democratic Institute and USAID, the training is the second of its kind by the center and seeks to qualify trainees to plan a survey, design questionnaires and select a sampling. It also includes survey techniques in data collection and interviewing.

The second phase, to be carried out at the end of this month, will deal with reading data and creating analysis tables, evaluations and conclusions.

Food charity campaign

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare is conducting a campaign to encourage wealthy families to donate food expenses to poor families. Ending in middle of this month, the campaign seeks to help hundreds of poor Yemeni families by providing them food supplies through charity.

This is only part of a larger program to eradicate poverty due to the increased food prices and living expenses across the Yemeni republic. The campaign also is sponsoring lectures and awareness sessions at several Sana'a mosques in an effort to motivate citizens to help.

ZABID

Request for extension to save Zabid

Efforts are underway to restore the historical city of Zabid and save it from ruin and hence, from being dropped from UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Following a February 2007 examination, Yemen was given two years to restore and protect the city. However, in a forthcoming report, the public authority to preserve Yemen's historical cities states its progress, requesting an additional year to meet the requirements for keeping Zabid on the World Heritage list.

A former capital of Yemen from the 13th to the 15th century, Zabid was a city of great importance in the Arab and Muslim world for many centuries because of its Islamic university, but today, it is in decline and in a very poor state of conservation.

At the end of 2000, a mission of experts observed serious deterioration in the city: approximately 40 percent of homes had been replaced by concrete buildings, while other homes and the city's ancient souk were in a state of deterioration.

Therefore, the Yemeni government requested Zabid be placed on the list of endangered World Heritage Sites in order to facilitate its preservation because the city's domestic and military architecture, as well as its urban plan, make it an outstanding archeological and historical site.

Parliament report reveals: Government officials involved in marketing banned pesticides

By: Almgid Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, March 4 — The Committee of Agriculture and Irrigation in the Yemeni Parliament disclosed last week the implication that officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Hodeidah governorate allowed banned pesticides to enter the country illegally through Hodeidah port.

The cargo consists of five 20 20-foot containers which contain 58,500 kilograms of pesticides, going to Daghshan corporation warehouses in Sana'a city.

In its report, the committee said that the cargo of chemicals and poisons constitute a very dangerous risk to people's lives, and can cause damage to the environment, plants and soil.

The committee asked for everyone who participated in letting the cargo enter Yemen to be handed over to the court for prosecution to be punished according to the Constitution and law. The report affirmed applying the punishments stipulated in law 25 for the year

1999 regarding the circulation of pesticides, on the importer Saleh Ahmed Daghshan.

The people involved in releasing the cargo of pesticides are Mohammed Ahmed Daghshan, the representative of Bin Daghshan corporation, Abdullah Shamlan, the head of the Oversight and Inspection Department in the General Department for Plants Protection. Ali Muhriz, the head of the registration department in the General Department for Plants Protection, Yassen Al-Naqeeb, the head of the Department of Oversight in the General Authority for Plants protection, and finally Omer Abdullah Al-Muqbli, a security officer for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

According to a report issued by Parliament in June 2007, the pesticides were released from Hodeidah port's customs department and moved to Daghshan Corporation warehouses. "However, the pesticides were supposed to be stored at Ministry of Agriculture warehouses, but they were fully packed with other

goods," the report added.

Parliament member (MP) Moqtar Sadeq Abu Rass, who is also on the Agriculture Committee, stated that the container locks were broken by Daghshan corporation. "Daghshan broke the locks and sold the pesticides, so when the Ministry of Agriculture went to claim the cargo, they found that half of it had been sold and distributed in Taiz and Al-Dhale'e governorates," said Abu Rass.

The committee expressed its regret that the public prosecution hasn't notified the committee about the steps it has taken concerning the matter, despite transferring the issue to the public prosecutor on February 14, 2007. "The prosecution refuses to inform us about what they have done about the issue so far. It never informs us about anything under the pretext that the judiciary is independent," added Abu Rass.

On his part, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mansour Al-Hawshabi confessed before Parliament the ministry's inability to tackle pesticides

smugglers, and requested the cooperation of all official authorities and people in restricting this dangerous epidemic.

During the February 26 Parliament session, Al-Hawshabi said that pesticides smuggling is ongoing and complained to the MPs that the prosecution hasn't adjudicated in the smuggling cases that have been transferred to it from the ministry in the past. He mentioned that the ministry seized a 21-ton cargo of pesticides in Jabal Al-Nar in Taiz, and another 12 containers in Aden from an importer accused of importing a previous cargo of poisonous pesticides. He said that these issues have been transferred to the public prosecution, which hasn't made any decision on them yet.

Al-Hawshabi added, "The problem isn't in seizing these poisons; the stores of the ministry are full of them and using them will cause a catastrophe for the environment. What we need is to enforce the importers to get them back to their country of origin."

Parliament neither advocated cooper-

ating with nor to punishing the ministry. It didn't excuse the ministry from responsibility, but suggested publishing a black list of smugglers' names through the mass media. Moreover, the MPs asked that the officials who facilitated the passing of the banned cargo through Haradh strait be taken off the job and transferred to prosecution to be held accountable for their actions.

Two recent studies conducted at the University of Aden found that 118 kinds of pesticides are used in Yemen, mostly by qat farmers.

According to one study conducted by Abdul-Rahman Alawi bin Yehia, a researcher in the Environmental Studies and Sciences Center at the university, Yemen imports these pesticides under 555 trade names, and most of them are very dangerous.

Another study conducted by pharmacy students at the university stated that these pesticides cause chronic diseases such as cancer, behavioral changes, and liver and kidney diseases.

Number of African immigrants in Yemen increasing, says UNHCR

By: Hamed Thabet

SHABWA, March 5 — The number of illegal immigrants who entered Yemen as refugees from the Horn of Africa has nearly tripled, increasing to 8,731 in the first two months of 2008 compared to the same period last year, said Ron Redmond, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson in Geneva. He noted that a total of 182 refugee-carrying boats arrived on Yemen's coast so far this year.

The majority of the refugees entering Yemen are from Somalia.

The increase in arrivals this year was partly due to the use of new smuggling routes. "By the end of last year, the smugglers started taking people, mostly Somalis, across the Red Sea from Djibouti, said Redmond. "In 2007, an estimated 700 Somalis took the Djibouti route."

Since the beginning of the year, smugglers began using faster boats in order to avoid the Yemeni coast guard. The prices the refugees pay to smugglers differs depending on the speed of the boat.

"People who are traveling on small, fast boats have to pay an average of US \$130 to US \$150," said Redmond.

In contrast, those traveling on larger and more crowded vessels pay between US \$50 and US \$70, and US \$20 for children, said Sharifa Mohammed Ali, 19, a Somali refugee in Al-Kharaz camp in Lahj, who came to Yemen via a smug-



Shabwa governorate is one of the entry points for African immigrants to Yemen. The number of African refugees in Yemen have increased to 8,731 in the first two months of 2008.

gler's boat.

Al-Kharaz Refugee Camp has approximately 9,000 refugees — most of them Somalis — with smaller numbers of Ethiopians and Kenyans.

The journey from Somalia to Yemen can take 12 to 36 hours, depending on the weather, knowledge of the routes, sea conditions and the speed of the boat. If smugglers meet patrol boats or see the coast guard en route, they either throw their passengers overboard or attempt to take an alternative route, often adding many hours to the voyage.

The armed smugglers are often brutal. Redmond gave an example from last month when eight boats carrying more than 500 passengers arrived at five different arrival points in Yemen.

Smugglers on two of the boats were carrying a total of 302 people. The smugglers forced the passengers to disembark in deep and rough waters, which caused many of the passengers to drown.

A total of 182 people made it to shore, while 36 bodies were found and 84 remain missing. The new Somali arrivals told the staff at Al-Mayfa'a, a refugee reception center run by the UNHCR in the Shawba governorate, that the smugglers severely beat the passengers onboard, stole their possessions and raped female refugees. One traumatized person jumped overboard and drowned, according to Al-Mayfa'a's staff.

Redmond added that approximately 113 refugees have drowned while making the perilous voyage across the Gulf of Aden into Yemen so far this year. There are at least 214 others still missing, though they are presumed to be dead.

The UNHCR called for increased action to save lives in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. From 2007 to until now, the UNHCR stepped up its work in Yemen under a US \$7 million operation that includes extra staff, more assistance, additional shelters for refugees, and training programs for coast guard personnel and other officials. These programs will be expanded throughout this year.

Bread prices sky rocket

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, March 3 — Bread prices have jumped to YR 20 per loaf instead of YR 10, thereby constituting a 100-percent increase. As a result, Yemenis have strongly denounced the sudden and unexpected increase in bread prices, particularly as bread is one of the basic commodities in their everyday life.

"We're shocked at the sudden rise in bread prices, but we're obliged to buy it at such a high price because no one can dispense with bread, a necessity at every meal," citizen Abdullah Qutaina observed. "Bread prices have doubled while loaf weight varies from one bakery to another."

"Unfortunately, bakeries don't produce bread according to a standard weight," he added, urging concerned government authorities to put a stop to the skyrocketing prices of basic foodstuffs, particularly, wheat, flour, cooking oil, milk, rice and sugar.

"From today onward, we must fast every day or reduce our three meals a day to one. Instead of buying 30 pieces of French bread for breakfast at YR 300, we now pay YR 600 for the same quantity and it's the same for each meal, lamented widow Mariam Al-Tawili. "Because my late husband's pension is only YR 30,000, I don't know how it can cover our daily expenses throughout the month." She went on to say that, "For us, daily expenses have become unaffordable. We don't know if there are possible solutions to this situation, but we hope the bread prices stop here."

According to bakery owner Mohammed Al-Raimi, production costs have increased drastically due to the soaring prices of breadmaking ingredients. He notes that this week, 50 kilograms of flour is selling for YR 7,700, adding that high rents, the increased cost of plastic bags and workforce compensation is hindering bakeries from making good profits; thus, they sometimes take a

loss. However, Al-Raimi stressed that his bakery is producing loaves at a reasonable weight in case the government takes any action against bakeries, which would lead to their owners shutting them down.

Yemen's Ministry of Trade and Industry previously maintained that international factors are behind the soaring prices of wheat and flour due to increased transportation, shipment and storage costs. It announced that the rising prices of basic foodstuffs is an international phenomenon due to growing demand and falling market supplies, pointing out that wheat- and flour-producing nations have experienced abnormal climate changes that damaged this year's agricultural crops.

The ministry further denies that it has set the bread price at YR 20 per loaf. Abduraqueeb Al-Samawi, manager of the Sana'a Trade and Industry Office, says the ministry agreed with bakery owners to set the bread price at YR 180 per kg. "However, this agreement did not set loaf prices at YR 20," he stated, pointing out that the ministry exerted much effort to reach this agreement with the bakeries. According to him, the agreement was signed after week-long negotiations between both sides. He stressed that citizens must cooperate with the government by purchasing bread by weight. In return, the government is attempting to follow up with bakers in order to make them adhere to the new agreement, as some already have violated it regarding the new bread weights.

Ministry officials listened to bakers' viewpoints and remarks concerning problems they face in implementing the agreement, including instability in wheat and flour price increases and lack of experience in selling bread by weight.

Trade and Industry Ministry officials have urged the governors of all Yemeni governorates to live up to their responsibility to oblige bakers to sell bread by weight, applying the ministry's pricing

structure. At a Monday meeting chaired by Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Ahmad Al-Sayyaghi, ministry officials discussed action it and its governorate branches have taken so far with the intention of preventing traders from varying wheat and flour prices. Attendees vowed to be tough and end leniency toward those bakers violating the fixed pricing for selling bread, which is YR 180 per kilogram.

Additionally, the meeting participants decided to launch field campaigns and oversight visits to determine bakeries' level of commitment to the fixed bread pricing. Such action will be carried out in coordination with local councilors and governors.

Commenting to various media outlets, many citizens have said the 100-percent hike in bread prices is "a death penalty" handed down against them by the government and merchants, as economic situations are worsening and individual income remains low.

Further, they have inquired about promises President Ali Abdullah Saleh made in his September 2006 electoral platform.

According to Yemen's Saba News Agency, Trade and Industry Minister Yahya Al-Mutawakil met with bakers last month to discuss how to implement the decision to sell bread by weight, suggesting posting the fixed price structure on bakery walls so customers can see it.

Al-Mutawakil affirmed the necessity of bakeries' commitment to sell bread by weight and abide by the affixed bread pricing structure, adding that his ministry has authorized governors to fix bread prices.

He clarified that while touring several Sana'a bakeries, he discovered violations of the agreement to sell bread by weight. Consequently, he stressed the necessity of coordination between ministry offices and concerned private sector bodies in order to reduce citizens' sufferings resulting from the price hikes.

Security officer charged with murder



Because of citizen's campaigning, the security officer responsible of killing a young man in Taiz is now behind bars.

By: Taiz Bureau

TAIZ, March 4 — Following repeated pressure by Taizi citizens, governorate security authorities have arrested security officer Dammaj Al-Bahr for killing a citizen from Janad district and forming a group of gunmen to loot citizens' property and plunder their land. Al-Bahr is an influential individual who once headed Shara'ab Al-Salam Security Department. In a statement to the Yemen Times, Taiz Security Department head Yahya Al-Haisami stated that his department launched a military campaign comprised of several armored vehicles and dozens of police to arrest Al-Bahr, who refused to surrender, pointing out that the perpetrator fiercely resisted the security campaign and hindered police from doing their duty. Hundreds of Janad district locals, including local councilors and one member of Parliament, staged a sit-in Tuesday in front of the governorate's premises and the security department to protest against security authorities for not executing Al-Bahr. They further accused the security department of being indifferent toward Al-Bahr, who has repeatedly attacked local citizens and seized their property. Three days ago, Al-Bahr shot dead Ahmad Abdu Uthman of Janad area. The incident enraged local citizens, forcing them to protest against the security authorities, whom they allege don't perform their required duties.

The angry protestors charged some government agencies and officials with harboring the alleged murderer and encouraging him to do whatever he wants. Further, they blamed senior police officers, including Taiz Political Security

Director Faisal Al-Bahr, who is related to the perpetrator, for being lenient toward him.

Uthman's murder occurred Sunday while Al-Janad Police Station Director Abdullah Abdulwahab Mughallis and many of his security personnel were on official duty in another area attempting to end clashes over a disputed plot of land. As Mughallis was on his way back to the police station, Al-Bahr's followers fired at his vehicle, deflating its tires. He and his personnel then were transported to their station in a private citizen's vehicle, noting that they did not return fire on the perpetrators. Moreover, the security official revealed that Al-Bahr and his gunmen chased him and his men, directing his followers to "Kill him! Kill him!" meaning the vehicle's driver, Ahmad Uthman, who was shot dead after he refused to stop or slow down. Following the incident, Al-Bahr and his gunmen immediately fled the scene. Sheikh Abdulhamid Al-Batra, an MP representing Constituency 56 in Taiz governorate, strongly denounced the security authorities' negligence and indifference toward the illegal acts committed by Al-Bahr and his gunmen.

"This influential individual seized citizens' lands with the full knowledge of governmental bodies. Having once served in the security department, he exploited his military rank to make illegal earnings," Al-Batra added.

According to the victim's brother, Sheikh Mohammed Uthman, Al-Bahr's repeated assaults and arbitrary illegal acts have enraged area citizens, who now are planning to execute him themselves without communicating with the relevant government authorities.

