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## A Conclusion of the Human Rights Seminar Attended by the President HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN ALL OF US!

SANA'A: Everything went smoothly as planned. President Ali Abdullah Saleh inaugurated and addressed the seminar which was organized by Yemen Times. His speech, which was placed on the Internet for readers to watch, was considered a positive sign that he is indeed sincere in promoting such values. Among the most important issues discussed, were freedom of expression, political rights, and the rights of women and children to live a decent life. However, mere talk is not enough, but a concrete action plan is essential for the true promotion of human rights in Yemen.

Through this seminar, we were able to identify many human rights violations taking place in Yemen. They are plenty, and they are indeed serious. A particular issue that attracted a lot of attention was the current actions to try and close down the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center of Sana'a University. In this issue of Yemen Times, we have an extensive coverage of the seminar, and excerpts from several interviews with the participants. **Complete Coverage on Pages 8 and 9**



**AMADHAN MUBARAK**  
**رمضان كريم وكل عام وانتم بخير**  
**ترقبوا مسابقة يمن تايمز لشهر رمضان من الاسبوع القادم**

### Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center closed down

SANA'A: In its third extraordinary session held on Nov. 19, the Board of Sana'a University decided to close down the Empirical Researches and Women's Studies Center, suspend its account and establish a national center bearing the name of 'Women Studies Center' in its place.

The new board constituted for the management of the newly established center does not contain any female members and will offer diploma courses only.

The Empirical Researches and Women's Studies Center came under severe criticism by some eminent Islamic personalities, right after it hosted the international conference on 'Challenges for Women's Studies in the 21st Century,' two months ago. They regarded the conference as a prelude to degeneration of women under decorated slogans such as 'emancipation of women,' etc. The big part of criticism was directed at the sacked chairman of the center, Dr. Raowfah Hassan.

The present chairman of the center, Dr. Khadijah Al-Heisami assured Yemen Times that the center would continue and that what happened was only changing the name of the center. "I am still carrying out my duty and there have been no instructions to close the center down," she added.

Students of the center have issued a statement in which they expressed their disappointment at the closure of the center. They assert that the center was established by Sana'a University in 1996 and that its closure was against a retragrade step. "The decision," they said, "did not take into consideration the future of more than 150 students who have done their best in order to get higher degrees."

The statement urges upon all people, organizations, parties and students concerned to uphold freedom of thought and stand by them to save their future.

### The Holy Month of Ramadhan to Begin Next Thursday

Next week, on the 9th of December, we will embark upon the first day of Ramadhan, the holy month in the Islamic Hijri Calendar. In this month, Yemenis will change their schedules, and lifestyles to something unique that can not be witnessed at any other time during the year. The official working hours will be from 11:00 am to 4:00 p.m. and life would mostly be activated at night.

### Saudi General Holds a Press Conference on Clashed Near Border and Deported Yemenis

Saudi Chief of Staff General Saleh bin Ali al-Muhaya has refuted report appearing in a section of the Yemeni media, especially the press last week. On the question of borders and the clashes that had taken place during last few days, the General is of the view that these might be incidents by smugglers or outlaw infiltrators or those who fired at security forces and border guards at border areas.

In a press conference held in Riyadh Saturday, General Bin Ali al-Muhaya disclosed about the clashes on the Saudi-Yemeni borders that. He said the media must have credibility in reporting he news and have to contact party the concerned party to verify the authenticity of the matter.

He further pointed out that the military joint committee was not directly concerned with the subject of borders and demarcation signs.

On the press reports about deportation of thousands of Yemeni citizens outside Saudi Arabia, he said "I believe every state applies its internal laws and this is not something that is unique to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," adding that all states deport immigrants staying illegally.

The Saudi General also added that when the media tackles the topic of borders it was necessary that must be objective and get information from reliable source to know the truth.

### Yemen To Produce for the First Time

Chairman of the National Trading Company, Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, Nabil Hayel Saeed Anaam said on Thursday that a \$50 million flour mill was to be built in the southern city port of Aden. The mill would have the production capacity of 1,500 tonnes of flour a day. Mr. Nabeel Hayel Saeed Anam added that the plant was scheduled to be inaugurated at the end of December.

Through this mill, Yemen will meet the requirements of the production of flour for the first time as the European Union flour trade braces itself for the loss of yet another market. Being the

world's biggest flour importer in 1998 and a big buyer from the EU, Yemen's plan to inaugurate its own flour mill at the end of December will be a major setback for EU.

On the other hand, Al-Habbari Group and YIFICO are also constructing a huge flour mill at Al-Saleef on the western coast of Hodeidah. This project is expected to be completed within the next few years. Yemenis look forward in eager anticipation to the completion of these two projects as they are expected to give a boost to Yemen's economy and as such would be of great benefit for the nation as a whole.

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**Words of Wisdom**

"Many villagers and tribes are showered with promises of development projects. They are given explicit orders and promises to implement schools, clinics, roads, water supply projects, etc. They are asked to process the necessary paperwork. They are told everything is ready for implementation. In fact, a senior official even goes through project initiation ceremonies; e.g., to lay down foundation stones, getting a lot of media coverage, etc."



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

**YT Weekly Opinion Poll**

Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at:  
<http://www.yementimes.com/#poll>

**Question**

Do you think that the 2000 year approved budget voices the interest of the people?

**Result**

Yes it does. 46%  
No it does not. 54%

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

Do you think that the closure of the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center of Sanaa University was a step in the right direction?

In the memory of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, here we publish his viewpoint article about Ramadan

**Editorial**

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf  
Founder

## Ramadhan is Coming Are You Ready?

Our holy month of Ramadhan is fast approaching, with just a few days to go before it dawns on us. Ramadhan to Muslims is a very important month as it is the time of the first revelations of Islam. It is also an occasion to stop from our race and take stock of our moral and religious standing. That is why people become more pious and self-conscious. The best part I like about Ramadhan is really how it manages to stop smokers from blowing in our faces. Unfortunately, this month also brings what is close to an upheaval in our lives. It requires many special arrangements to meet the new needs, given that it affects our living style in such a profound way.

**Let me discuss some of the changes.****1. More economic burdens:**

One of the troublesome aspects of Ramadhan is the additional expense it brings with it. Families need new food supplies because of the unique dishes of the Ramadhan cuisine. This is burdensome because of the overall low living standards of our population. The economic difficulties facing our people at this time are quite visible.

This situation is further complicated by the traditional hike in prices around this time. As consumers rush to the markets, they inevitably put an upward pressure on prices. Exploitative retailers and traders add fuel to this phenomenon. Therefore, is it possible for the official media, especially the television programs, to start educating the public how to cut corners in terms of food purchases and preparation?

**2. New work hours:**

During Ramadhan, the nights become more lively and the days more quiet. Actually, official work hours start at 11:00 AM, and the total number of working hours per day is about three hours. To make things worse, actual work hours are fewer, and the employees are often grouchy and edgy. As one observer put it, "Don't push a hungry man!" For foreign companies, this is an ideal time for vacation, since very little work can be achieved during this month. The government uses this month to give its employees long deserved annual or other holidays.

In addition, embassies, companies and other bodies are advised not to invite delegations and guests during this time.

**3. Charity:**

One of the splendors of Ramadhan is that it motivates well-to-do people to be more generous than usual. Individuals, societies, foundations and charities are exceptionally active during Ramadhan. This is partly based on the Muslim teachings for compassion among fellow human beings, especially during this month.

Thus, companies and individuals are not surprised by requests for donations and contributions. While it is constructive to interact with such requests, it is also imperative to make sure the money goes where it should. There are, needless to say, many free riders and parasites.

For non-Muslims living among us, they are forced to adjust their lives. Some even try to fast, if at least as a form of a new regime. Many simply choose to leave town until after Ramadhan. Whatever you do, you have to plan for Ramadhan. Are you ready?

**In Brief**

### President Saleh Calls For an International Conference on Human Rights

President Ali Abdullah Saleh called for an international conference on human rights and expressed Yemen's readiness and willingness to host it. In his speech delivered at the symposium on Human Rights organized by the Yemen Times on Saturday he said that Yemen has moved forward in the field of human rights since the revolution of the 16th of September. President Saleh, also donated 10 million Rials for the National Committee for the Protection of Human Rights in order to enable it to help prisoners who do not receive any care.

At the end of his speech, the President confirmed that this age is the age of modernism, democracy, freedom and human rights and Yemen was among the countries that respected human rights.

### Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation

In their mutual relations to enhance bilateral ties in different levels of the governments of Yemen and Iran, Mr. Ibrahim Raeesi, chairman of the General Inspection Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran paid an official visit to Yemen from November 27th to December 1st upon an invitation by Mr. Ahmad Mohammed Al-Aryani, chairman of the Central Organization for Audit and Control. The two sides signed an understanding and cooperation memorandum on November 30th.

### Annual Competition of the National Club Announced

The National Cultural Club for Youth has announced its annual program for the upcoming Ramadhan. The program contains competitions from the Holy Quran, Hadiths, and other sources. The Club has so far organized two programs and both have been successful. Sponsors of this year's program are: Thabet Brothers Group of Companies, Salhaddin Factory for Plastic, Al-Dobaai Factory for Perfumes, Abdul Jaleel Radman Group of Companies, Shamakh Group of Companies, Al-Zikri Trading Agencies, Ahmad Al-Sheibani Group of Companies, Yemen Islamic Bank for Investment, Overseas Company and the Bajil Factory for Foodstuffs. It is expected that the program will cover Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah and Dhamar.

### The World Bank Endorsed \$220 Million

The World Bank announced in Sana'a that it has endorsed \$220 million as an aid for Yemen for the year 2000 with an increase of 100% compared to the previous year. It is reported that the bank has conducted this step after the

Yemeni officials expressed their commitment to follow the economic reform programs and the bank instructions. Bank officials are very satisfied over the investigation results conducted last week with the government, informed political sources said. The Yemeni government committed itself to have a new increase on oil products, imposing new taxes which will lead to increasing the prices of food supplies in the first quarter of the year 2000, same sources said.

### Gold Mohur Hotel Inaugurated

On Wednesday, December 1st the President of the Republic inaugurated Gold Mohur Hotel after it has been renovated according to modern specifications and up to international hotel levels. The overall cost of the project was \$13 million.

### Workshop about Cultures in Population Policies

Organized by Queen Arwa University, a workshop was kicked off Saturday about cultures in population policies. The workshop was under the auspices of Abdul Karim Al-Aryani, chairman of the cabinet, and with the participation of some Arab and international organizations working in population activities.

Dr. Wahibah Fara'a said that this workshop will last for three days during which a number of issues relating to the results of a field survey conducted by the Society Studies Center in the Queen Arwa University will be discussed.

### Workshop on Women's Non-Governmental Organizations

Organized by the Information and Rehabilitation of Human Rights Center, women's non-governmental organizations started their 2-day workshop at the Information Center on Sunday. The opening ceremony was attended by the American ambassador and Cultural Attaché and Mrs. Amat Al-Alim Al-Soswah, chairwoman of the National Committee for Women.

The aim of the workshop is to improve the non-governmental organizations working in Yemen, exchange expertise, improve administrative skills and discuss the possibility of applying new mechanisms.

### The Right to Reply

In its issue on Nov.29, 1999, Yemen Times published a news item on its second page titled "European Warning Against Yemeni Insurance Companies" which was based on sources from the Yemeni Chamber of Commerce.

The newspaper received a message by fax from the second secretary for Commerce at the British Embassy/ Sana'a denying the information contained in the news item and quot-

ing the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce as saying that "The allegations are unfounded." In the Chamber's fax it is stated that "The Arab-British Chamber of Commerce has not and cannot make any changes concerning the insurance of exports. Insurance arrangements are a matter between the exporter and importer and should be arranged according to the agreement between the parties, letter of credit, contract conditions and/or the regulations of the importing country where applicable. The Arab-British Chamber aims to equally promote and encourage visible and invisible trade in both directions."

### Campaign Against Aggressive Divorce

Organized by the Committee to Resist Violence against Women in Yemen, a seminar on Aggressive Divorce was held Sunday at the Cultural Center, Sana'a. Discussions and interpretations of participants centered on divorce's consequences for women, family and children.