WHAT IT MEANS...

Internet censorship in Yemen

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (drafaqih@yahoo.com).

The Internet has taken root in Yemen, functioning as it does everywhere, as a social network, as an electronic pamphleteer and as a purveyor of facts and ideas. The Yemeni government is intimidated by the public's internet use and the resulting social and political progress. Consequently the Yemeni state dramatically increased internet censorship in the last months, as it is prone to do in times of crisis and negative publicity.

The regime is blocking both information and political content from the Yemeni web user. Yemen's Internet Service Providers (ISP) denied access to Youtube videos of southern protests by defining the videos as pornography. At the time of this writing, the government is censoring at least 17 internet news and opinion sites. Most proxy services are inaccessible as well. The government, which monopolizes the broadcast media, also controls the country's internet.

A standard WHOIS query to the blocked domains shows the output is filtered. The government ISP automatically denies internet requests from Yemeni users by using Websense and Antlabs to filter internet content. Websense enables the government to block websites by category and to define specific internet sites to block. Although the regime blocks news websites, fanatical Jihaddist websites remain available to the public. Internet censorship is a wall that serves the regime by isolating the Yemeni people from information and from each other. It also isolates Yemen

from the world.

Yemen has long positioned itself as a democratizing, reforming regime. The verbiage of democracy underpins Yemen's domestic and international legitimacy. Since Yemeni unity in 1990, citizens internalized and Yemenized democratic values and goals. In years past, the international community saw Yemen's free press as a demonstrable indication of its commitment to democratization. However internet censorship, an embargo on Yemen's new media, is occurring in conjunction with a broad, sustained governmental campaign against the traditional media. Journalists, editors, critics and oppositionists have been arrested, beaten, defamed, fined, threatened and kidnapped in increasing numbers. With the Yemen government waging war against information itself, international praise has turned to criticism.

Internet censorship in Yemen is a symptom of the regime's inability to reconcile with its opponents. The regime habitually attempts to co-opt, crush or de-legitimize its opposition. Some have postulated the regime is engaging tribal behavior; however in a tribal construct, each tribe recognizes the right of other tribes to exist and justice is a mutually recognized goal. The ruling regime in Yemen has yet to accept the legitimacy of popular inclusion in the form of an authentic opposition competing for power. The repetitive wars in the north



By: Jane Novak

and ongoing civil unrest in the south arise from the ruling elite's inability to accept former foes as partners in the political process, to say nothing of fostering new competitors for power. Internet censorship is method of excluding the public voice from the political system and thwarting meaningful transfer of power. Other methods of exclusion include takfirism and authoritarianism.

Yemen suffers from a phenomenon known as State Capture where large portions of the state are controlled by private interest groups. Resources of the state flow through patronage networks. Corruption is the defining characteristic of the administrative and state culture. As Professor Robert Burrows wrote recently in the Yemen Times, "The degree of corruption, not just the fact of it, is key to an understanding of contemporary Yemen. Graft, bribery and other forms of thievery pervade the system at all levels of a steeply sided pyramid of patronage." The state does not function for the public good but in the best interests of a small elite grouping.

To legitimize and empower competing groups, ideologies or methods would diminish the volume of cash flowing from governmental corruption and criminal activities. An informed Yemeni public would probably do the very thing that democratic people are supposed to do, hold their leaders accountable. Internet censor-

ship allows the regime to hide the truth about Yemen from the Yemeni people and the world at large. In Yemen, as elsewhere, the companion of censorship is propaganda.

Internet censorship also works in favor of the regime by thwarting the development of a national identity. A free national media, by airing viewpoints and grievances, fosters cross cutting sympathies among social groups separated by distance, heritage or other affiliation. The regime, for which national unity is a red line, encourages the fragmentation of the Yemeni people by isolating them from each other, deploying internet censorship, propaganda and takfirism to achieve disunity.

Internet censorship also isolates the Yemeni people from the international community. It thwarts the transfer of information from Yemen to the world and from the world into Yemen. As a result the Yemeni economy suffers. The technological barrier between Yemen and the world is reminiscent of Yemen's isolationism under the Imamate. Technological censorship is reinforced by the omnipresence of secret police in the internet cafes.

Social pressures denied the venue of civil expression have the tendency to explode and such an outcome is possible in Yemen where citizens are largely excluded from the political system. With internet censorship, they are denied their public voice. Traditional democratic processes yield little progress in altering the centralization of power. The 2006 elections in

Yemen were unfair despite some improvement over prior years. Even peaceful protests are judicially and violently thwarted. Southern protesters have repeatedly encountered brutality by security forces, and 17 protesters have been killed since August. Hundreds have been wounded and arrested.

The Yemeni government has little domestic credibility. Public trust in government may be at an all time low. Internet censorship is one more source of increasing public frustration. To maintain stability, the Yemeni regime must cede power to the people, as is its stated goal. Tangible action is overdue, not another back room deal or bit of well orchestrated propaganda. One suggestion is opening the voter rolls to scrutiny and authentication.

Yemen's donors must realize that Yemen's economic development, counter-terror cooperation and governmental efficiency all hinge on the growth of Yemeni civil rights. Pluralism, the equal rights of each citizen before the law, is the key to averting the looming disaster in Yemen. Lastly, the Yemeni people must recognize their united power. Civil rights are never given, bestowed or awarded; rights are always taken. Many in Yemen have paid the price for freedom although Yemen is not yet free; these sacrifices cannot be in vain.

Jane Novak is an American journalist and political analyst specializing in Yemeni internal affairs. She welcomes comments at jane.novak@gmail.com

Their News

CAC Bank annual assembly



The Cooperative Agriculture Credit Bank conducted its seventh annual assembly for all its branches at the commercial capital Aden. The assembly will review the branches evaluation report for 2007 according to international standard monetary assessment. Assistant general manager for commercial and monetary affairs Mohammed Ahmed Taqi was pleased that the evaluation came out positive showing significant growth. CAC Bank will approve the branches plans and budgets and analyze measures to overcome obstacles and shortcomings in performance and services.

Taqi stated that some of the branches, which achieved more than 100 percent accomplishment for their 2007 plan, would be awarded in an honorary ceremony at the assembly.

"Current accounts and deposits for CAC Bank have increased 140 percent over those in 2006, as they reached 117 billion YR. The bank's net profit will be announced soon," added Taqi.

The Cooperative Agriculture Credit Bank was established in 1982 through the merger of the Agriculture Credit Bank and the Public Cooperative for Development. CAC Bank has 54 branches all over Yemen.

Yemeni Commercial Bank achieves growth in profit



The Yemeni Commercial Bank announced a net profit for 2007 at one billion, 211 million and 170 thousand Yemeni Riyals. This is an increase over 2006 profits of less than 933 million YR. However, the shares profit decreased from 365 YR in 2006 to 273 in 2007.

The bank stated its capital assets value has increased from 41 billion, 331 million and 161 thousand Riyals to over 62 billion YR by end of 2007.

"The clients deposits have increased to 51,757,886,000 YR compared to less than 35 billion YR in 2006. The total profit from interest rate on loans and bonds has also increased to over two billion YR in 2007" according to a press statement by the bank.

The Yemeni Commercial Bank was established in 1993 with the head quar-

ters in Sana'a, Aden, Hodaidah, Taiz, Mukalla, Dhamar and Rada'.

JICA volunteers helping Yemen development



The Japan International Cooperation Agency has been extending its technical assistance to Yemen since 1978 and its assistance is focused now on basic education, public health, rural water supply, and technical education/vocational training, which became a priority area of JICA's assistance after President Saleh's visit to Japan in 2005.

Within the technical cooperation program of Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, JICA has recently dispatched Japanese volunteers in the field of Youth Activities & System Engineering to Sana'a and it is going to dispatch five Japanese volunteers in the fields of physical education, automobile maintenance, public health nursing and program officers to Sana'a and Taiz by the end of March 2008.

JICA started the dispatch of JOCV to Yemen in 1991 and by the end of February 2008 JICA has dispatched 49 Japanese volunteers to Yemen to live and work with local people to contribute to Yemen's socio-economic development by making effective use of their abilities and experiences acquired in Japan.

There are now eight Japanese volunteers in Sana'a vigorously conducting their activities in the fields of nursery education, water analysis, system engineering, hairdressing and youth activities, and. JOCV is currently planning to expand its network of coverage to include other areas such as Taiz and Aden.

Cover Design Contest

The Arab Human Development Report 2008 Human Security in the Arab World



The Regional Bureau for Arab States at the United Nations Development Programme is in the process of publishing the next series of the Arab Human Development Reports. The 2008 Report will identify the issues that threaten human security

in the Arab world. It will concentrate on the dimensions and significance of human security, and elaborate on the effects of security and freedom from fear and want on the enhancement and realisation of development in all its economic, political and environmental dimensions. The Regional Bureau for Arab States is pleased to invite artists and designers to participate in a contest for the design of the cover of the forthcoming Report. The design must reflect the theme and purpose of the report and have clear indications about its subject, human security and human development, and reveal the region's legacy and cultural heritage.

The designer or artist must abide by the following guidelines:

The design should be provided on hard paper size 22X30 cm

The design should be in colour

There are no specifications for the type of colours used, but they should reflect the same colours that will be used in the printing of the cover

The design should clearly include the title of the Report in both languages, Arabic and English, the United Nations Development Programme name and logo, and the publishing year. The Report title is:

"Arab Human Development Report 2008: Human Security in the Arab World"

The person presenting the design should be the original designer of the cover, and the owner of the chosen design should agree to transfer the copy rights of the design to the United Nations Development Programme.

Designs that do not comply with the above specifications will be rejected.

The designs should reach the Regional Bureau for Arab States or any United Nations Development Programme office in the Arab region no later than 30 April 2008.

French language courses in Media Women Forum



Media Women Forum (MWF) inaugurated the diploma courses to study French language to 25 women journalists form

different Yemeni media outlets on Monday 3/3/2008. The courses are scholarships offered from Denis Douvneau /the deputy of French ambassador in a press meeting in

MWF. That meeting was a part of break the isolation of media women.

The courses are for 100 hours means it will continue for about 6 months in MWF building. In the first class, Georges Mouden _attachment of French language cooperation in the embassy_ attended and said a word to the participants. He explained the reasons of this scholarship and the embassy's efforts to success it with a special thanks to MWF efforts to improve the skills and abilities of its members.

MWF is working to evolve language skills of Media Women to improve their journal performance and rid off all the obstacles of languages which is the main way of communication.

MWF thanks the French embassy for the scholarship and for their cooperation.

MWF is working hard to find other scholarships in English language for it is the most contemporary language and to learn it media women could be able to find more time and effort in work.

Editors Weblog Re-Launched With New Functions



The World Editors Forum has re-launched its Editors Weblog, <http://www.editorsweblog.org>, to increase functionality and make it easier to navigate.

The weblog now has new sharing and social networking tools and produces a daily e-mail newsletter that is sent to thousands of editors each day. It also has a new, modern appearance.

WEF, the organisation within the World Association of Newspapers for senior newsroom personnel, launched the weblog in 2004. It has since become the premier international weblog on newsroom issues, with more than 1,600 unique visitors each day.

To celebrate the relaunch, WEF is conducting a series of interviews with editors-in-chief from major publications around the world, about the future of newspapers and the news industry, on the theme of "News, journalism, newspapers: same past, different futures"

Contributing publications include the Financial Times, the Washington Post, Canada's Globe & Mail, the Hindustan Times, Fairfax publications in Australia, Punch in Nigeria, and

many others.

The series will begin running on the weblog this week. Other recent posts include:

- From traditional to digital: Skyrocket Blogs_ phenomenal transition from French radio broadcaster to digital publisher, with more than half of its revenues coming from new media.

- Hindustan Times' integration: top-down, video-heavy, an examination of fundamental changes to the Times' organisation and working culture.

- A two-part series on Zero Hora_ integration, providing a look at the Brazilian company's cross-platform workflows, and a process in which journalists are also functioning as editors.

Mawared unveils model for King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz City at Jordan Economic Forum



The National Resources Investment & Development Corporation

'Mawared' unveiled the plans for the King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz City on the first day of the Jordan Economic Forum. Mawared's planned city at Zarqa covers over 25 million square meters and is expected to house over 400,000 people in over 70,000 residential units of between 100-160 square meters each. Upon completion of the city, Mawared hopes to improve the standard of living in Zarqa while continuing to attract foreign investment. In addition to a number of facilities including commercial centers, entertainment centers, hotels, schools and hospitals, the city will also be home to one of the most prominent mosques in Jordan, with an estimated capacity of 5,000 worshippers.

One of the forum's diamond sponsors, Mawared is a financially and administratively independent state-owned corporation leading Jordan's drive towards urban regeneration and inner city development. Mawared is Jordan's largest real estate developer, with a commitment towards generating considerable investment opportunities for the private sector, creating job opportunities, and stimulating economic growth.

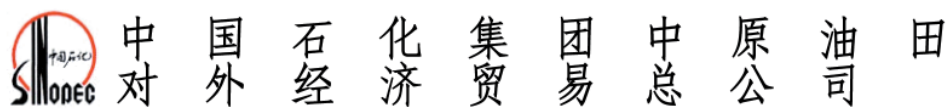
On the first day of the forum, Mr. Akram Abu Hamdan, Mawared's Director General, joined a panel of dis-

tinguished speakers led by H.E. Eng. Husni Abu-Ghida - chief commissioner of ASEZA. The panel included Mr. Haitham Dahleh, board member of Taameer - Jordan Holdings, Ms. Orayb Akeel - investors relation and marketing manager of the Aqaba Development Corporation, and Mr. Halim Al-Salfiti - CEO of TAJ investments.

The speakers covered a number of topics under the umbrella of the real estate and tourism development sector in Jordan, with an emphasis on the main urban developments in Jordan. The panel also touched upon urban planning in light of Jordan's current economic outlook and also highlighted the future of real estate investment in the Kingdom. Abu-Hamdan asserted the importance of raising open discussions of this kind at this time, saying: "Jordan is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth, and the development of real estate represents one of the main ways in which the Kingdom will maintain its momentum for continued economic growth and remain investment-friendly for foreign investors."

As well as moderating the panel of speakers, Abu-Hamdan was honored at the forum as one of two 'Achievement Award of the Year' recipients for his contributions, throughout 2007, in leading the Mawared's journey of growth and prosperity in Jordan. "I would like to sincerely thank Al-Iqtisad Wa Al-Amaal for this honor and I accept this award as a testament to what can be achieved in Jordan given the right conditions, approach, and dedicated team members as those within the Mawared Family" Abu-Hamdan commented after receiving his award.

Mawared's most recent contract agreement, signed during the Jordan Economic Forum, with The Land Holding Co. for the purchase of 35,000 square meters to develop a retail center totaling 80,000 square meters of built-up area injects over USD 100 million into the project, bringing The Land's total investment in the city to USD 350 million. The retail center will be located at the western entrance to the city, establishing a hub of commercial activity. Abu-Hamdan added: "The King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz City will be home to a number of shopping and retail centers, stimulating the economy of Zarqa and helping to further raise the standard of living in the area."



ZPEB (Yemen)

Performing Training for Local Employees and Expediting Yemenization Process in ZPEB Yemen

In order to carry out the policy for Yemenization implemented by the government of Yemen, ZPEB Yemen timely recruited local employees at the beginning of 2008 by publishing vacation announcement at the Yemen Times.