During the seminar a number of women talked about their own experiences as divorcees. Attendees also condemned the aggressive closure of the Women Studies Center. The seminar was held at a time when 14 other Arab countries held similar seminars.

### Panasonic Gulf FZE

Two members of Panasonic Gulf FZE have visited Yemen to embody the relationship between Japan and Yemen in the economic field. These two members are Mr. Atsushi Hinoki, General Manager,

and Mr. Mirza Fazal Ahmed, Sales Executive of Panasonic Gulf FZE. The purpose of the visit is to launch new sales and products to customers in Alfa Festival during Ramadan. The volume of Japanese products in Yemen is increasing. There is a growing demand, and people understand the importance of the new products, so the National Panasonic company aims at improving the lives of people. They were hosted by Alfa Panasonic Company. The share of Panasonic Company includes many product categories such as telephones, fax, Televisions, washing machines, etc. National Panasonic, Sony, Sharp, etc. are doing various activities to improve the economic cooperation between the two countries. National Panasonic introduces new products to Alfa company. The new product which they are going to launch in the coming Millennium throughout the world is new working of digital system in order to change people's life.

### 4th Businessmen Conference in Aden Concluded

The 4th businessmen conference has on Monday 29 November concluded its 2-day meetings in Aden. The conference was held under auspices of president Ali Abdulla Saleh. After its meetings the conference has come out with a number of decisions and recommendations.

The conference was concluded with several recommendations a program for economic, financial and administrative reform and fixing a time ceiling for its implementation.

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Editor's note: Yemen Times was requested to kindly publish this short apology on p 2. As a contribution to strengthening human relations, we agreed..

## Apology from Al-Awadhi to Al-Haddi

I, Jamal Al-Awadhi, an employee at the Consultative Council's Human Rights, NGOs and Liberties Committee would like to apologize to Mr. Abdulhameed Al-Haddi, a member of the Consultative Council of what I said in my statement quoted in the local news section of the 35th issue of Yemen Times. While I wish that I would be forgiven for the harsh words and statements quoted, I extend to Mr. Al-Haddi my hand in a step to maintain our friendship and to have it as mightier as ever.

**Vacancy**

MAM International Corp. has a vacancy for an executive secretary in their offices in Sana'a.

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# Yemeni Press Scanner

**AL-EHYA'A**  
**AL-ARABI (Baath Party)**

**South Cairo Court: Hearings Against Arab Leaders**

The Egyptian Committee for Uniting the Arab Nation organized a huge meeting of solidarity with Iraq in which leaders of political parties, syndicates, trade unions and mass organizations participated. A number of Egyptian authors and thinkers took part in the meeting in addition to a large number of common Egyptians. The Committee had, in all mass gatherings organized by it, called upon all Arab governments to comply with the wish of the Arab masses of lifting the 10-year old tyrannical and oppressive siege against Iraq. The Committee declared that it is arranging a relief convoy to Iraq. The convoy shall be called 'Pan-Arabism Convoy' and its mission shall be to lift the siege

against Iraq. Its slogans shall be 'Oh Pan-Arabism. Oh Islam.'

The Committee called upon the Arab masses of Egypt to share in materially supporting the convoy indicating that the siege against Iraq has become a shame.

The Committee wondered, "Aren't Arabs ashamed that a British MP, not an Arab, had led Mary's relief convoy to Iraq?" It asked the Arabs, "Where are your ears? Don't you hear Iraqi children's screams reaching the skies?" 938,000 radioactive Uranium bombs were used against Iraq. Where are these humanist slogans raised by the enemies to deceive us?

It is recalled that the Egyptian Committee for Uniting the Arab Nation instituted legal proceedings - A first case in Egyptian courts - against Arab Kings and Presidents because of their silence and connivance. The South Cairo Court shall

hold hearings of this case within the next few weeks and days.

**AL-AYYAM, (Independent)**

**1) Drinking Water Pipes Blasted at Amssurrah**

A group of unidentified persons blasted the drinking water pipes at Amssurrah on Friday night and fled. The pipes carry drinking water as far as Al-Wadhe'a district, Abyan governorate. It is recalled that the Amssurrah Water Project is one of the most important in Lawdar district, Abyan.

**2) Parliament Confirms the Presence of Private Prisons**

The Parliament Committee that commissioned to investigate Al-Udain clashes last October submitted its report yesterday to sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament. The Committee had concluded its visit to Ibb governorate and some areas which saw some clashes in the area after a number of 'private prisons' were demolished.

The report, a copy of which was acquired by Al-Ayyam, considered the October resolution by the Ibb governorate Security Committee to summon all those accused of disturbances at Al-Udain as necessary. The Committee recommends that government and its institutions should be ordered to move rapidly to bring all accused or wanted to justice. The Committee's campaign to summon the accused shouldn't have stayed at sheikh Sadeq Pasha, and should have proceeded to execute its basic mission. The Committee blamed local Ibb authorities for not moving to solve problems in time, which resulted in a loss of the presence of government and losses of property and lives. The Committee found that some of the accused belongs to the local ruling authorities.

On private prisons the Committee recommended that the government should be pushed to prohibit the use of any prisons other than those identified as such by legal procedures.

**AL-BALAGH (Independent)**

**Yemen Embassies to be decreased**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall go through great changes effective in the New Year. The number of Yemeni Embassies abroad shall be reduced, especially those in East European countries like Hungary, Bulgaria and Slovakia. Only those very necessary shall continue to exist. About 10 Ambassadors and 80 diplomats shall go into pension as they have concluded their work years.

The changes shall lead to decreasing the number of diplomats working abroad by 20%. Sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that Yemen's Ambassadors to Iraq, Syria, France, Italy, China, Poland, Morocco, Djibouti, Holland and Pakistan are being recalled as they have either reached pension age or concluded their total work years.