In order to enhance the understanding of ZPEB and heighten safety awareness, ZPEB Yemen seriously performed the orientation and training for newly recruited employees.

In addition, a safety training was performed on all aspects such as fire fighting, first aid, prevention of hydrogen sulfide and hazardous materials, use of personal protective equipment, STOPCARD system and HSE management system, etc.. By utilizing vivid pictures and action demonstration, the employees got certain perception on how to correctly operate safety equipment and devices while learning theoretical knowledge.

Through this training, all employees have been greatly benefited, especially for HSE training which will give them great help in safe operation during the work. In addition, they have been proud of being one of ZPEB employees after getting to



know the successful achievements made in ZPEB overseas projects and all expressed to work even harder and rigorously abide by various rules and regulations of the company.

The Training should be the most important work in the employee management for ZPEB in the year of 2008. ZPEB will carry out employee training programme to enhance safety consciousness and increase operation skills during both work and vacation.



The Ministry of Education PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION UNIT (PAU) Terms of Reference Secondary Education Coordinator (SEC)

BACKGROUND:

The Program Administration Unit (PAU) is entrusted by the Ministry of Education (MOE) with the responsibility to administer program funds and ensure fiduciary responsibilities to facilitate and support the implementation of the Basic Education Strategy (BEDS) and the National General Secondary Education Strategy (NGSES). PAU administers activities to support the implementation of MOE strategies through multi donor financed projects. It supports the implementation of BEDS through the Basic Education Development Project (BEDP), the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) Catalytic Fund grants, and is in the process to extend its support to the implementation of the NGSES through the Secondary Education Development and Girls Access Program (SEDGAP).

SCOPE OF WORK:

The SEC will work closely with all staff of PAU, sectors and departments of the MOE, various Governorate Offices and District Offices of MOE involved in the Project/Program, also S/he will be second in command to the Project Director (PD) for all implementation aspects of the project, besides these specific tasks:

- Liaison with the Secondary Education Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Education in strategy planning and the short, medium and long term action plans also with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and other such agencies as directed by the Project Director, as and when needed.
- Supervise all implementation aspects of various project components
- Working closely with the procurement staff of the PAU and GoY related staff to ensure that procurement of goods/services/TA is done in a timely and effective manner
- S/he will be responsible for coordinating MoE and PAU comments on draft reports coming out of the TA
- S/he will take appropriate actions regarding timely completion of the project sub components
- S/he will be responsible for working with all the concerned units at the PAU and MoE for compiling and/or drafting appropriate reports.
- S/he will be responsible for preparations for receiving and coordinating with the Supervision Mission of the Donors and work closely with them during their visits.
- S/he will be responsible for providing guidance/training to the concerned local staff to improve their professional skills
- S/he will perform any other project related duties as directed by the project director

Duration of the task:

The post is anticipated to be for six years, which is the planned SEDGAP implementation period. However, a one-year contract, with a four-month probation period, will be signed. The contract could be renewed on a yearly basis, based upon satisfactory performance.

Qualifications and Experience

- Formal academic qualifications (a minimum of a Bachelor Degree) preferably in education;
- Minimum of 10 years of relevant experience with a minimum of 2 years experience in coordination;
- Understanding of policy development and ability to undertake policy discussion with senior government officials and IDA and donors staff;
- Strong communication skills;
- Ability for effective interaction and communication with stakeholders, management and staff, as well as with local and international consultants;
- Proactive personality highly desired;
- Working effectively in a team environment;
- Familiarity with IDA-financed projects will be an advantage;
- Familiarity with the SEDGAP will be an advantage;
- Strong oral and written capabilities in both Arabic and English, and
- Capability to use computers and software applications.

All Applications along with a detailed resume should be submitted by **Wednesday March 19, 2008**, to the following address:

**Ministry of Education
Basic Education Development Project
Project Administration Unit -60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad**

Tel: 01-619160, Fax: 01- 619219

Yemen LNG Company Ltd.

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال



MARINE TRAINEE CADETSHIPS

Yemen LNG Company is pleased to announce the commencement of its 2008 Marine Trainee programme in partnership with MISC Berhad and A.P. Møller-Maersk (APMM) shipping companies. Under this scheme, up to 15 Yemeni nationals will be engaged and trained at Marine colleges in Malaysia and India. Trainees who complete the course successfully will be candidates for positions as certified officers or crew on the four new LNG tankers which will export Yemeni liquefied natural gas from the Yemen LNG Company gas terminal at Balhaf to world markets.

Applicants for the cadetships must be High School Graduates or holders of college diplomas and must be between 17 and 21 years old. Preference is given to unmarried candidates, and all applicants must be medically fit with good eyesight (6/6 in both eyes) without any visual aids or colour blindness. All candidates must speak a good level of English before joining the course and must have a sound knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry. Candidates with previous marine experience are particularly welcome to apply.

The selection process for all suitable applicants will be held in Aden or in Sana'a and all travelling and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed.

The selected candidates will be sent to Malaysia or India for between three and four and a half years of training and will receive a monthly allowance. One paid trip home per year is granted. Successful, motivated candidates can expect steady career progression within either the Deck or Engineering professions, potentially to the positions of Chief Engineer or Ship's Master.

Application Process

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.
- Do not make additional applications by fax or mail.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.
- **Closing Date: 25 March 2008**

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

In partnership with



Landfill improvements: Mukalla striving to become trash-free

By: Hamed Thabet

For many years, citizens in Mukalla believed that cleanliness meant getting rid of trash in their own homes. After collecting their household garbage, residents would take it outside the city to Al-Ghalila, a well-known open space that citizens made into a garbage landfill over the past 10 years.

But as the city has expanded, it grew to include land near the dump, which reduced the value of nearby homes and created environmental hazards.

During the past five years, residents were encouraged to buy land near Al-Ghalila because it was commonly thought to appreciate in value over time. But after a while, instead of watching the value of their land increase, people saw themselves mired in a swamp of trash,

which put the residents in real trouble, both environmentally and financially.

"I have seven plots of land in Al-Ghalila, and the trash heap with its bad smell and its smoke makes building homes there really difficult," Mukalla resident Shahab Abdulrahim says.

The German Technical Cooperation, or GTZ, and the Local Administration Ministry's Decentralization of Solid Waste Management Project plan to create a new landfill held to stricter standards that will improve the lives of Mukalla residents.

At the beginning of 2007, the city of Mukalla and the Yemeni government's Cleaning Fund Project requested technical and administrative support from GTZ in the field of solid (unburnable) waste.

"Since we only help poor govern-
nates, Mukalla wasn't in our program," said Abdulsalam Al-Mahdi, an expert

with GTZ. "But because they asked us, we went and conducted studies with a special international team."

GTZ studies in 2007 found that the area of Al-Ghalila will be a viable residential area in two years due to its location five kilometers outside of the city. The German development organization hopes to move the dump to Fowa district located 15 kilometers from the city, Al-Mahdi explained.

Once the old dump is ready after approximately one month, GTZ will hand over the project to Yemeni staff. The Yemeni training already has been going on for about four months, noted Mohammed Al-Eryani, Al-Mahdi's counterpart at the Local Administration Ministry.

GTZ has planned a newer spot for a landfill within the old Al-Ghalila dump, which they hope will be usable for five to 10 years. Additionally, it has created a small dam within the dump in an attempt to close the open space to garbage scavengers, who burn metal in order to resell it later.

"One of the main problems we faced – and still face – is getting rid of all the trash because it's being trampled on and buried by many trash scavengers in their effort to obtain steel, plastic and aluminum for resale," Al-Eryani said.

He further noted that this type of scavenging through garbage is illegal, adding that the problem with the old dump is that anyone can get into it, pilfer through the refuse and burn the trash. Instead, he wants to make it legal to take metal from the dump in order to discourage scavengers from burning the trash.

Methane gas generated by burning trash causes environmental pollution. As of today, heaps of trash still are burning, with some have been burning for an entire year.

Al-Eryani mentioned that there have been some slight improvements recently in Al-Ghalila's condition and he commended the city for assisting with the clean-up efforts.

"At least we've stopped people from throwing their garbage there until we complete our studies and rebuild the Al-Ghalila landfill," Al-Eryani remarked. "The Fowa dump will be open to all and it's not dirty like Al-Ghalila dump. [Until now,] only medical waste is buried there [temporarily]."

The process of constructing the new landfill in Al-Ghalila first entails spreading trash on the ground and then covering it with approximately 50 centimeters of dust. Afterward, a bulldozer will go over the heap five times to compact the trash and make room for more. GTZ aims to carry out the process without burning any trash.

However, before this process commences, Al-Mahdi says the dump will open for legal scavengers to come and take steel, aluminum and recyclables. This is an important part of the process because it reduces the landfill's volume of trash while at the same time allowing citizens to benefit financially from selling the recyclables.

Al-Mahdi also noted that this part of the plan benefits the environment because some plastics won't biodegrade for 300 years or more, so recycling them lessens their negative impact.



Garbage scavengers burn metal in order to resell it later. Noting that the burning could continue for a year because of Methane gas.

The difference between the old and the new dump in Al-Ghalila is that the new one is built according to international standards, which include erecting a gate so that no one except workers may get into it, along with registering all dump trucks that enter and noting the amount of trash each truck is carrying.

According to Al-Eryani, Mukalla will be trash-free in less than a year. The new dump in Fowa will be completed in approximately two years, but until that time, Mukalla residents will use the new spot in Al-Ghalila.

An electronic scale to be added at the gate to Al-Ghalila dump in the near future will be used to determine if Mukalla truly is trash-free, as well as collect reliable information about how much trash each person produces in a day. For example, one individual in Yemen produces 400 to 500 grams of garbage each day, Al-

Eryani said.

"If trash in the dump weighs more 1,100 tons per day, then we'll conclude that there's something unusual to be investigated," Al-Eryani said. "Different seasons and climates also play a large role in the increase of waste produced, but this can be estimated through studying."

Burning trash was and continues to be forbidden, even in the old field in the new dump in Al-Ghalila dump, Al-Mahdi noted.

The Yemeni-German project seeks to regulate landfill sites and utilize equipment with basic technology that can be modified, maintained and repaired locally in order to increase job opportunities and reduce service costs. The project hopes to grow and privatize the industry through better regulation and increased financial transparency.



For many years, citizens in Mukalla believed that cleanliness meant getting rid of trash in their own homes by giving no care to where the trash goes.

Road accidents hamper locals' lives

By: Amira Al-Sharif

As a result of highway accidents, citizens of Bani Hiwat, a district in Sana'a governorate, are keeping their children from school due to increasing worries about them crossing the two-lane highway in order to get there.

In response to this, local residents have constructed roadblocks in an effort to make drivers slow down, but the makeshift roadblocks are causing drivers to wreck and overturn their vehicles, sometimes harming nearby pedestrians or onlookers.

In Bani Hiwat, three homes near each other all house victims of such highway incidents. Ten-year-old Ibtihal Mohammed Najee became the victim of a speeding driver on the highway. She had been a school first-grader before the accident took the use of her legs. A car struck Ibtihal during Ramadan while she was running an errand for her mother to a nearby store in Bani Hiwat.

The youth has been confined to her home for the past four months since her accident. While she has had an operation on her leg, she can't continue her treatment, as her family barely has enough money to support themselves day to day.

Ibtihal lives with her family of 10 headed by her mother, Amina Riziq, since her father died four years ago. Her mother works with farmers outside of Sana'a to harvest fruits and vegetables, arising before sunrise at 5 a.m. and returning home just before sunset. For this, she earns only YR 300 a day.

Their house consists of only two rooms and a bathroom – no kitchen. Riziq rents the home for YR 4,000 a month without electricity or water. Unable to afford even medicine for her, Ibtihal's mother, brothers and sisters help her shower, dress and move about the house. Since she no longer can attend school, Ibtihal spends her time drawing and dreaming of having enough



Mosheer is helping his sister Ebtehal to walk in the house.

money to buy colorful pens and good paper for her drawings.

Sumayah Hassan

Safiyah Al-Samah, another resident of Bani Hiwat, has dark circles around her eyes due to lack of sleep and continuous crying. In her mid-20s, the illiterate mother of eight still grieves the loss of her 7-year-old daughter Sumayah Hassan, who was killed in an accident a few weeks ago. "A qat-chewing male driver who was not watching the road, struck and killed my daughter and then drove off. He didn't even take her to the hospital!" the mother explained.

As a reaction to Sumayah's fatal accident, Al-Samah has kept another of her daughters, 9-year-old Jihad, from attending school. The second-grader says she's afraid of dying like her sister and doesn't want to attend school.

Three houses down from Al-Samah is another family affected by highway incidents, as two of Khizaran Mohammed Gaudi's children, Sumayah and Luqman, had car accidents on the same. "I hate all taxi drivers! I'm afraid to cross the road," Sumayah declares.

While Bani Hiwat residents realize that it's illegal to build roadblocks, they

maintain that it's the only thing they can do to prevent their children from dying in such highway incidents.

Accidents do happen, despite denials by area police

Abdullah Ali, a merchant at a nearby shop in Bani Hiwat, once witnessed four accidents on that particular road within a week. He also saw a horrifying accident where a driver lost control of his vehicle, swerved off the road and hit a man breakfasting at a roadside restaurant.

"Roadblocks are illegal because they cause problems, especially at night when drivers drive fast and don't see them," explains Yahya Shubail, general manager of Traffic Administration in Sana'a, a government body at the Ministry of Interior. "This causes their vehicles to overturn. The Yemeni government is seeking to prevent and remove any roadblocks via the Public Works Ministry."

A source from the Transportation Ministry's Traffic Department reports that the capital city of Sana'a witnessed 5,549 traffic accidents last year.

The Yemen Times contacted the Bani Hiwat Police Station, but authorities there denied the existence of any roadblocks on area highways and further refused comment on any accidents or injuries involving the highway or the roadblocks. Station manager Kamal Shalwan indicated that if there are any roadblocks, they will be removed.

However, Bani Hiwat neighborhood sheikh Askar Asel explained, "[We had] four accidents in 2007 and one so far in 2008. Area residents erect roadblocks because of the increasing number of accidents and because that road is filled with children and old women. After Sumayah [Hassan]'s death, they created two dirt roadblocks, but those vanished over time." While Asel noted that area police sometimes get angry about the

makeshift roadblocks, he said they haven't done anything about them recently. Additionally, there are no road signs warning drivers to slow down.

"Those who've been hurt by these makeshift roadblocks made a formal

statement to the Public Works Office indicating that the roadblocks can cause accidents involving both locals and drivers' vehicles," explained Najeeb Al-Korimi of the Public Works Ministry's maintenance office. To improve safety

for both children and drivers, area residents of Bani Hiwat suggest either erecting signs along the road to warn oncoming vehicles or constructing concrete overpasses for residents to cross the road without worry.



SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the post of
Youth National Coordinator for RH/FP Community Based Interventions

Unit: Program

Grade: GS 5

1. Purpose:
To assist in establishing and consolidating community based interventions targeting young people in the selected governorates.

2. Duration
Six months renewable.

3. Context:
According to the Country Programme Action Plan, signed on March 2007, between the GoY and UNFPA, the two RH outputs (1. increased availability of reproductive health services; 2. increased demand for reproductive health services, including information, educational services and awareness relating to Reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS and STIs) are focused on young people. UNFPA will support and strengthen the capacity of health providers to deliver high-quality reproductive health services including youth friendly services and enhance awareness on the Adolescence Sexual and Reproductive health (ASRH) and rights; improve access to counselling and condoms especially for young people. In order to achieve these results, UNFPA work on the expansion of Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) interventions targeting youth through formal education and peer education. UNFPA advocate for political commitment to the integration of RH issues in to school system. Implementing Partners will receive technical support to include reproductive health education within the range of education activities and be supported to implement peer education activities, pre-marital counselling and Youth Friendly Services.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the guidance of RH Youth & HIV/AIDS Focal Point, the incumbent for this post will be responsible for the following:

I. Technical Advice:

- 1) Assists in the UNFPA Support to the Implementation of the National Youth and Children Strategy;
- 2) Assists in ensuring that the concept of youth is mainstreamed in UNFPA supported programmes;
- 3) Assists in the design and implementation of operational research rapid assessment and evaluation related to youth and cooperates with the county office and concerned national and international experts/institutions as may be required; Facilitate and establish networking between NGOs, Community Based Centres, and Governmental Agencies, MOPHP in the targeted communities;
- 4) Ensure establish Y-Peer network in the selected governorate.
- 5) Organize timely meetings with peer educators from different neighbourhoods and schools to share experience and reflect on challenges to ensure ongoing update of training manuals as well as project design.
- 6) selection and supervision of Y-Peer educators.
- 7) Prepares and presents position papers, briefs and notes on youth for relevant forums and contributes to special events related to UNFPA.

II. Programme Management:

- 1) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the work plans and activities with regard to Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of health, Ministry of Education, and relevant youth NGOs;
- 2) Contributes/takes charge of the youth programme components in the office;
- 3) Undertakes monitoring field visits to the targeted governorates and districts to ensure that agreed upon and according to coordinated plans;
- 4) Monitor progress in implementing activities & expenditures of each IP through AWP and IP Quarterly Progress Reports;
- 5) Escalate issues of concern in a timely manner to the appropriate levels, discuss and solve, to the extent possible, any constraints encountered in the implementation of the AWP's under the RH component.
- 6) Contributes to preparation/organization and participates in the APRs, MTRs, Subprogram and Country Programme Reviews, evaluations and assists in completion of the relevant reporting;

III. General:

- 1) Liaison between UNFPA Country Office and concerned national sub-programme and component project management on technical, matters of youth related activities;
- 2) Keeps abreast with UNFPA Policies, programme and apply them to the given conditions;
- 3) The incumbent will work at UNFPA premises. He/She should move between centers and sites of the component projects as appropriate and agreed upon with Representative and project management;
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Please send your application to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a.

Deadline for application: 20 March 2008

Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified. UNFPA is offering equal opportunities however qualified females are strongly encouraged to apply



Bani Hiwat's locals built roadblocks to slow drivers down.

When shall we respect court orders?

By: Taha Al-Ameri

There are numerous negative phenomena standing in the way of our national progress and prosperity. However, we are supposed to work on overcoming and eliminating such phenomena in order not to take us to the situation of condemning ourselves by ourselves in event such phenomena survive. These phenomena requires strong will and determination to positively deal with them, and by the phenomena here I mean the effective court orders passed by the competent judicial authorities in favor of particular individuals or national agencies, particularly the orders issued through a consensus by the various competent judicial references.

The matter gets worse when we find out that some national agencies and sovereign institutions are standing in the way of such judiciary orders, and therefore object to their execution in one way or another.

This phenomenon must disappear

from our life immediately and by force through the commitment of each sovereign institution to apply what is issued by the judicial authorities, which in turn have to verify that their orders are seriously dealt with, appreciated and respected by the national sovereignty institutions. These institutions have to demonstrate the ideal example of respecting all the judicial rulings and regulations, notably the ones that took much time until they got passed.

The strangest thing is that the national agencies and government employees are parties in such cases, and instead of valuing their efforts, we find that these parties usually attempt to dispense with their efforts in a way lacking even the simplest values. It is this way the government employee or worker finds himself/herself obliged to join a judicial battle, thereby directing the various judicial agencies to execute any enacted orders, but at the same time, he or she is found to refuse or object to what is issued by the judiciary.

Through this behavior, our national

sovereign and autonomous institutions appear as if they want to confirm to us and the entire world that we in Yemen – state and society – don't respect judiciary, nor do we abide by its orders. It is this way a particular agency or company appears to behave as it is over the law, thus damaging the progressive course of the civilized experience we are enjoying. I don't know how people in charge of these agencies and companies think, notably when standing in the way of a government worker, who was subjected to an incident while in duty. Instead of being loyal with the victim, any government worker injured while on duty, their sole goal is to get rid of this victim.

When judiciary does justice for the injured worker and directs the relevant agencies to apply any orders it issues, we usually find that some individuals ignore the judiciary's role, and any orders or rulings it passes, in a manner raising multiple questions about the real motives behind such positions. We do also question what reasons prevented a government agency from executing final court orders passed

against it and in favor of a particular citizen or worker.

Had we but realized that the official institutions and their staff should be the first party to respect judiciary; we would have been up to the responsibility while dealing with any court orders. There are some hypocrites who depict to certain officials matters in their own way with the motive of expressing allegiance to the state and caring about its interests, but in fact, their action pays much harm to the state and the public interest as well, thereby showing no respect for the judiciary or any abidance by its orders.

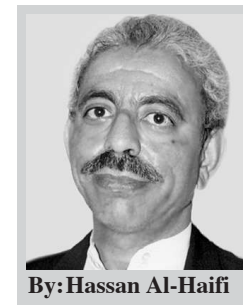
On the contrary, we find ourselves face to face with some patriotic personalities who did their best for the homeland's sake and reached several successes, but by ignoring or underestimating a court order, they destroy all what they have so far built in their homeland, as well as harm their reputation and prestige in the national memory.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

COMMON SENSE

The global axis of death Murder Incorporated

None ever really expected the Government of George W. Bush to come and announce its support for justice to the Palestinian cause or to apologize for the thousands of innocent civilians, who were killed by "friendly fire" or whatever niceties the continuous murder of civilians is labeled by in the Cheney media syntax. The recent carnage or "Holocaust", as the Israelis themselves call it, in Gaza, is indeed a clear illustration of the overriding venue of murder, broken limbs and broken homes, which the International Zionist Establishment, the Neo-Christian Alliance and the Hate Mongering Racist Federation set up by the IZE throughout the world relies on to bring about havoc, bedlam and lawlessness throughout the world. Surely, the Bush Administration is seeking to leave this world, with enough hatred, distrust and instability to maintain the umbilical cord of the military industrial complex that was given the upper hand in the dictation of American foreign policy for the last eight years, with a view to ensuring its steadfastness, no matter who takes over the White House in 2009.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The language used by the White House and its mischievous Secretary of State, the indefatigable coordinator of evil throughout the world, Condoleezza Rice, clearly states the lack of human sense and absence of compassion for human life by which this Society of Murder, Hate and Destruction that prevails in the World today operates. Can anyone explain how the illogical dissimilarity that exists between two is equal to well over 120 mostly civilian mortalities (with a sizable portion being children), and the many times that of injured human beings being justified by a helpless, suffering, bewildered and frustrated resistance, imprisoned in the Zionist Gulag that Gaza has become? The same mentality that nourishes this ugly venue throughout the world is also the same one that drives all the organized channels of hatred that spreads from Denmark to the radio talk show channels of the United States. This venue of hatred, is illustrated time and again by the public media such as that shown by the Evangelist Bill Cunningham (AM WLW from Cincinnati, Ohio). The latter was campaigning for the newly found champion of the American right, Senator John McCain, the contender for the Republican nomination for the Presidency. And in one of these well publicized efforts as such throughout the American media, Cunningham repeatedly reminded the American public and the world at large about the cause for serious worry in the danger that exists in the middle name of Barak "Hussein" Obama, the contender for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the Presidency of the United States in 2008. Senator McCain himself had to deplore this open display of hatred. Yet, this is the kind of hate that only the Neo-Nazi Zionists of the World can come up with as they sell their platform of hate to justify their rise to political heights, similar to that used by Adolf Hitler and his Third Reich bums as they strove to rise in the political ranks in pre-Nazi Germany. In fact, it is the same venue of hatred that defines the Luftwaffe mentality of the Israeli Air Force as it pounds away at civilian homes, hospitals and livestock rearing hangars in Gaza and elsewhere in what remains of Palestine in the West Bank. It is also the same adherence to a mentality of murder as the viable means to insure illegitimacy and unjustifiable colonization of stolen land.

Needless to say, the continuous barrage of hatred and prejudice unleashed by the once commendable Danish press also emanates from the same planning and strategy rooms of this murderous clique that guides the world into an abyss of hatred, revenge and diabolical polarization based on ethnic and cultural affiliation. Maintaining the same track of hatred and narrow-minded strategic thinking, it was recently revealed that President G W Bush a while back had given his stamp of approval for a contract to annihilate the legitimately elected Government of Palestine, headed by Hamas.

There is much more to Murder Incorporated that has yet to be revealed and unearthed stretching throughout the far corners of the world. How long is this Mafia mentality going to prevail amongst a humanity that God has blessed with compassion, freedom and equal justice as the only viable institutions that should allowed to thrive?

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

How will Yemen join GCC?

By: Adel Amin

During the second consultative meeting on February 4 for Yemen development partners, pondered upon as a micro-conference for gulf and international donors, Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar said that it is time for Yemen to occupy its natural position in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). He is of the opinion that the Yemeni-Gulf relations have seen distinctive development as part of the sincere efforts, aimed at qualifying Yemen's economy for GCC accession.

In the same context, Yemen's official media promoted a notion that Yemen is nearer and nearer to joining the Gulf cartel while Gulf people are more enthusiastic than Yemenis to expedite Yemen's admission to the bloc. The State-run Al-Thawra Daily cited GCC Secretary-General Abdurrahman Al-Atteyya as confirming the Gulf State's strong desire to accept Yemen as a seventh member in the council. It also attributed to the Qatari Emir his pledge to backs Yemen's entry into GCC.

Additionally, the Yemeni media excessively talked about a Saudi initiative presented by King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz to the most recent Gulf Summit through which the king called for Yemen's full integration into the Gulf cartel. But away from the above-said statements and our absolute confirmation of Yemen's eligibility to obtain GCC membership since it is an integral part of the region, let's raise the following questions:

As long as there is a strong Gulf will, according to the official media, to facilitate Yemen's admission to the Gulf cartel, in addition to a Saudi initiative calling for expediting efforts in this regard, what hinders the accomplishment of this task? Had the Saudis already made an initiative in this regard, this might have meant that they took a decision at the highest level in

this respect and in Yemen's favor.

Considering Saudi Arabia as the pivotal and leading state in GCC, plus the availability of GCC members who share this state's viewpoint backing Yemen's entry into GCC, the matter seems to be accomplished to Yemen's advantage. In this case, questioning becomes more pressing. Who does hinder Yemen's accession into GCC? Is it believable that one of the six GCC state members has its own viewpoint in this regard, and therefore managed to impose its viewpoint on the other state members as if they are weaker than it? We don't hear anyone in the GCC objecting to Yemen's membership in the Gulf bloc. Instead, all the Gulf people confirm that Yemen should have a natural position among its brothers in the GCC. So, where does the problem exist?

Prime Minister explains the problem:

During his interview with the Qatari 'Watan' newspaper, Yemeni Prime Minister was asked about the absence of clear indicators about Yemen's entry into GCC, plus the absence of clear Gulf proofs confirming that the six Gulf states are ready to include Yemen in their cartel in the coming few years. Giving an answer to this question, the Yemeni official said, "We don't know what is required from us."

Having asked about who hinders Yemen's efforts to join GCC, Mujawar replied, "We see Yemen as a geographical and historic part of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf. When it comes to what is required from us to obtain GCC membership, I don't know what the required criteria we have to meet are." He added that he doesn't know those who really put the obstacles hindering Yemen's admission into the Gulf cartel, nor does he know these obstacles.

The Prime Minister and the topmost official in Yemen's cabinet, who directs the country's policies and pro-

grams, and oversees how its plans are implemented, doesn't know what the Gulf people exactly want Yemen to do in order to be eligible for GCC membership. Also, he knows nothing about the admission criteria, nor does he know who create obstacles to Yemen's efforts to join GCC. Our Prime Minister only knows that Yemen is a geographical and historic part of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf. This is a sufficient reason for his viewpoint that Yemen can be a GCC member, however, he is not aware of the mechanisms required for Yemen's integration into the Gulf cartel.

If the Prime Minister doesn't know what is required from his country to join GCC, and therefore ignores the criteria and requirements for achieving this goal, how his cabinet will succeed in qualifying its national economy, fight corruption and eradicate unemployment, as required by the GCC General Secretariat.

It has been made apparent that a great part of the problem constituting a great obstacle to Yemen's admission to the GCC bloc lies within the Yemeni government itself, primarily its Prime Minister Mujawar who doesn't know what to do. Until today, his government has not yet understood the criteria it should meet in order to be accepted as a seventh GCC member. Through its behavior, the Yemeni government can be likened to 'a deaf guy at a wedding party', notably as the Gulf people are expending efforts to qualify Yemen's economy and extend financial assistance to a debtor country, destroyed by corruption and political turmoil, but shows no interaction to what is taking place around it.

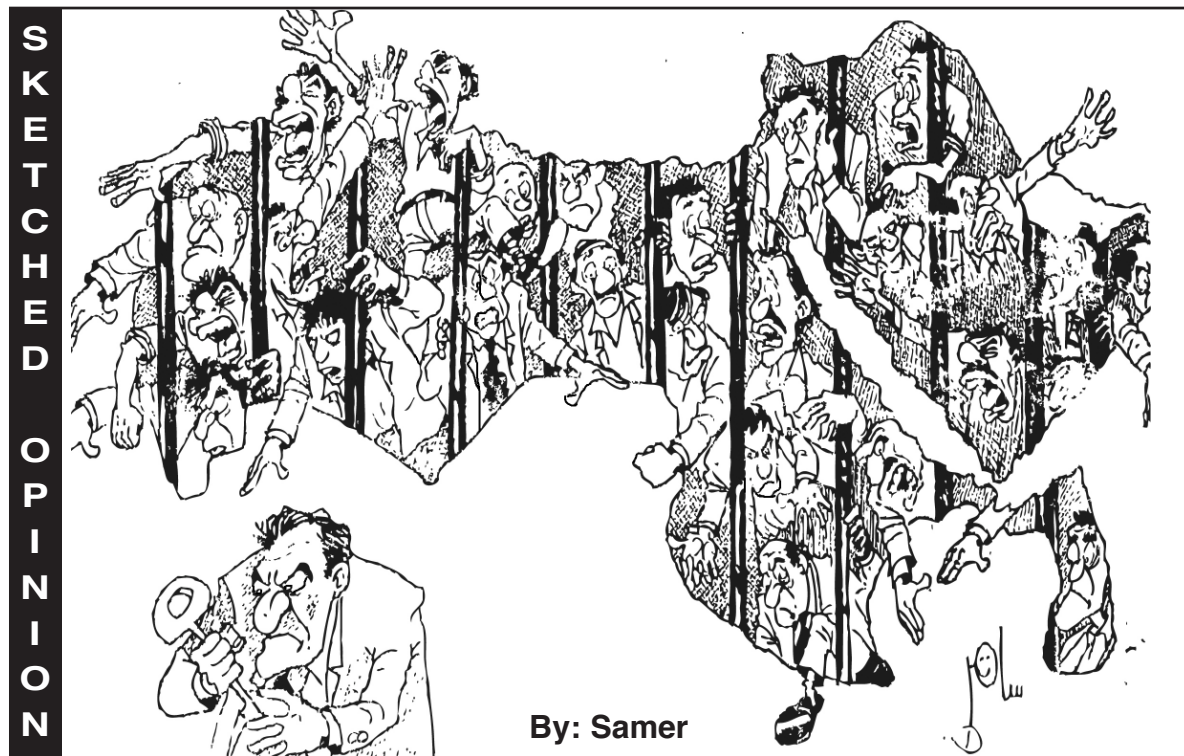
The Yemeni people don't know what is taking place around them. They also don't know what mechanisms may facilitate their march to reach 'Club of the Rich', and how to become members in this club. What they only want is that the Gulf States continue their donations to their nation, however,

such donated sums are often wasted.