**AL-TAREEQ (Independent)**

**1) Poor Up To 27%**

Discussions at the 4th Businessmen's seminar at Aden Hotel were unanimous that Yemen is going through a great economic depression and that the middle class has diminished. It was mentioned at the seminar that the average annual income is less while unemployment is up 16%, and the poverty ratio is up to 27% of the whole population of Yemen. Remarks confirmed that there is no justice in expenditure distribution and indicated that 30% of the population takes exclusive possession of the country's income. The remarks added that investment by Government does not exceed 25%, a rate insufficient to deliver while fictitious employment

without needing to go the International Court of Justice.

**AL-WAHDAWI (People's Unionist Nasserites)**

**1) Sana'a Hints at Arbitration and Demands a Time Limit**

A number of high Yemeni officials have hinted again towards arbitration as a way to solve the dispute with Saudi Arabia.

President Saleh and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al-Eryani both hit hard at what Eryani considered as lagging and new infringements and erection of new positions in Yemeni lands by the Saudi side. The Saudi are also insisting on demands that contradict historical facts.

Both President Saleh and Dr. Al-Eryani called the current method of negotiations as 'useless.' These statements coincide with news of a negative escalation in the relations and several clashes with losses from both sides.

Al-Wahdawi has learned that the two soldiers who were martyred in clashes at Al-A'br were student conscripts. A number of injured soldiers were also treated at the Sana'a Military Hospital.

**2) The American Ambassador might be changed**

Al-Wahdawi has learned from Western Diplomatic sources that the American Ambassador to Yemen might be replaced in the near future because of a report on transparency in the Yemeni military.

Our sources indicated that the Clinton Administration was asked by the Congress Foreign Affairs Committee to transfer current Ambassador Ms. Barbara Bodiene from Sana'a after reports by her were considered misleading by the Committee on the subject of transparency in budget and expenditure of the Yemeni Ministry of Defense. Ms. Bodiene's reports led to listing Yemen among states with less transparent military budgeting and expenditure after it was listed among countries who have no transparency in

these aspects.

Ms. Bodiene has been accredited to Yemen for 30 months and replaced Mr. Newton who was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs.

**AL-SAHWAH (Islah Party)**

**1) Sana'a University Council Dismisses The Feminine Studies Center**

The Sana'a University Council unanimously decided last Monday to dismiss the Center for Feminine Studies and to establish a new national Center of Woman Studies. In its extraordinary session headed by Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Maqaleh the council decided to halt the accounts of the Center and to divert them to the University General Secretariat.

The Council established a committee headed by Dr. Hussein Al-Eryani to prepare for the new center. Study at the new Center shall be limited to the Diploma level.

**2) Group Transfer of Witnesses in Cursing the Prophet Case**

Community circles at Dimnat Khadeer, Taiz governorate, wondered at the transfer of three soldiers and officials of Dimnat Khadeer Police Prison last week to the Shara'ab Al-Rawnah district, as they are the only witnesses in the case of cursing the Prophet (God's blessing and peace be upon him) by the Deputy Security Director of the district last August. These circles said that they had no objections against administrative procedures but the group transfer raises many questions, especially as some circles began fabricating reports of the return of the Deputy Security Director to his post at the directorate. The said officer was halted from his duties until now which means the suspension of the case against him by the population.

A number of area dignitaries confirmed that return of the said official only means a call for disorder

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

**USA**  
**NASA 'less confident' but won't give up on Mars Lander**  
NASA will try again on Sunday to contact the Mars Polar Lander, while mission managers work to exhaust all possible reasons the spacecraft hasn't sent a signal to Earth since landing. "As time goes by, and I'm not telling you otherwise, we're less confident," Richard Cook, the spacecraft's operations manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said at a Saturday night news conference.

**Cuba**  
**Castro demands U.S. return rescued Cuban boy**  
Cuban President Fidel Castro on Sunday demanded the United States return a 5-year-old Cuban boy, rescued from waters off Florida on Thanksgiving, to his father within three days. Castro compared the case to a kidnapping. He said U.S. authorities should return the boy within 72 hours - "Because if not, there are going to be millions of people in the street demanding the freedom of the boy, who will not stop until they send him back," he told Cuban state television early Sunday.

**CHECHNYA**  
**Russians relentless in assault on Grozny**  
Russian forces continued to pound the Chechen capital of Grozny on Sunday, a day after Russia's chief commander in Chechnya, Gen. Viktor Kazantsev, said his forces had the city surrounded. But Russian officials maintain they have no plans to storm Grozny and conceded on Sunday that the rebels are turning what had been largely an air and artillery war into a guerrilla conflict - something the Russians had been trying to avoid to limit casualties.

On the other hand, the Russian embassy in Sanaa has clarified that there are some people who interpret the recent events as if Russia is launching a war against Islam and trying to remove the homeland of Moslems from its territories. The embassy sources emphasized that Russia had backed and is still backing the real issues of Moslems in the Mideast and is interested in establishing peace in the region.

A statement issued by the embassy, a copy of which the Yemen Times received, indicates that Russia had no other option but to resort to military force against the organized force of armed gangsters totalling thousands of soldiers.

On its part Russia has justified its action to the use of military force in Chechnya to counter the flagrant and large-scale interference of the Chechnyan gangs in Daghistan and blasting incidents inside residential areas in Moscow and Russian cities in addition to kidnapping hundreds of citizens and other terrorist acts.

**NORTHERN EUROPE**  
**Fierce winter storms ravage northern Europe**  
Fierce winter storms left at least 17 people dead and scores injured across northern Europe over the weekend, as well as causing millions of dollars of damage and severely disrupting power and transport. Emergency officials said a series of storms packing gale force winds and heavy rain or snow rolled eastward from Britain on Friday afternoon, causing devastation across Scandinavia, Germany, Poland and the Baltic states overnight.

**INDONESIA**  
**Indonesian sectarian clashes kill 31**  
Clashes between Christians and Muslims have flared again in Indonesia's eastern spice islands, killing at least 31 people over three days, police sources said on Sunday. It was the latest in the religious violence that has ripped through the Moluccan islands, located at the eastern end of the giant Indonesian archipelago - islands once held up as a haven of tolerance in this multi-ethnic country.