The statements made by our Prime Minister imply that "For us, we have nothing to do with the issue of qualifying Yemen's economy to join GCC. It is the Gulf people, who must be concerned with qualifying Yemen's economy to be accepted as the cartel's seventh member, the issue is theirs and they have to suggest a workable solution to it."

As the situation remains unchanged, how it will be possible for Yemen to qualify for GCC membership by the advent of 2015, according to a plan set up by the GCC state members. The Yemeni officials hold the view that geography and history are enough for Yemen to obtain GCC membership. Consequently, they believe that Gulf officials are responsible for qualifying Yemen's economy in order to lag after its neighbors and be accepted as the cartel's seventh member.

Source: Marebpress.net.



By: Samer

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The War on Terrorism, the Taliban and Pashtun Nationalists

Bombs continue to explode in northwestern Pakistan, as Taliban and Al-Qa'ida fighters battle government forces. The Media Line reports from the frontier on life for the indigenous Pashtun people in the wake of the elections and in the shadow of the 'War on Terror'.

By: Shaheen Buneri,
The Media Line Ltd

The first breeze of the coming spring may have caused flowers to blossom and reinvigorated life across the deserts and rugged mountains of the Pakistan tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

And on this side of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border a group of enthusiastic youth in the backyard of a private university in Hayatabad Peshawar are waving red flags and dancing to the tunes of artistically rich Pashto music, celebrating the landslide victory of secular political parties in Pakistan's general elections held on February 18.

It is clear from their glowing faces that they are enjoying their newfound freedom.

"We are celebrating the change. Earlier, the establishment imposed a religious government on us; it promoted militancy and extremism. But this time people of the North West Frontier (NWFP) have flushed them out from the corridors of power. They are the agents of status quo, of frustration and obscurantism," Munnawar Khan, a student leader at the youth gathering says, a rare expression of joy sparkling in his eyes.

This is definitely a big change in people's attitudes and political ideals. The NWFP, commonly known as Frontier, is slowly shaking off longstanding feelings of insecurity and fear. Disappointment and resentment is giving way to hope and mutual understanding.

"The government of the religious parties banned music in public, closed Nishtar Hall, the sole cultural center of the provincial metropolis and, due to its ignorance, centuries-old archeological sites were either damaged or destroyed by different militant groups," according to Usman Ulasayr, chairman of the Swat Cultural Society.

"This led to a frustration among the youth that has now manifested itself in

the shape of suicide attacks and terrorist incidents," he says.

During the past two years militants spared no one. The intensified attacks on Awami National Party (ANP) rallies and the killing of leaders of the NWFP indicated that the extremist elements in Pakistan establishment and hardliner religious groups were feeling threatened over people's inclination towards liberal political parties, particularly the ANP, the secular and progressive Pashtun Nationalist Party in Charsadda.

A few days before the general elections a suicide bomber blew himself up at an ANP election rally, killing dozens of its workers and maiming many others.

Besides the killing of populist leader Benazir Bhutto, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), militants attacked political leaders and rallies in Waziristan, Parachinar and Swat to derail the political process and intimidate the people.

Revenge, a feature of the Pashtuns' psychological makeup, has always played a decisive role in their day-to-day life. This time they decided to avenge the damage extremists and religious parties had caused their society.

Despite threats and prevailing uncertainty, they cast their votes and replaced the six-party religious government of Muttahida Majlas-e-Amal (MMA) with secular parties like the PPP and the ANP in NWFP, a frontline province bordering Afghanistan where NATO Forces are fighting Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban (students of religious seminaries).

The ANP grabbed some 30 seats, and the PPP with 18 in the 124-seat NWFP Assembly, with their leaders agreeing to form a coalition government in the province. Analysts say, however, that dealing with terrorism will present a bigger challenge for them.

What is behind the Pashtun nationalists' landslide victory?

A combination of the MMA govern-

ment's failure to establish an Islamic system, mismanagement of development projects, corruption and the rising tide of militancy, from Waziristan to the scenic valley of Swat, resulted into the resurrection of Pashtun nationalism. Some analysts have even called it the reawakening of Pashtuns.

Reports say that senior leaders of the MMA were very close to some of the militants in the region and on many occasions when the federal government tried to take action against certain militant leaders the MMA government strongly opposed the moves.

"Many of the Taliban voted in favor of the MMA in the 2002 elections; we can't annoy them, as they are our vote bank," Qari Abdul Baghis, a former National Assembly member from Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (a religious political party) told this reporter in an interview last summer.

The religious alliance always exploited anti-Americanism, but at the same time it provided tacit support for President Pervez Musharraf, the United States' ally in the war on terror, on a number of legal and constitutional issues.

This double standard also alienated it from the people who voted it into the Assembly in the 2002 elections. Ironically, the masses rejected both Musharraf, who supported the war on terror, and the religious parties that opposed it.

This time they pinned their hopes on Pashtun nationalists and the PPP for restoring peace and stability to the region and redefining the ongoing war on terrorism.

Talking to journalists after meeting with U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson at her residence, ANP president Asfandiyar Wali Khan said the ANP would support other parties in forming a government that would change the policy on the war on terrorism and stop what he called the spilling of Pashtun blood on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

"Spilling of Pashtun blood" is the phrase that has haunted Pashtuns over the last 25-plus years on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The



Fazlullah's men

PHOTO CREDIT: SHAHEEN BUNERI TML PHOTOS

realization among Pashtuns that the war against terror is actually a war against Pashtuns poses new questions for U.S. policy makers and allies.

"Pashtuns had never shown aggression to anyone," argues Syed Irfan Ashraf, a Peshawar-based journalist. "It was the USSR that attacked Afghanistan in 1979 and now the United States is repeating the same exercise."

"The long instability in the region has produced extremist views and a sense of helplessness being projected in suicide attacks and surging militancy," he says.

Analysts say that by ignoring the Pashtun factor in its war on terror the U.S. has committed a blunder. The result is crystal clear, they say: terrorist activities are engulfing the whole region and now they are spreading to the settled districts of the Frontier and parts of Punjab.

Ali Gauhar, a political activist and social worker, believes that jirga (tribal assembly of elders) and consultation are the main features of Pashtun society. They believe in negotiations and will always prefer roses to guns.

But first they have to be understood in their socio-cultural context, Gauhar says.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the leg-

endary Pashtun nationalist leader and prophet of peace, advocated non-violence and peaceful resolution of conflicts. In the 1930s he launched the Khudayi Khidmatgar Tehrik (Servants of God Movement) against the British rulers of India, using the weapon of non-violence.

He discouraged extremist tendencies among Pashtuns and trained them to struggle for their rights with non-violence and political activism.

"My leader is Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and not Mullah Omer or Osama Bin Laden," says Sher Ali Khan, an educated Pashtun and government servant belonging to the Swat valley of Pakistan, where 25,000 Pakistan security forces fought the militants of militant leader Maulana Fazlullah.

"Talibanization is a totally alien phenomenon to my culture. My culture instructs me that all outstanding issues should be resolved through negotiations and jirga. While the militants want to establish a dictatorship based on religion, I want education for my children and they are bombing schools," he says.

"I love to sing in the soothing loneliness of my fields and they break my rabab (a popular Pashtun musical instrument)."

The 42-million Pashtuns on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border are the direct targets of both the militants and the U.S. war machinery, destroying not only lives but also the foundations of a liberal and secular Pashtun culture.

The recent electoral victory of Pashtun nationalists is an opportunity for both the Pakistani establishment and U.S. policy makers to assist the new government in tackling the issue of terrorism by traditional means and strengthen people's belief in moderation and tolerance.

The ANP's political agenda includes provincial autonomy, fighting terrorism and renaming the NWFP province. It highlights three main issues: Pashtuns want control over their resources; they demand an identity for their nameless province and they want to put an end to religious radicalism.

Khadim Hussain Amir, a university professor and Pashtun nationalist, states in his recently published article, "Aftermath of NWFP polls": "The majority of Pashtuns rejected the thesis that the core of their identity is constructed on the foundations of a narrow worldview. The ANP victory will compel analysts to revise their views on Pashtun nationalism and religious identity and look at them with a fresh perspective. The Pashtuns in the NWFP have given this simple message to the world, that they must not be equated with the Taliban and Al-Qa'ida."

The cordial relationship between the family of Asfandiyar Wali Khan, the president of the ANP, and Pashtun leaders of Afghanistan, particularly Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan, will also help governments on both sides of the Durand Line to adopt more comprehensive and realistic strategies to counter terrorism.

Time will show whether an ANP-led government succeeds in materializing its vision of a prosperous and progressive Pashtunkhwa (the historical name of the Frontier province).

Their failure, on the other hand, may further complicate the already complicated socio-political situation in the region.

A renewed controversy and a renewed opportunity

Living in Sweden, a country with close ties to Denmark, where the republishing of the Mohammed cartoons resulted in a renewed controversy, I have come close to understanding how people in this region think, and I have hence come up with my own conclusions.

Although many may think that the republishing of the cartoons by some 16 newspapers in Denmark and at least two Swedish newspapers should be seen in negative light by Muslims, I essentially believe that it can in fact be turned into their advantage.

Why? It's because it created more interest in Islam among the people of the Nordic region in particular and the West as a whole. Indeed! The more press coverage this issue gets, the more questions are raised about the religion and about the some one billion people embracing it.

This is the right moment for Muslims to seize. But it shouldn't be through expressing outrage in the streets, burning flags, and worst of all, sending threats to cartoonists or newspapers. But it should be done through launching initiatives targeting the communities that are the most alienated against Islam.

The reaction should be understanding, positive and compassionate. It should convey a message that Muslims realize the circumstances that led to the negative attacks against Islam and its prophet and are working to reverse them through public relations, campaigns, forums, workshops, media coverage and personal interactions.

The Internet today is a massive tool that if harnessed properly, could result in serving the Islamic faith tremendously because there is nothing in Islam that could not be explained rationally to those who are willing to listen.

Muslims should react to negativity with positivity and with specifics about what makes the religion one that calls

for peace and harmony and not violence and division. It is an opportunity that was sadly missed the first time the cartoons were published not because there weren't any efforts promoting the understanding of Islam, as there were many, but because of the violent reactions, threats, and fear mongering that a minority of Muslims carried out.

Here in Örebro, a small town in the west of Stockholm, there are ongoing efforts to use the occasion to promote Islam's values, which ironically, are closest to the values of the Nordic region in terms of human rights, equality, justice, and compassion.

The official inauguration of one of the largest mosques in Sweden in the coming month will be an opportunity to introduce the true values of the religion to those curious to know about it. Muslims and non-Muslims will be invited to attend a session introducing Islam and help build bridges between the different faiths.

There will be hundreds of copies of an English-language book on prophet Mohamed written in a language that is simple to understand and speaks plainly and directly to not only the hearts, but most importantly the minds of Europeans skeptical about Islam.

The imam of the mosque in Örebro has been urging those attending Friday prayers to reflect the true values of Islam in the way they talk, walk and act in the Swedish society. While there may be many Muslims in town acting in a way that gave a negative impression about Islam, there is yet an interesting pattern emerging in recent years in Sweden.

There are increasingly good examples of properly mannered Muslims in the city that abide by the law and prove to be trust-worthy, tolerant, and friendly to people of all faiths.



By: Walid Al-Saqaf

Despite often wearing their Muslim costumes and having a thick beard, those young Muslims are already seen favorably by the surrounding communities. The way they communicate with their Swedish counterparts has been utmost respectful and helped shed the image that other non-religious Muslims portrayed. They are found to be dedicated to their religion by praying five times a day, yet never neglect their day-to-day duties and are of high morals and are law abiding.

While demonstrating their decent acts and gracious deeds in their community level, at their working place and in the classroom, they started to attract young Swedes perhaps for the first time. People around them start to look into their way of life and notice they are humble, gracious, yet hard working and dedicated. They find them calm, understanding, and tolerant of other views yet proud of their religion and don't shy away from taking permission to leave for prayers and other religious duties. They don't mind enjoying a good laugh at work with their Swedish colleagues but don't get along with the late partying and drinking. They don't ridicule the community's habits in staying late partying and drinking all night on weekends, while openly explaining that their religion prohibits them from such acts.

The way of life of those young Muslims had attracted some Swedes to study Islam, read translations of the Quran and sit with their Muslim colleagues to be informed the right way, the direct way, and not from the main stream media.

The number of such Swedes isn't high, but every other Friday you would hear the imam after the sermon announcing that one or more Swedish man or woman decided to embrace Islam and join the growing Muslim

community. After the announcement, it is always a delight hearing 'Allah Akbar' chants and looking at the smiling and satisfied faces of those in the mosque.

It was neither violent protests, nor economic boycotts that made this happen. But it was one-on-one communications, open-minded dialogues and most important of all, setting the examples that inspired those Swedes and made them choose the new path.

It is ironic that it was after those cartoons got published that the number of converts increases as people started looking into this religion to try to understand it. There were fewer means to get proper knowledge about the facts of Islam in the past. But nowadays, with the Internet and with active groups such as those in Örebro, questions are being answered and misconceptions are being corrected.

One should never underestimate the power of words in spreading a message of a religion that for many decades went without proper representation and unfortunately, with reactions that helped promote Islamophobia in many ways.

Perhaps without knowing it, those Danish newspapers are helping setting the stage for Muslims to play a bigger role. We, as Muslims, need to realize that we have been given many opportunities in the past and have largely blew them away and on some occasions, created nightmares out of them.

Those young Muslims in Örebro that have contributed in having changed the lives of some Swedes, who will one day look back in time and remember that their journey to the true faith started with cartoons appearing in a Danish newspaper. How grateful to the newspaper would he be then?

Walid Al-Saqaf is a Yemeni journalist currently pursuing his master degree in Global Journalism in Sweden. He was the editor-in-chief of Yemen Times during 1999-2005 and is currently pursuing a career in online journalism.

Why lose Egypt?

By: Nazir Majali

For several months now, the media has been reporting that Israel is angry at Egypt's behaviour. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, who is responsible for strengthening Israel's ties with the rest of the world, launched this trend in December. The rightist opposition continued it, from MK Yuval Steinitz to former minister Avigdor Lieberman.

After Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced that red lines had been crossed and Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit threatened that Egypt could have a negative influence on Israel's interests, Israeli officials ceased speaking on the record, but continued to attack Egypt anonymously, via unnamed "government officials."

The obvious question is, What would Israel gain by destroying its relationship with Egypt, of all countries, and now, of all times, when Egypt is mediating the release of kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit? Has Israel stopped seeing the largest Arab state as a partner—one that could affect change in the Middle East and lead it toward comprehensive peace and an historic reconciliation? Does Israel intend from now on to rely on the emirate of Qatar rather than Egypt?

The grievance against Egypt, as formulated by Livni, is that its efforts to stop arms smuggling across its border with Gaza are "terrible, problematic and impair the ability to advance the peace process." Others have reiterated the old cliché about a "cold peace."

Some Jewish "experts" rely on numerous studies to "prove" that Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel not out of an ideological commitment to peace, but solely out of self-interest. Therefore, the argument goes, Egypt should be considered suspect, and woe to the prime minister who does not toe the line of this paradigm.

The truth so far from these conclusions is that they raise questions, and even suspicions, as to whether someone has an interest in burning the bridge that Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin built between their countries.

Egypt indeed conducts its policies in accordance with its own interests as an independent state, and Israel cannot dic-

tate its behaviour. The Israeli government may well be opposed to these policies, and it is free to criticise them. But to give them a grade of "terrible" and accuse Egypt of hindering the peace process, even when it knows full well that this will elicit a less than positive response—that is astounding.

Moreover, these criticisms are wrong. The Egyptians, even with their inadequate forces, have seized tons of weapons and explosives before they were even transferred into Sinai. They have discovered and blown up tunnels between Egyptian Rafah and Palestinian Rafah, and arrested dozens of people in Sinai who were suspected of hostile activity against Israel.

Egypt itself has been a victim of many terrorist attacks that have exacted a heavy toll. It therefore has a supreme interest in fighting terror. The fact that it is a large Arab country, inhabited by millions of people who see Israel as an occupier that oppresses the Palestinian people (which is also how many Israelis and Western leaders see it), compels Egypt to act cautiously and wisely in order not to undermine the main battle, against terrorism.

Even if this is inconvenient for Israel, it is wrong to hurl accusations at Egypt.

It is always vital to remember the essential point, which is that since the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was signed in 1979, Israel's situation has changed for the better. Peace brought an end to the total war Israel had previously waged against the entire Arab world. Since the treaty was signed, and to a large extent because of it, some 80 additional countries worldwide have recognised Israel. It has signed a peace treaty with Jordan, and the way has been paved for peace with the Palestinians.

This "cold peace" has survived many difficult events, such as Sadat's assassination, the first and second Lebanon wars, and the first and second Intifadas. Does it really pay for Israel to sacrifice this peace on the altar for a war of words?

Nazir Majali is an Israeli affairs analyst for Arab television stations and the newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org

*Housing construction costs in Yemen***Affordability & Purchasing Power**

A view of Sana'a houses.

The substantial problem of a housing shortage is becoming an enduring feature in Yemen. All the same, the response to housing needs was hasty. Construction projects were executed using inappropriate and costly construction and design practices resulting in low-quality housing, causing further escalation in construction and housing costs to prices beyond the financial reach of the majority of the population in Yemen. A report by Dr. Basel Sultan.

Improving the construction and housing sector is essential for several reasons. First for economic reasons, the performance of the construction & housing sector has a considerable influence on the overall economy where it contributes seven to 15 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP). Secondly, for social reasons, because housing is a basic human need.

Third, for environmental reasons in order to reduce the consumption of resources, especially energy, water and natural space, and lastly for political reasons, because success or failure in housing policy is directly felt by the majority of the population who tend to blame the new economic and political system for the lack of infrastructure, shortage of services and the failure of housing production. The production performance of the housing construction industry is determined, first of all, by demand, which is influenced by the following factors: housing prices, household income, housing subsidies, types of the finance or mortgage and tax systems.

The construction industry in Yemen is playing its socio-economic role poorly and inadequately performing its role as a provider for suitable housing units and their associated infrastructure. Some noticeable activities and indications have demonstrated the difficulties that the Yemeni construction industry is having in coping with the rapid urban population growth, which has occurred over the last two decades, as well as the inability to provide substantial housing for low and middle income earners. Taken into consideration with the absence of housing subsidies, housing finance (mortgages) and indefinable housing policies, this has all led to the continuous deterioration of housing investments and conditions.

Even though the income levels of the people are on the whole balanced with the rate of inflation through a rise in salaries, housing construction costs and time rents were moving beyond reach of the majority of the

people, where housing rents have increased in a comparable growth rates. Given that the United Nations considers housing rent as unaffordable if it exceeds 30 percent of the average income, it can then be stated here that the cost of renting a house in Yemen has gone beyond the affordable limit of the average Yemeni's income. Owners and housing investors in Yemen justify this increase as a normal response to compensate for rising prices and construction costs.

Construction indicators in Yemen

The problem of the growing construction costs in Yemen is can be fully understood by observing the behaviour of the main construction and material costs along with the purchasing power and other economic indicators over the last two decades.

World Bank statistics on Yemen reported that the contribution of the construction industry to the economy was only 4.2 percent in the year 2000, indicating that, if this low construction output continued to stabilize over the next few years, the construction industry's contribution

will continue to be ineffective in terms of its support to the economy and the average standard of living. In nearly thirty years Yemen's economy has failed to change significantly, as the GNP per capita only increased from US \$215 in 1975 to US \$420 in 2000, an average annual increase rate of approximately two to four percent. This is considered very slow when compared to the local and international growth in prices.

Since 1990, the prices of essential input construction materials such as steel, cement, cement blocks and ready mixed concrete as delivered to the site in the Sana'a area and as incurred by contractors increased by over 13 times. Similarly, the construction costs per unit area (i.e. cost of one square metre for normal type of housing units as incurred by the contractors in the Sana'a area) have increased from around 3,400 YR/m² in 1990 to as high as 52,000 YR/m² in 2007, clearly demonstrating that construction prices have increased by nearly 15.2 times.

Equally, the exchange rate increased by 14.8 fold in an analogous relation with prices, particularly during the period from 1990 to 2001.

Conversely, it can be found that the daily rates of the unskilled labour for the same period have increased by only five times. Purchasing power per capita has changed slightly, still hovering around US \$800. Local construction prices have therefore grown at a faster rate than the average income.

In conclusion, the development of the construction industry is crucial for

leading efficient construction activities and affordable housing, which in return should allow the construction industry to contribute positively to the economy and simultaneously raise living standards and purchasing power. Hence it is essential to stress that the current situation of inefficiency and unaffordability in Yemen imposes the urgent need to use appropriate economic solutions, cost-effective technologies and appropriate construction practices to bring the cost of construction down a level of affordability for the people. Furthermore, there is a need for regeneration in housing policies based on market information, culture and income to provide a sheltered environment for households, instead of succumbing to market forces. If development complications remain unresolved and no solutions are offered to tackle them, the approaches to achieving sustainable and affordable housing construction are expected to become increasingly difficult and the quality of housing will continue to deteriorate.

The Construction Industry and Economy

International reports always state that the more developed the construction industry, the greater the contribution to the economy. Likewise, an increase in construction projects and higher purchasing power means affordable projects. Any reduction in purchasing power will correspondingly affect the construction industry; moreover, if the output of the industry falls, the total investment will decrease. In countries where construction contributes three to five percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the implication is that unless the construction industry grows faster than the economy as a whole, it might constrain national socio-economic development.

This relationship between the construction industry and the economy makes it clear that the development of one sector cannot occur without the other, although a growing construction industry does not necessarily ensure a developing industry or economy.

The increase in construction prices could, in fact, cause an artificial indication of the contribution of the construction industry to the GDP and economy.

Given that the trends in construction prices influence the construction investment strategy of a variety of interested parties, ranging from private and public clients to construction contractors, property investors, financial institutions, and construction professionals, it is essential to have knowledge of extant pricing issues. For the general assessment of the construction and housing sectors in relation to economic development, knowledge

Exchange Rate	PPP	Unskilled Labour	Cement	Steel	Construction Cost	
YR vs. US\$	US\$	YR/day	50kg bag	Ton	YR/m ²	
1990	12-16	580	260	90	8,000	3,400
2001	167	750	600	600	47,000	45,000
2007	199	860	1,250	1,200	130,000	52,000

and data are needed for key indicators such as per capita GDP, per capita Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), annual rate of increase in household's income, annual rate of consumer price increases, increase in construction costs, and other related indicators. Such knowledge and data can be used as a tool to compare and monitor the progress made according to the specific solutions required. Moreover,

the obtainable data can be helpful to assess various options of policy formulation in the development process.

Dr. Basel Sultan is a professor at Sana'a University's Civil Engineering Department in the Faculty of Engineering. He can be reached at basel_sultan@yahoo.com

RAS ISSA OIL TERMINAL PROJECT

Ministry of Oil & Minerals
Republic of Yemen

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Geophysical, Geotechnical Investigations and Hydrographic Studies
Extension of Submission Date

Further to our announcement published at Al-Thawrah Newspaper (issues no. 15802 & 15803, dated 16th & 17th Feb) and Yemetimes Newspaper (issues no. 1130 & 1131, dated 18th & 21st Feb) 2008, inviting sealed bids from eligible international firms to carryout investigative studies with regards to "Geophysical, Geotechnical Investigations and Hydrographic Studies" to facilitate detailed design of the offshore loading facility at Ghubb Diknaw Bay and Dredging of Navigation Channels.

The Project Directorate, in response to requests for extension, is pleased to announce an extension of three weeks in the date of submission date. Accordingly the last date of submission of bids along with necessary document shall now be at or before 1100 hours, on Saturday March 22nd 2008. Bids will be opened at 1200 hours on the same day, in the presence of bidders' representatives who may wish to be present.

For more details please refer to the above mentioned publications and to our website at (www.yogc.com.ye)



The British Council Yemen wishes to recruit an
IT / INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Job aim: in conjunction with IT Support in Dubai, to provide effective and timely support to British Council Yemen users and to ensure IT systems and practices meet corporate standards and service level agreements; to provide information on British Council activities and services on intranet and internet and to respond effectively to general information enquiries.

Essential competencies and skills:

- University degree or equivalent in IT
- Two years' experience as IT Assistant
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic
- Customer service orientation
- Achievement
- Team working

You can download a copy of the application form and job description from our website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/me-about-us-working-with-us.htm>. Once you fill in the application form send to recruitment@ye.britishcouncil.org. F or any enquiries email us or phone 01 448356.

Closing date for applications is 15 March 2008

Creating opportunity for people worldwide.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria.



The ICRC is a neutral and independent International Organisation
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Yemen is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following vacancy:

Water & Habitat Technician
(Water technician or civil engineering technician)
In Sa'ada

Your tasks:

- Carry out field assessments in the Sada'a region
- Define rural water and habitat construction projects and assist the Engineers in the preparation of plans
- Supervision of implementation of the projects

Selection requirements:

- Technical experience in the field of water supply
- 2 to 3 years of professional experience in a similar position (knowledge of project implementation), would count to the applicant's advantage, but not a strict requirement.
- Good knowledge of the Sada'a region, preferably having grown up or lived there, would count to the applicant's advantage, but not a strict requirement.
- Good command of spoken English is strongly recommended.

Please submit your application (letter of motivation, CV, copies of certificates/diplomas) to the ICRC, Administration, Sana'a, Baghdad Street, Street No 19 - PO.Box 2267, fax 467 875, or ICRC, Administration, Sa'ada, Yemeni Red Crescent Street telefax 07517301. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The last date for receiving the applications is 20.03.08.

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Higher Education Development Project

IDA Credit 3674/YEM

E-LIBRARIES/INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)
IRB Number-2/2008

1. The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Higher Education Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for E-LIBRARIES/INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT).
2. The Higher Education Development Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of Hardware and Software for E-LIBRARIES/INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) for Sana'a, Aden, Ibb and four other public Universities,
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below. And inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee \$100 plus \$50 for service courier (if required by Bidder). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier services (if required by Bidder).
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10.00 AM, 14 April 2008.

Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at 11.00 AM on the same day mentioned above. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of not less than 2.5% of the bid price.

Higher Education Development Project
Mr. Aziz Al-hadi, Project Co-coordinator; St. No. 5 off Riyadh St
Ministry of Higher Education Building Sixth-Floor; Sana'a Republic of Yemen.
P.O.Box; (15643) Tel: 00967-1-471196 Fax: 00967-1-468466
E-Mail: aziz@hepyemen.org and procurement@hepyemen.org

www.al-osra.net

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Family & Development
متعة القراءة في كل بيت

الآن
نعم المتغيرات
والإشفاق

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ونور باعباد.. تكتب عن فن الإتصال
المرأة المتفوقة..
خارج نطاق الخدمة الزوجية حتى اشعار آخر!!
ظل عمل.. ولا ظل راجل..
موظفات يتزوجن وظائفهن
مشاكل استباقية
لتكنولوجيا قادمة
افتح الكاميرا.. لوسمحت!!
الشيخ الداعية د. محمد العريضي..
يضع ١٠٠ طريقة لكسب قلوب الناس
مفاتيح لقلب الرجل والمرأة معا

متعة القراءة في كل بيت
أول مجلة يمنية
تضع الأسرة بين يديك

الصحة والطفولة والفن والجمال وأناقته التناول الجديد
لمواضيع تهم سيدات المجتمع وأخرى يجبها الرجال

ع.م. - تعز جوار مكتب اليمينية ت/ ٢١٧١٥٦ ف/ ٢١٧١٥٦ صناعاء/ ٥١٤٠٤٠١ - ٠١٣٦٨٣٦٦٠١
E-mail: alosrayemen@yahoo.com / alosra@al-osra.net



VACANCY

Title of the position: Project Analyst – Yemen Tax Simplification Project
Grade: Local - GE
Reporting Lines: Senior Operations Manager, Business Enabling Environment; Program Leader Business Taxation (FIAS)
Location: Sanaa, Yemen
Duration: 12 months

About the IFC PEP MENA and FIAS: The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries as a way to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. In addition to its investment work, IFC, through the Private Enterprise Partnership (PEP), executes a major donor-funded program of private sector technical assistance and advisory services in the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region. The objectives of the program are to promote direct investment in the private sector, build local businesses and financial intermediaries, and help improve the business enabling environment.

For almost 21 years, The Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS) has advised more than 130 member country governments on how to improve their investment climate for both foreign and domestic investors and maximize its impact on poverty reduction. FIAS is a joint service of the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank. We receive funding from these institutions and through contributions from donors and clients

About the Project: In July, 2007, The Government of Yemen asked FIAS/PEP-MENA to design and administer a wide-ranging reform program aimed at encouraging participation in the tax system through simplification, rationalization, and removal of barriers to paying and administering tax. This request followed

the delivery of an assessment of the impact of the tax system on business to the Yemen Tax Authorities and endorsed by the private sector. Accordingly, the tax team will assist the Tax Authority and the Ministry of Finance to improve Yemen's business enabling environment by reducing the time and financial cost of complying with tax, streamlining and making the entire tax system more accessible, and aligning the legal framework with best practice, thus encouraging investment.

The project will specifically address the following:

1. Tax Procedures for Income Tax and GST administration
2. Income Tax specific policy issues (legal framework and administrative procedures)
3. GST specific policy issues (focus on administrative procedures)
4. Proliferation of sub-national taxes, licenses, fees
5. Develop a roadmap/strategy to improve the structure/efficiency of the Tax Authority.
6. Initiate the rollout of the reformed architecture of the tax authority to reflect the streamlined administration system.
7. Design and Roll-out of new SME taxation system (i.e. definition, legal and administrative roadmap for potential roll-out in the future)

Responsibilities of the Project Analyst:

The Project Analyst would primarily assist the Project Officer in carrying out the project and fulfilling its overall objectives. He/she will research the various issues that do not specifically require any (or any large) inputs from external consultants. The responsibilities will include, but not be limited to, primary desk research on assigned topics (administrative procedures, best practice), and drafting notes. He/she would prepare reports gathering targeted information, analyzing relevant data, evaluating specific project impacts and responding to special reporting and evaluation needs.