**AUSTRIA**  
**5 Dead, 25 Injured At Snowboarding World Cup In Austria**  
Police started yesterday investigating the cause of an incident in which five spectators were killed at an Austrian snowboarding event Saturday. The five died and at least 25 others were injured when a barrier fence collapsed, causing a stampede of spectators at around 10 pm local time. It is thought that a number of people were attempting to negotiate an icy slope above the barrier when they slipped and crashed into the barrier which then buckled under the weight.

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## President Saleh Confers Diamond Certificate on Hamdo Abdulkareem

Hamdo Abdulkareem, General Manager of the UN Company for Industrial Metals received the diamond certificate from President Ali Abdullah Sale. This certificate was awarded by the Aden Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his positive contribution to the process of economic and social development in the governorate of Aden. This honoring is a proof of the success and superiority of the company.

On this occasion, employees and workers of the UN Company for Industrial Metals present their heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Hamdo on getting this prize.



## فخامة رئيس الجمهورية يمنح الشهادة الماسية لمدير عام الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية

تسلم الاخ/ حمدو عبد الكريم رجل الاعمال المعروف ومدير عام الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية الشهادة الماسية من قبل فخامة الاخ/ علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية الممنوحة من الغرفة التجارية والصناعية- عدن، وذلك تقديراً للدور الايجابي والمساهمه في عملية التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في محافظة عدن.

وبحصول الاخ/ حمدو عبد الكريم المدير العام للشركة فرع اليمن على هذا التكريم إنما هو دليل على تفوق ونجاح الشركة وكذا ماتحظاه من سمعة طيبة ومكانة رفيعة في اليمن.

وبهذه المناسبة يتقدم كافة موظفي وعمال الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للأخ/ حمدو عبد الكريم المدير العام للشركة على هذا التكريم من قبل فخامة الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية، باني صرح نهضة اليمن السعيد.



**SILVER LINING**



Final in a Series  
 Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,  
 Managing Editor

**Working Children in Yemen:  
 A Generation Prone to Disaster**

The Juvenile Welfare Act, No. 24, of 1992 views child beggars as delinquents subject to detention, ostensibly for special care. Although a number of the women and children begging on the streets of Sana'a are descended from the traditional servant class, or are returnees from Saudi Arabia we find also that

these working children (whether on the street or elsewhere) are usually not paid for their work. Children working in the countryside in agriculture work without wages. I met many working children in restaurants, on streets and at construction sites. Most of them told me that they came to the city either to help their fathers cover the family expenses or because their fathers passed away and they have to cover the expenses of their mothers, brothers

and sisters. They collect their salaries at the end of each month and send them to their families' villages. This means that these children are draining off their energy for their families. In this way, they will continue working until their brothers and sisters grow up, and these working children will have spent a lot of their lifetimes doing nothing for their own futures. Not only that, but they will have had no access to education and are likely to be illiterate.

**The Plight of Juvenile Delinquents**  
 The pressure of urbanization and the

concomitant breakdown of traditional family and community support structures, increased incidence of poverty and high rates of youth unemployment have combined to create a rise in the rate of juvenile delinquency in recent years, although the total numbers in conflict with the law appears still to be generally low in Yemen. Some children come from villages to the cities searching for jobs. Sometimes they fall victims to bad habits. They are sometimes put in prison with criminals, homosexuals and other law-breakers. In this way, they get affected by this group and thus become delin-

quents. Although a Juvenile Welfare Act was passed in 1992, the government lacks the resources to effectively implement and administer it. The Act itself also suffers a number of major shortcomings, the most important of which includes its failure to set a minimum age of criminal responsibility and the fact that its definition of delinquency encompasses a variety of non-criminal activities. Article 3 of the act states "The instances in which a juvenile is deemed to be delinquent include: (a) if he is found begging, (b) if he associates with delinquents or rogues, (c) if he habitually runs away from home or is a regular truant from school, and (d) if he regularly engages in acts characterized by licentiousness, depravity or moral corruption.

One of the most important provisions of the act, the establishment of a network of juvenile courts in each governorate, has not been implemented, meaning that children must face trial in adult courts with judges who have little or no knowledge or training in juvenile law. Moreover, specialized training programs do not exist for those in direct contact with juvenile detainees including: police officers, prison workers and staff of juvenile correction centers. Juvenile correction centers are too scarce in relation to juvenile detainees and generally lack effective rehabilitative programs. We also find that juveniles who are arrested and detained are frequently subjected to serious rights violations. Most are arrested and detained for reasons relating to social hardship rather than criminality. They may be held for two or three months before being brought before the court and are often subjected to mistreatment during arrest and interrogation. They may await trial in the same prisons as adults. Children detained, but not convicted of any criminal offense, may be kept in detention in the same premises as convicted persons. They are usually without lawyers to defend them and are completely unaware of their own rights. Sentences can be as long as six or seven years.

Juveniles in conflict with the law who can not be accommodated in juvenile "houses of direction" must serve their sentences in adult prisons. Conditions in these prisons are generally very harsh. A lack of adequate hygiene and overcrowding in the prisons give rise to illnesses. They offer no education or other rehabilitative services. Social workers are nonexistent. Systems of prisons inspection and supervision are weak or nonexistent, leaving the

detained juveniles vulnerable to abuse. Children can be found in almost all of Yemen's prisons. In 1996, for instance, child prison inmates included around 60 boys and 13 girls in the Sana'a Central prison and about 40 boys in the Hodeidah jail.

The situation for female juvenile detainees is by far the worst. There are no juvenile reform facilities for female juvenile delinquents, and therefore they must serve their sentences in prisons under harsh conditions alongside adult female prisoners. No education or rehabilitative services are available for them. A lack of effective control and their low social status makes them particularly vulnerable to various forms of abuse at the time of their arrest, during pretrial detention and while serving their prison sentences. Reports indicate that most children are put in prison without having committed a crime. Most of them are put in prison because of family problems. Another detrimental problem faced by working children in general is this. From a psychological point of view, these children are subjected to various kinds of psychological problems. Their minds become overloaded with thoughts about the future and other unknowns which their tiny minds can not bear. That is, they squeeze their minds and try to think and behave like grown-ups which, without any room for doubt, disturbs their physiological health very much. Certainly, this affects their normal development and growth. Not only that, but scientific studies also show that working children die prematurely. Moreover, working children always feel insecure and therefore they look pale and worried. In this way, we produce people who are mentally, psychologically and even physically handicapped and are unable to serve their nation properly.

**What is to be done?**  
 I believe that it has now become very clear how miserable the situation of children in Yemen, particularly working ones, is. The picture is scary and menacing. As we have seen, economic pressures and hardships are the main factors pushing our children to work. The deteriorating economic conditions of the people, including the constant rise of prices have to be tackled. The government should work very hard to improve the standard of living of the people, because it is these economic conditions which pull many children from school. *Continue on page 7*

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## The First Yemeni Female Ambassador Amat Al-Aleem Al Sosowah

# "The deprivation and suffering the Yemeni women are prone to without numbers"

**W**hen we talk of any generation of women, e.g. from the beginning of the sixties up to this year, Mrs. Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sosowah appears to be one of the most distinguished pioneering woman representing a great figure among Yemeni women.

Since her childhood, she has been engaged with mass media. She worked as a host in Taiz radio while she was eleven years old at a time when the political forces were still coming into being. No one can deny the role played by Taiz radio to encourage people to fight for freedom against the abhorrent colonization in southern Yemen at that time. Beside her work for Taiz radio, Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sosowah held many other positions and jobs. She joined the scouts and worked for Sana'a TV. She earned her bachelors degree in Media from Cairo and her MA degree in International Media from America. She was the first woman to break the barriers of unfair traditions and conventions by holding a number of administrative positions. She held the position of information undersecretary. In every position she has occupied she has proven to be a good example of devotion. She is now chairwoman of Woman National Committee. Yemen Times interviewed her and filed the following:

**Q: How did you get your start in work?**

**A:** I started working when I was 11. I was working for Taiz radio when my father died. In fact, my work was not a passion or to enjoy my childhood as some may think. It was rather a matter of self-dependence to stand strong in life. The one who browses my biography will think that it is time for me to retire because of the long period I have spent at work.

Although it was only for a short period, my work for Taiz radio played a crucial role in shaping some features my character. When I moved from Dhamar to Taiz it was a center for knowledge. I moved to Taiz with my father when he was appointed to be a judge there. Most of my brothers and sisters were born in Taiz. I was very lucky to spend my childhood in Taiz which was a center of knowledge and culture. Due to the many schools established there after the revolution and due to the encouraging social atmosphere to get knowledge, I entered school. Unfortunately, my elder sisters did not get this chance because they did not live in Taiz. This period, in fact, helped form many aspects of my personality. As I grew older, I indulged more in political and cultural activities. In addition to my work for the radio, which was the reason behind my stability, self-confidence and self-dependence, I joined the Scouts. Together with a lot of men and women, we established the scouts organization which was one of the most important youth movements, especially in the 70s. It was this period that really shaped my character. Whenever I feel bored or down, I just try to recollect all of those moments and feel how difficult it was. That period of my life now looks beautiful to me but it was also a period of suffering. As there was encouragement from society, there were also many objections to my work. Society was not used to accepting a woman mixing with men. Fortunately I was not alone. There were some other women of my age or younger or elder than me.

Youth was motivated by the open and encouraging atmosphere. It was a natural period and had to be so. No doubt, my family encouraged me to go on in my education and work, otherwise I couldn't have been able to study or work. It was my parents' understanding and appreciation of what I was doing that encouraged me to continue my studies as well as my work. They taught me how dealing with others should be and that was enough to save me. Without that encouragement to go on, I would have stopped like many other women who stopped at various stages of their lives, some in the midway and very few of them managed to run the whole distance or were able to face up to the social tradition and conventions.



**Q: How do you assess the period of your work as an undersecretary in the Ministry of Information?**

**A:** Appointing me for an administrative post did not surprise me because I initiated my career in an administrative job when I first worked in TV. For example in 1981-82, I was appointed an assistant program manager and that was the first administrative job to be entrusted to a woman in TV. There were many hostesses, but to appoint a woman to such an administrative job was something new. Before this time, namely, in 1976-79, I worked as a director of all TV newscasters and anchors. It was a great responsibility to hold. Managing TV programs is rather a tough task. It is more difficult and demanding than being Minister of Information because here you become responsible for all programs that are watched by most of the people.

In fact, I can not evaluate my work in the Ministry of Information. Although it was a short period, it was perhaps my gateway to enter the world of information administration. When I was appointed information undersecretary in 1991, my work was not limited solely to administration but rather I was in the heart of political and information activity. This is due to the fact that during the period when I occupied that job a lot of political events were taking place in Yemen. However, I felt as if I was captured by the administrative aspect of the work because the greater part of my work was in administration.

I did my best to be a (neutral) administrator and I hope I was successful at that task.

After the Parliamentary elections of 1997, the Minister of Information was one of the candidates and I had to run the Ministry affairs in his stead. It was a critical time for me and, of course, I can not evaluate my work during that period. However, I can not say that I am satisfied with what I did either as assistant undersecretary or as undersecretary because in both positions you don't hold all the keys of political work in your hands.

**Q: Right after the parliamentary elections of 1997, there was some leaked information about a woman getting a portfolio and many people thought it was you. What are your comments?**

**A:** In fact, the issue of women participating in government was discussed before the parliamentary elections of 1997, but we can say that the issue was more prominent after the elections. I hadn't thought of being a minister. All I hoped for was to be able to have the freedom to carry out my job. I did not think of getting a portfolio because in most ministries the post of undersecretary was of equal importance to the post of minister. So these rumors were not true and I understood them as signs of love and appreciation from feminists. However, law and constitution do not prevent women from assuming such posts. There are women working as judges in Yemen but I don't understand what hinders a woman from being a minister.