The Project Analyst would be expected to liaise with the project

stakeholders, the Ministry of Finance, Tax Authority and Private Sector including a range of businesses and private sector institutions. The Project Analyst would report to the Project Officer.

1. Conduct various technical desk and field research into best practice experiences with a specific focus on the Tax Policy and Administrative Reform
2. Assist in conducting some of the mapping and survey tasks by researching relevant information
3. Coordinate consultant's inputs and providing guidance and introductions to key stakeholders
4. Draft project notes and concept papers
5. Draft terms of reference for outsourced consultants for project implementation and conduct all necessary contractual arrangements as per the World Bank Group's procurement guidelines
6. Provide research and analytical support in monitoring outputs and impact indicators in close coordination with the Project Officer
5. Assist in designing and structuring comprehensive PR campaigns at each important step of the project life
6. Liaise with the staff at the Ministry of Finance, Tax Authority, Private Sector, as well as with staff of other business associations and donor organizations in Yemen.

Qualifications

- Advanced degree in business administration, economics, law or equivalent
- At least 3 years of relevant professional experience, preferably involved in regulatory reform
- Ability to work independently and pro-actively
- Excellent communications skills and ability to work as a team player
- Native knowledge of Arabic and excellent spoken and written English.
- Excellent computer skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

For full consideration, please submit your letter of application accompanied by the CV attention: Office Administrator before **March 21, 2008** via e-mail: WBYemen@worldbank.org **Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

Affective communication skills

By: Tareq Naji Al-Adil
tareqaladil@yahoo.com

In any routine work we deal with several people who have different opinions, values, beliefs, culture, and needs than ours. The active communication role contains oral or verbal, nonverbal, and Para verbal components. The verbal components refer to the body of the message. The nonverbal components refer to the body language that we send to the others. The Para verbal components refer to the stress of our words. In any conversation or communication with others we should send obvious concise message and receive accurate understandable message from the person who sends it to us. Good communication skills help you express your idea clearly, learn from other people, and resolve any conflicts. Most of these skills you will pick up with life experience.

To make any communication clear to us and others we have to explain how to send and receive messages. In any conversation or dialogue between two people, they should send and receive messages to understand each other. That means, speech contains two important parts which are sending and receiving messages. The common part between sending and receiving messages is active listening.

Sending messages effectively needs to utter our opinion as briefly and eloquently as possible. Therefore, we have to choose words which should be adequately clear to be comprehended and to avoid using gibberish, unambiguously and unnecessary, peripheral information. To adhere to make someone understand you, you should use simple words and lan-

guage to express your point. Explain the context of your point so your listener clearly understands why you are talking to them. Are you asking a favor? Are you trying to tell an important fact? Do you want to know something? This is what we call verbal messages. Using this style of communication eases and encourages people to understand and participate in the conversation and make it as enthusiastic as possible. However listening to incomprehending, unorganized talking is discouraging the person to continue to listen. Using body language through the communication makes it more effective. Every part of the face is working as a sensor to express emotional signals. The face reacts to show activeness or pleasure, or boredom, delight, or disapproval and so forth. Eye contributes this communication to show happiness, sadness, calm, anger, understanding, confusion and so on. Moving hands is important to make the conversation more logical and understandable. Standing like a wood or a wall without moving gives a feeling of boredom. Also, audience using their body language is important to the speaker to understand them when they are still wanted to complete the discussion or not. For example, people who put their hands on the table in front of them and their body facing the speaker are ready to listen more. In the other hand, people who are sitting back putting their arms to the chair they are sitting in and turning their heads left and right are not ready to complete. This gives us messages how body language is essential to understand people and this is what we call nonverbal messages.

Any person when he talks, you can determine exactly if he is angry or excited, happy, or sad by the tone of his speak-

ing and the stress. The same sentence is different in meaning depending on where you use your stress on. For example, did you go to the house? Did you go to the house? Did you go to the house? Stress is needed for effective communication. Para verbal message is what we mean by tone and stress. All what is mentioned above is for sending message.

Now we need to know how to receive messages from other human as effective as we can. To do so, we have to contribute our listening device and the psychological readiness to understand a correct message. Listening needs the desire to understand other people, their attitude of respect, acceptance, and readiness to your point of view. Listening is one part of hearing; hearing is a general word of listening, listening requires power to concentrate engaging the psychological factor to understand other people's ideas plus your desire and willingness to do so. Try to understand what other person is trying to say. Try paraphrasing, that means ask question to clarify the message. Do not be preoccupied planning what you will say next that you do not pay attention. Make sure you understand other's ideas before you react. Speak with self-control. Do not say the first response that comes to mind. At the end you have to evaluate what you actually heard and listened as well to reach the effective verbal, nonverbal, and Para verbal communication.

To be an effective communicator and to get your point across without misunderstanding and confusion, your goal should be processed with clear, concise, accurate, and well-planned procedure. This way you can communicate better, have your voice heard, and your message understood effectively.

Goodbye, Yemen!

Let me tell you about some excitement in the course of Yemeni lives that made me feel uncomfortable to be in the same country.

I paid a three-day visit to Taiz, during which my friend hosted me at his workplace, the travel and tourism office.

A major catastrophe noticeable particularly in Taiz but generally all over the country is abandoning Yemen through immigration. I was aware of such flight as countless citizens of varying ages flew to my friend's office seeking immigration help to travel either legally or illegally.

Are these summer excursions just to the beaches and mountains? No, these tragic exodus mainly involve looking for any type of work to settle their families' lives and be able to keep pace with the daily meals.

When most of our population immigrates to destinations abroad, they never feel homesick or think of returning because they enjoy no harmony or compatibility with their country. Instead, they see themselves as nothing more than marginalized in their own country. With some remorse, they wish they had the good fortune to be born somewhere other than Yemen. All of us in Yemen are looking for work or a chance to go abroad with a sense of momentum and hope.



By: Shafeek Al-Homaid
Shafeek990@yahoo.com

Immigrants are steadily carving out space for themselves in the world's largest economies.

Particularly those who are well educated, full-fledged and qualified enough are unfortunately unwelcome in their own country to have the positions they deserve. They complain about the gap between Yemen's image and

its reality. Promises pile up regarding fulfilling dreams we never could've realized in our native country. We believe it's impossible for the jobless and unemployed to have their cake and eat it too.

The question everybody may ask is why are most Yemenis – children, youth and the elderly – reluctant toward their own country and patiently awaiting any glimmer of hope to immigrate for the sake of work or study to find a better life? The existing situation no more predicts a brilliant future or grants any chance of loyally serving our country.

Citizens have absolute confidence that their leaders won't take the dramatic steps necessary to provide peace and economic stability. Fairness, justice, security and sharing of equal opportunities are buried and are lacking in our society.

It's like our government and its people are in a sinking boat, with each one desiring to secure and save himself alone.

Allow me to speak freely of what comes to mind and what is so peculiar if

we don't tell the truth to ourselves.

What about democracy and freedom? Is it enough and is it heading the right direction?

With respect, democracy in our society still hasn't been born and is a misunderstood word regarding its meaning.

In fact, our nation's problem is quite simple and obvious and due to the absence of democracy. In a country where true democracy exists, its ruling party is making extraordinary efforts, like servants of their country and its nation.

Certainly, we dream of freedom of speech and one hears citizens still gossiping about democracy and the necessity for changes wherever you go. However, when the time for elections and casting votes comes around, no one is able to say "No" to self-interest lovers. If those top officials and responsible parties are aware that they are raised to such thrones only by our approval through a truly democratic process, they no doubt will address our needs and claims. Other occupied peoples all over the world immigrate to escape the outside enemy, but we in Yemen immigrate as refugees escaping our own leaders and ruling party. If there were true democracy, it would ensure our rights.

Every day, our situation goes backward, not forward, and we are poorer than ever. To sum up, I don't think we should settle for nothing and be easy prey for poverty and other spreading risks to our citizens. The fact of night is that there is no sun...

"Hi, John," his mother said, greeting him.

"Hi, Mom," John replied. "I heard some good news today. I read a newspaper saying the U.S. Army will return soon!" she said.

"They're liars because we hear that every day. Liars! Liars!" John screamed. "Please, Mom, tell me the truth. What are they doing there in Iraq, Afghanistan and the other countries?" John asked her.

"Listen, baby, you have to know that most American families that have sent their sons there aren't satisfied with it, or even most of the country, but..."

"But what, Mom? Just say it!"

"It's their orders, my son. They just do what they have to. Those who make the decision and give orders have a reason for it, which is fighting terrorism. For us as soldiers' families, that reason still isn't enough for us," his mother said.

"Terrorism! So, what is it if a huge army attacks our country in order to scare and kill us? I think terrorism is the only word that could explain that!" John retorted.

"I think I have it now, Mom. Our government is afraid of terrorism. They think it comes from the Middle East, so they want to kill it in its cradle before it reaches us."

"Hey, son, don't try to analyze things with your small mind," his mother said.

"Believe me, Mom, but according to my small mind, I think what they're doing there is just creating something called terrorism that didn't exist before," John said.

"Come on, baby, forget about that. Just think about your future," his mother urged.

"The future!? I can see my future, Mom. If no one stops this, our future will be too bad. Maybe our country is strong now, so we fight, colonize and kill for no reason. Mommy, no one knows that people may regain their energy some day and then reprisal will be their first goal. Our army and those who are making these wrong decisions now won't be here, so I and the subsequent generations will pay the cost for that," John said.

"Oh my god! Is this really you, John? I wasn't aware that I had a political son, but your words are really affecting us. Do you see your mother's tears?" his father asked.

"Yeah, Dad, that's what I think will happen," John replied.

"Ring!! Ring!!"

"Hello?" his mother answered the phone.

"Hello, is this Jake's house?" the caller asked.

"Yes, this is his wife," she responded.

"I'm sorry to tell you that your hero son, Mike, was killed in an attack."

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



A Yemen without corruption – Yemenis' ultimate dream?

The appointment of new personnel at the Anti-corruption Association was no surprise to many. Nor was it an invention, as many high-ranking personalities in the government constantly talk about corruption, condemning the hidden and unknown hands behind its spread throughout the entire country. Unlike other corruption committees, this recently appointed association began working immediately, soon declaring many cases of corruption in public institutions.

Everyday citizens actually paid no attention to this act as a means of solving corruption in Yemen, the main reason being that there have been many such previous committees and teams formed by the highest government authorities, but they revealed nothing more than their personal benefits. Some even exploited their positions on such committees to work not against corruption but alongside it, being paid to keep everything as is and declare that there is no corruption.

Considering it like the previous anti-corruption committees, citizens were surprised at the news of revealing many corruption cases involving high-ranking government personnel. Such a topic is the concern of nearly all who keep searching for the latest news.

Such news gives hope to those who daily suffer from the bitterness of corruption in most – if not all – government institutions. As the association has declared, big names in government are involved in such instances. "What's the

next step?" is a question citizens ask daily, wanting to know how more facts about such incidents will be revealed and what type of punishment will be meted out to those involved.

Yemenis really do have hope in this Anti-corruption Association. Many have begun suggesting the names of those involved in such instances, while others suggest the punishments such individuals must face. Still others have begun imagining and dreaming of a Yemen without corruption.

A Yemen without corruption is the new title given after discovering these cases. Punishing anyone involved in any corruption case will be a caution to many others who think or already practice any sort of corruption. Others will stop participating in corruption because they'll realize how bad it is to be caught red-handed in any incident of corruption. Revealing and punishing such persons also will provide a chance to return all monies illegally obtained through various means of corruption. Of course, large amounts of money probably will have to be returned to the general treasury, where it can be used for numerous commercial, industrial or agricultural projects to solve many problems such as poverty, unemployment and others.

Because of such a restrictive association, many individuals will fear and may refuse high positions within the government, fearing involvement in any such cases. Because of this, only qualified individuals will be selected for positions suitable to their knowledge, specialization and experience.

In this case, such high-ranking per-

sonalities no longer will be as rich as they are now, being left without the financial resources to buy the best cars, the best villas, etc.

If corruption no longer existed in government institutions, procedures and daily routines would be easy and citizens would complete procedures sooner. Their interests wouldn't be halted or held up in any office as an excuse of missing some data or signatures, which forces citizens to pay extra money into the employee's pocket. People would be dealt with alike. Rich and poor would be equal. All rules and regulations would be followed by all.

During the era of a Yemen without corruption, government projects wouldn't be sold or involve paying a certain percentage to the employees responsible for such work. Completing such projects wouldn't be a means to receive financial gain without any real quality according to the specifications. Yemeni projects would be long-lasting, not like many current projects, which soon reveal the absence of any type of quality. This is what Yemenis dream of, if such an anti-corruption association does its job. However, achieving such a dream isn't in the people's hands, nor is it in the hands of those who are behind corruption. Rather, it's in the hands of the members of this association who should do their best to rescue our nation from the ghost of corruption.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

Manly wives and womanly husbands

By: Emad Ba-matraf
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We can all agree that every human being enjoys certain unique characteristics not found in any other. Further, general characteristics mark each gender and even bolder ones distinguish human beings as a whole. For this reason, preserving personal or gender characteristics is the utmost task.

Male-female relations recently have been portrayed as a conflict wherein one side attempts to seize the other's rights while the other fights for survival. It seems that we've failed to recognize the different qualities of each party.

I don't deny the mistreatment women experience and the neglecting of their rights. However, in such cases, the call should be to restore women's rights and existence rather than denying gender differences. While it's part of a woman's rights to enjoy being a woman, we may argue just what are

those rights.

Just like those claiming equality, we fight for equality but only regarding those issues that don't involve personal being; thus, human and mental aspects are preserved and respected for both. Both have considerable and total ownership over his or her property, both enjoy decision making and thinking rights and both should enjoy the right to education and the chance to achieve the highest academic marks.

However, to transpose a man into the body of a woman and vice versa seems nonsense. I can't imagine a family with a manly wife and a womanly husband, can you? In such a family, the wife is responsible for maintaining the family and solving its problems while the husband performs the domestic duties. Likewise, to lay aside the tasks that women are responsible for and consider them old-fashioned when they are part of her physical existence (I mean motherhood here) is unfathomable.

Cooperation in running a family and carrying out domestic tasks is coordination that is appreciated. If we all agree

that motherhood is a woman's task, then why create a distraction to this? If we agree that womanhood and motherhood are the greatest tasks, why should a woman be like a man? We Muslims are different because we are Muslims, characterized by our deep belief in our religion. We may consider the wisdom behind this or that command – once it's determined that it indeed is an Islamic command – but we may not contradict it due to our inability to recognize its wisdom.

We should admit that in general, humans are mistreated and women particularly. Thus, we should treat others according to Islamic commands and guidance, rather than accusing Islam of such mistreatment.

Dear readers, I invite you to defend women's rights and stand against those intent upon torture. However, on the other hand, I invite you to respect every person as he or she is. Additionally, we should call for those human rights as stated in Islam, which is beyond the control of any figure so long as he speaks his own opinion.