**Q: What are the reasons behind the absence of women in press?**

**A:** In fact there is no such thing as women's journalism. However, since 1993, there have been some magazines and newspapers interested in women's issues. These experiments in themselves are, of course, very important because they fill the gap that the political magazines and newspapers have neglected. When writing about women these newspapers, whether state-run or party organs, are used to allocating one page to talk about some very stereotyped issues: 'For you Lady,' 'A whisper in Your Ear,' 'Housekeeping,' and other such matters that unfortunately don't deal with issues that are important to women. The present situation is rather successful. For example, there are "Al-Mar'ah" newspaper (woman newspaper), "Adam & Eve," Al-Yamaniah and another newspapers that have begun to focus on women's issues. For example, if you read the "Al-Thaqafiah" newspaper you will find that women writers sometimes outnumber men. It is a good experience and it helps show that there are women who should be heard. There are also women political writings which aren't confined to specific columns or pages. There are also newspapers managed and published by women which focus on issues which previously were handled only by men.

**Q: Some people say that women are not qualified enough for press? What do you think?**

**A:** There are qualified women, but they are not to be found when decisions are taken on appointments in media, whether state-owned or party organs. For example, Al-Wahdah newspaper could have been run by a woman. What is wrong with that? What is wrong if a woman becomes the chief editor of the Yemen Times, Al-Wahdah or Al-Soura? There are women who are able to do that. In fact, there should be a woman who is experienced in the art of managing newspapers so that others can have the chance to judge their success or failure in this field. However, it seems that men are afraid of this. So we can not say that there are no qualified women. Some official newspapers are managed by women. Unfortunately, this has not been seen in any party organs. This, in fact, is due to men's wrong belief that women can not do some kinds of work. So it is difficult to say something general like what you said in your question. This matter is related to society and its acceptance of availability in positions that have been limited to men for a long time. Sometimes I feel like laughing when I read some of the opposition newspapers claims to be liberal while they have not a single female name among their editorial staff despite the availability of many qualified women.

**Q: Have woman really benefited from your book "Yemeni Woman in Figures"?**

**A:** The book contains figures about women that I quoted and analyzed. In fact, it was somehow difficult to get information on women before the establishment of the Man & Woman's Statistics Administration whose main concern is obtaining information, details, figures and facts about people and presenting them to the decision makers. Before this we used to hear sentences like, women are backward, women's condition is very bad, women have acquired highest positions in the government, etc. without any real details. So I thought I must fill that gap and I did it enthusiastically. I also wanted to embarrass the concerned authorities who were supposed to take care of this matter. In 1996 I finished the first book of "The Yemeni Woman in Figures," and in 1997 I finished the second one. I intended to write the third book, but the Central Organization for Statistics and Administration saved me the effort needed to do so. In my two books I depended on figures and information from the Central Organization for Statistics and Administration and some surveys and books. The thing that both sexes in Yemen suffer from is the lack of education. Education opens many doors. It helps one respect himself and believe in his abilities. So I have found

that what a woman suffers from most is being away from education. Unfortunately, this is due to some conventions that do not agree with our religion which urges all people to learn and study. Some people accept women participating in work when wages are not to be paid for it and such contribution will, of course, be at the expense of the poor exhausted woman who works for more than 18 hours on farms. However, if another worker is hired he is to be paid for what he does. Even worse than that, is that these women who work for this long time in fields or the like are supposed to go home and do her household duties. All this is done with no return. And after all this she must be kind and obedient.

There is also a matter which is related to education facilities. Many people refuse to send their daughters to mixed schools. If no girls' school is available, the first thing these people do is prevent their daughters from going to school. This helps widen the gap between women and men. When these daughters become adults, they might be unable to understand what is going on around them. In some specific places, women eat only what remains from men's meals. I also included many examples of the deprivation and suffering the Yemeni women are prone to without numbers. For example, depriving women of inheritance, and forcing them to get married while they are still too young. It is true there has been a remarkable improvement in women's conditions but there are still some places where such phenomena are seen.

**Q: The woman has now got a seat in the parliament, has that given the Yemeni woman something?**

**A:** We shouldn't be unfair to ask only (two) women members of parliament out of 301 to hold them responsible for the 55% proportion of the population that is represented by women. In my opinion, the two female members of parliament are champions because they are presenting a new example to women. I was really surprised at the PGC for not nominating any woman in any of the Northern governorates. Women in the Northern governorates had to be supported at least to break the rule that says women in these governorates are backward.

**Q: Is the National Committee for Woman an alternative for the Federation of Yemeni Women?**

**A:** The National Committee for Women is a governmental consultative body, but a decision has been taken lately on re-establishing it in such a way that it actually has an official stamp. We have now more than thirty non governmental organizations that are members of the National Committee in addition to heads of women sectors in all of the political parties, so in this way I think that the committee will be complete. Actually the committee started with eight volunteer women and we are still working on a volunteer basis with an annual budget not exceeding YR 4 million.

**Q: What about appointing you as an ambassador?**

**A:** The decision has been passed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but, as usual, people had anticipated it.

**Q: To which country?**

**A:** I can not say to which country before an official decree is issued.

**Q: What do you think woman should do as she enters the third millennium?**

**A:** Let's think about what Yemen should do to face the third millennium. In my opinion, it depends upon a transitional mechanism and not upon a specific time. The whole world is receiving the third millennium with a lot of changes: globalization and technology which are preparations to enter the third millennium. As far as Arabs are concerned, I think that they have slept throughout this century because preparations for any century must be done during the one preceding it.

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# Oman, Laudable Strides Towards a Better Tomorrow

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf  
Taiz Bureau Chief  
Yemen Times

The Omani society, government and citizens should realize the significant necessity of getting ready to encounter the real challenges of globalisation. This confrontation can be achieved through development of national potentials and capabilities and building an economy on solid foundations of world competitiveness and productivity. The encounter could also be realised by upgrading the institutions, rendering great care for science and technology and through research and development. In addition there should be some measures ensuring a convenient climate for the private sector to enjoy steady growth and development. On July 23, 1970, Oman entered a new era of its history. Since that date the country left the desert style of life and headed for the life of progress and development so that it has become on the same footing with and matching the advanced countries.

The progress and prosperity that Oman has accomplished during recent years makes one obliged to express admiration towards Sultan Qaboos and towards the brotherly people of Oman. Comparing the Oman of the past with what it has become today, one cannot but find himself showing respect to this people who have proved that the impossible could not block their willpower, ambition and determination to achieve advancement. Oman, a country blending the past with the present, feels proud of its past and aspires for the future.