The Middle East in an American family's view

By: Abdullah Bin Abri Al-Nahdi
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United States, New York City. Jake and his wife Kate have two sons, John and the eldest, Mike, who joined the U.S. Army. They are an American family.

"Dad, Dad, hurry up!" 14-year-old John shouted.

"What's the matter, son?" the father responded.

"Watch the news. They're showing some soldiers killed in an attack in the Middle East. They may show Mike," John said.

"Don't be pessimistic, son. He'll be all right," the father responded.

"Dad, why did he go there when he may not come back, right?"

"Don't say that," the father said.

"We may receive only his body, like other families," John said.

"Listen, John, your brother will return one day as one of the heroes who are fighting for freedom," the father said.

"Freedom!? How is that, Dad? As I know it, freedom is keeping your country free, not going to fight other countries," John said.

"Stop it, John! Go open the door. Someone's knocking and it could be your mother," his father shouted.

Plastic bags

Mia Venster
philoxenia@bellsouth.net

As a tourist traveling around your beautiful country last June, many times, I came upon the perfect scene for the perfect snapshot, only to abandon my enthusiasm because it often was near-impossible to take the photo without a rainbow of plastic bags cluttering up the view.

If a country such as Rwanda can impose a ban on plastic shopping bags, certainly Yemen would like to be next? While I was in your country, I used my small backpack when shopping and often refused the dreaded plastic bag, thereby indicating my dismay.

I'm glad your minister has made the correlation between the evils of qat and the plastic bag. I was appalled at the percentage of those who are addicted to this substance on a daily basis and the entire nation's loss of productivity as a result.

Yemen once was a paradise and a

crossroads for those who brought richness to the area. Why not encourage the elimination of qat, weapons and dowries? Replace present-day billboards with messages that will encourage literacy, freedom of speech, respect for the environment, recycling and love for children.

Encourage tourists to become involved in the process! Award a local company some financial assistance if it can create an environmentally-safe packaging mode to replace plastic. For example, brown bags could be imprinted with motivational messages.

Yemen has all the attributes, ingredients, natural products and the right mix of beautiful people for it to become a shining star in the region. You don't need construction cranes, shopping malls or artificial beautification because your nation is naturally beautiful.

I'd like to return to your country in coming years, retrace my footprints and smile at the sameness, but also the difference. Good luck, Yemen!

The vacuous cycle

Ali Al-Sofiani
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Today's university student resembles a camel grinding and walking around an infinite circle. Rarely are problems resolved by professors or curriculum, expenses, rent, transportation or other problems, but even these are rising toward the abyss of the Civil Service.

Some students are unable to bear any incidents along the way, especially in the colleges of Sana'a University, in addition to an ambiguous future regarding their employment, whether in the private or other sectors.

We need students who are like iron and who are able to shoulder such risks, regardless of the responsible authorities.

While a few professors have unique methods we'll never forget, some never advance in their field, except in rare instances. In this case, the student wishes to hide from others due to the evil he's been taught. Shall he keep up with them in dishonor or bury his head in the sand?

Moreover, there's an absence of understanding of the third culture – the scientific culture – in numerous specializations and practical curriculums. This means progress in all spheres of life, where we are despairing about this repeated monotony. When will that end?



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الأصمحي - بيت بوس - مكتب ٦٧٩١٦٦ - سيار ٧٣٣٤٧٢٩٨٤

للإيجار: ١- دور مستقل مفروش بالكامل، حده، المدينة السكنية، ٤ غرف، حمامين، حديقة، الإيجار ٧٠٠ دولار شهرياً.
٢- دور مفروش بالكامل، الإيجار الشهري ١,٢٠٠ دولار
٣- دورين ويدروم، ٨ غرف، ٤ حمامات، مطبخ ١,٥٠٠ دولار
٤- دورين ويدروم، مكتب، ١٢ غرفة وأكثر ٢,٠٠٠ دولار

* للبيع: ١- أرضية حر حوالي ١١ الهكتار على شارعين أحدهما ١٨ متر وقريبة جداً من شارع ٤٥ متر وشارع تعز، حي شبه تجاري، فرصة لبناء فندق وفتحات تجارية، واجهة على الشارعين حوالي ٤٠ متر طولي.
٢- دور ويدروم جديد، حي المهندسين، بيت بوس، ٩ لين حر، ديوان و ٤ غرف، ٣ حمامات، صالة طعام، مطبخ، يدروم بالكامل، سعر البيع تفاوضي

* فتحتهن تجارية على شارع تعز، جولة تعز - ش ٤٥ رفغ قدم الإيجار الشهري: ١٠٠ ألف ريال

الكبيوتر والإنترنت.
للتواصل: ٧١٣٢٨٢١٥١

• بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة تعز
• دورات في الكبيوتر - دورة في النظام المحاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) - خبرة في المحلات التجارية
للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢
٧٧٧٧٦٣٠٥٣

• بك آداب انجليزي ، دبلوم صيانة كبيوتر - دبلوم برامج تطبيقية فوتوشوب - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية ، السكرتارية والترجمة والكبيوتر والبحوث - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه في الفترة الصباحية
للتواصل: ٧١١١٤٣٩٤٨

• محمد المقطري - بكالوريوس ميكروبيولوجي طبي (مختبرات) - جامعة اب - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه .
للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٥٩٦٩٤

• موسى الصلوي - خريج المعهد التقني - تخصص كهرباء عام - تقدير جيد جداً - خبرة في مجال استخدام الحاسوب - يبحث عن عمل مناسب
للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٥٥٠٠١

• محمد حزام قحطان - بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب ونظم معلومات بتقدير عام جيد جداً - خبرة في صيانة الكبيوتر وفي البرمجة - خبرة في التعامل مع برامج أوفيس وكذلك الفوتوشوب - خبرة في تحليل وتصميم نظم - تصميم مواقع ويب باستخدام فرونت بيج - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو في أي مجال مناسب.

وظائف شاغرة

• مطلوب مدرسين أو مدرسات لغة إنجليزية ورياضيات - خبرة في مجال التدريس (يشترط في مدرس الرياضيات تدريس المادة باللغة الإنجليزية)
للتواصل: ٧٣٤٨٣١٩٩٢ - ٤١٥٣٠٩
• مطلوب للعمل في الفترة المسائية مدرس أوتوكاد ورسم هندسي
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٥٠٠٤٠ - ٤٧٢٩٣٧

باحثون عن وظيفة

• محمد عبدالله - دبلوم محاسبة - دبلوم سكرتارية بالمعهد العربي - دبلوم محاسبة بالكبيوتر من المعهد العربي - حاصل على دورة في اللغة الإنجليزية والتسويق - يجيد الطباعة عربي - إنجليزي
للتواصل: ٠٤/٢١٥٣٥٦ - ٧٧٧٠٤٣٠٤

• تخصص عام (دبلوم تقني - تقدير جيد جداً) - خريج المعهد التقني الصناعي - خبرة في التمديدات والتحكم الصناعي + لف محركات - يجيد استخدام الحاسوب.
للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٥٥٠٠١

• عدنان محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية (آداب) - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة - خبرة عالية في مجال الترجمة - يجيد استخدام

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مستشفيات

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المستشفى الألماني الحديث

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فندق موفيميك
فندق تاج سبا
فندق ريلاكس ان
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معاهد

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معهد كاروكوس
معهد ليكنك

شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين
مأرب للتأمين
الشركة اليمنية للإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين

سفرات

النسيم للسفرات
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة

مطاعم

مطعم ومخبزة الشيباني
تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥

الانظمة المهمة
IMPORTANT Numbers

للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على
تصويبة ٢١١ ٣٦٦٦٦٦

طوارئ الكهرباء ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة ١٩٩، الإطفاء ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١، الاستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤، الشؤون الخارجية ٢٠٣٥٤٤/٧، الشؤون الداخلية ٢٥٢٧/١٧، الهجرة ٢٥٠٧٦١/٢، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢، الإذاعة ٣٢٠٦٦، التلفزيون ٣٣٠٠١/٢، مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٢، وزارة المواصلات ٢٥١١٠/١٢/٣، السياحة ٢٥٤٠٢٢، الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٣١٢/٣، تليمن ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج
بنك التضامن الإسلامي
البنك التجاري
مصرف اليمن البحريين الشامل

بنك اليمن الدولي
البنك العربي
بنك الصليبي الزراعي
البنك المركزي

تأجير سيارات

زأويه (Budget)
يورب كار
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكبيوتر

أبتك لتعليم الكبيوتر (مركز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٤٢٨٣٠٥
فاكس: ٤٠٧٤١٩
عدن ت: ٢٣٧١٩٩
تعز ت: ٤٢٥٠٢٤٣
المكلا ت: ٥٠٢٠٧٤٩٢

Infnit Education T: 444553
NIIT لتعليم الكبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

البريد السريع

صنعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧
الحديدة ت: ٢٤٨٢٣
إب ت: ٤١٩٨٨٨
المكلا ت: ٣٠٦٤١
شوة ت: ٢٠٢٢٢٦
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

كوبون للاعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)

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لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (٣/٢٦٦٦٦/٢٦٨٢٧٦)

Yemen Times marks 18th anniversary

In a celebration held on March 3, Yemen Times staff members celebrated the 18th anniversary of the newspaper's establishment. Yemen Times was founded in 1990 by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf as Yemen's first English language newspaper, and continues to be Yemen's most widely-read and trusted English newspaper. The first issue of Yemen Times came on 28 Feb. 1991. Today the newspaper is a benchmark for independent contemporary journalism in Yemen and the Middle East.



Contact seminar brings British and Yemeni teachers together



Omer Al-Mukhtar secondary school in Yemen. This photo is taken in May 2007.

By: Yemen Times Staff

On March 9, 2008, the British Council is holding a contact seminar between schools in Yemen and the UK as part of the *Connecting Classrooms Initiative*. 8 British teachers will arrive in Sana'a to join 16 teachers from Sana'a for a three-day seminar on finding partners and developing international links. *Connecting Classrooms* is a long-term British Council project that facilitates dialogue between young people in the Middle East and the UK, challenges stereotypes, and develops projects in the field of social responsibility. The project develops ties and links between young people in schools in the Middle East and the UK through discussion and teamwork across borders. Communication between schools engenders mutual understanding.

Connecting Classrooms creates international learning partnerships that encourage schools and students to share


experiences and develop mutual awareness and understanding. This project also offers teachers the opportunity to share in joint curriculum projects, visit their partner schools and be involved in collaborative learning. In the seminar, two schools from Sana'a will partner with one school each from the UK. Together they will plan joint curriculum projects, activities the students in each school can work on and plans for visits for the next two years. The aim of the seminar is to enhance the learning experience for the students and help them develop an understanding of the lives and cultures of their peers around the world, and to provide an opportunity for the teachers' professional development.

To date, 24 schools in Yemen have established school links with schools in the UK, and a further 16 will form new partnerships in the coming seminar. The project has the full support and participation of the Ministry of Education in Sana'a. Two students from schools which

have already developed links with the UK have commented:

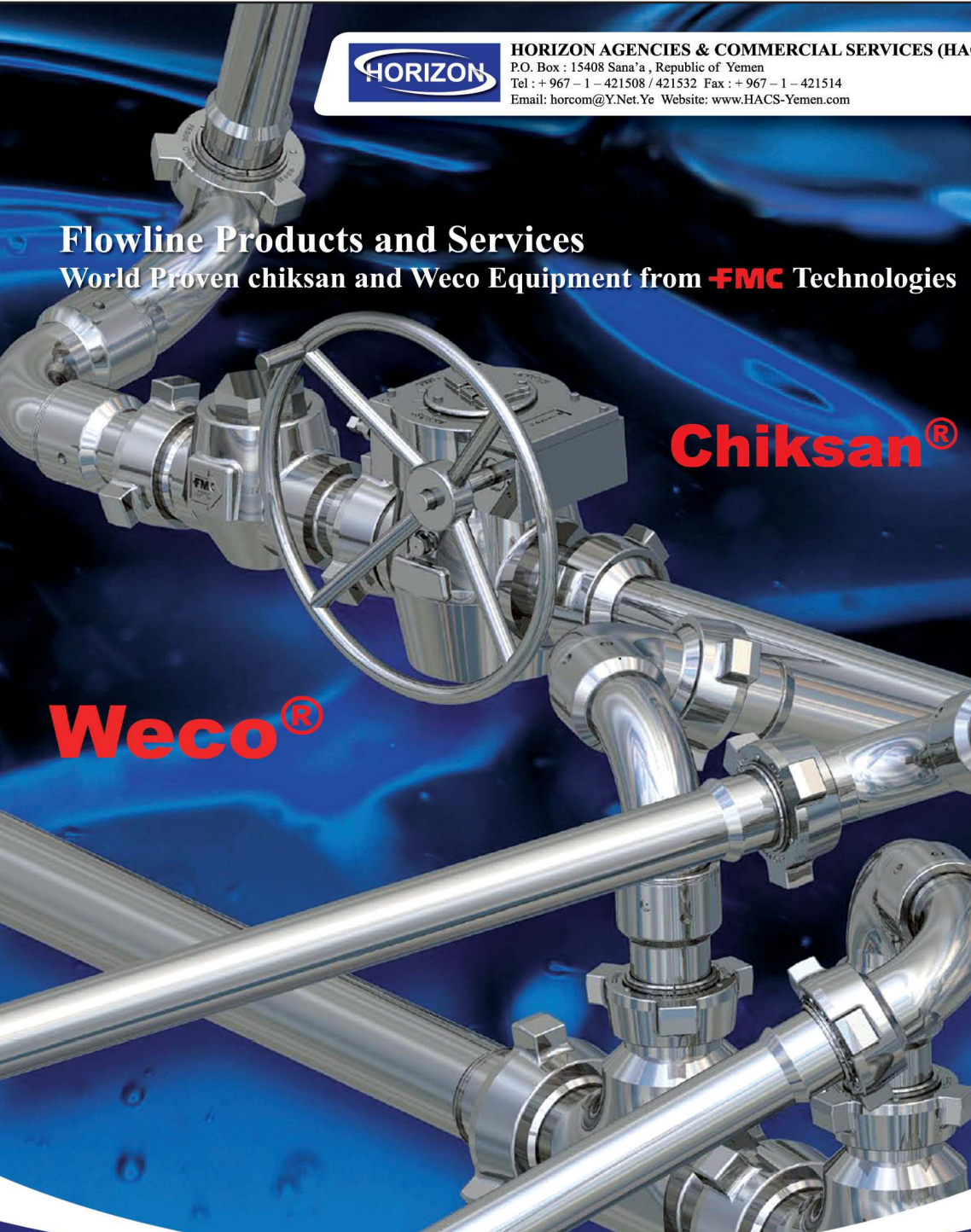
"When the British Council announced the beginning of the School Links Program, I never expected that it would have such a profound effect on my school. Everyone expected cultural as well as educational benefit to all the links members. We really needed a chance to tell the others who we are, what we do, what we can give to them, what we can learn from them, besides getting close enough to know them." Aber Al Harathi, from Khawla School for Girls

"After coming back from the first gathering in the UK in 2007, nobody could imagine how interested everybody in my school was, how eager they were to give a hand and how happy they were while participating in that program. That link changed their attitude towards teamwork. It made everyone forget about himself and think only on how to give a hand to best present his school as well as his country to the others." Laila Al Ottnah, from Hafsa School for Girls.



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