During my recent visit to Oman, I was dazzled with the progress in construction it has made during recent years. I felt pleased to see an Arab country that could push forward



Modern Ruwi - The Capital's Business District



Nakhla Historical Fort



Some students during Graduation Attended Ceremony at Sultan Qaboos University



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said - Sultan of Oman

with firm steps towards the coming century. The moment you set your foot on the land of Oman you notice the volume of the great efforts exerted there to make the country occupy an outstanding position in the world. There is advancement in construction, health, education and social services in order to help the citizens qualified to bear the responsibility for developing their homeland.

In education, the Omanis have exerted big efforts to acquire modern technology and manage to use computers and the Internet in their schools. And to give an example, the number of schools in Oman has risen from 3 in 1969 to 970 in 1998-99 and scheduled to rise to 1,045 in the year 2000. There are now 528,358 students studying at public schools and 23,560 students in private schools. The Number of hospitals has now risen to 47, in addition to 7 health complexes and 110 health centres.

Oman's economy has made a big leap in quantity and quality at annual development rates considered to be among the best in the world. There is a noticeable increase in contribution of non-oil sectors in gross domestic product as part of diversification policy in resources of the national income.

Tourism constitutes an important factor of the Omani upswing especially in that the country possesses many tourist constituents represented in folkloric traditional arts that could be an element of attraction for tourists from various parts of the world. The historical sites in Oman form one of the most beautiful attractions of tourism in Oman. As for the communication sector, the total length of roads amounted to 6,329 kms in addition to finishing a project of building a 245km long road linking the border areas of Oman to the republic of Yemen to be a means for maintaining and strengthening trade relationship between the two peoples.

Oman's foreign policy is characterised by establishing good diplomatic relations with all countries of the world. Recently Sultan Qaboos of Oman was awarded the prize of world peace in acknowledgment of his role in serving regional and international peaceful issues.



Some students during Graduation Attended Ceremony at Sultan Qaboos University

Continued from page 5

## Working Children in Yemen: A Generation Prone to Disaster

It is a common belief that education is an important tool for development. It is education that generates sound people who can help in the development of their societies. As long as education is well-built and strong, its outcome becomes strong and vital. Therefore, our fragile educational system has to be restructured. The curriculum should be renewed to include syllabi that address the changing world and its evolution to attract the interest of children. More importantly, the government should pass a law that makes basic education compulsory. It should also impose fines against students who are truant from school. At the same time the government should make education a free service and not ask for the higher tuition fees which most of the parents in Yemen can not afford. The condition of the Yemen teacher should be improved. His salary should be increased so that he/she devotes himself/herself to the teaching process and not engage himself in extra work to improve his living conditions. As vocational and technical education is vital for development, the government should pay more attention to the issue of this type of education. This education will generate students who are technically professional, able to produce and are active members of the society. Therefore, the government should open recreational centers to discover the skills of every child and accordingly polish them. In this way,

we will have made education a tool for development and therefore there will be a relationship between the output of education and the input of development. In this respect, the government should provide our teachers with constant training to get them acquainted with everything new in the field of teaching. The question of female education, particularly in the countryside, should be considered with peeled eyes. I believe that if such suggestions materialize, children will be more attracted towards schools and hence the number of truant and working children will go down. Otherwise, the future heralds a bad omen since illiteracy among our children will skyrocket.

The Ministry of Labor should issue a law that bans the work of children under the age of 18 years. Moreover, the current laws on children and juvenile delinquents should be enforced. I think the government can not tackle all of these problems alone. Therefore, I suggest that the government, the private sector, charitable societies, and NGOs concerned with children and their rights should all contribute to solve or at least alleviate the problem of working children in Yemen. As child workers are mostly orphans or poor, the Ministry of Social Affairs should help in this respect. It should build recreational centers for such helpless creatures and provide them

with food, health care and, above all, technical training to help them learn a profession. Poor families can be helped in a similar way. They should be provided with development projects of economic value. In other words, they should be trained to perform some kind of handicraft work to support themselves. I read in one of the newspapers that in Egypt the same thing has been done. So, we can benefit from their experience in this field. Finally, we should all remember that children are the power-house of energy and future builders of any society. When these pillars are well-built and nourished, the society becomes well structured, strong and sound. Otherwise, these children become so fragile that they can not even crawl towards the future. A nation is strong as long as its future builders are strong and are able to speed up progress towards a better tomorrow, since they are a vital tool for change and development. Therefore, I call all the authorities and NGOs concerned to join hands to avoid a disastrous and tragic end of a whole generation.

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2-Working Children: A Closer Look By: Sheena Crawford, Ph.D. Radda Barmen Yemen  
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# Al-Fadool: A Silver Lining in the Dark Past Decades of Yemen

Saleh Abdulbaqi  
Cultural Editor

Talking about literary figures and poets is an awe-inspiring matter, for when we talk about the lives, footsteps and heritage of these cream of the society we find ourselves unable to give them their due right. However, it is our duty to shed some light on their works and achievements. What I want to put on display in this article is a multidimensional genius who left conspicuous imprints in the history of our literature. He was the great literary figure Abdullah Abdul Wahab "Al-Fadool" who was considered to be among the very few who held top places among Yemeni literary figures.

He made clearcut marks in the history of Yemeni songs and poetry. He had the power to translate his sincere passions and emotions into words.

It is a commonly held belief that literature is the mirror of life and what literary men do is to reflect some events of our practical life in an artistic and magnificent way. Al-Fadool sung about all aspects of Yemeni life. He, along with Ayoob Tarish Absi, committed themselves to excel in this field. They have formed an unrivaled couple that could never be matched. One used to write poems and the other set them to haunting melodies, the most famous being the national anthem. Their work met with grand success.

Al-Fadool was quite instrumental during the 1960s. He was considered to be one of those few who contributed a lot and played a crucial role to the Yemeni National Freedom Movement. He was the sensitive poet, active and sarcastic journalist, and the ordinary person who was very much concerned with everything taking place around him.

He was born in Al-Hogariah district, Taiz in 1917. He was brought up there and received his primary schooling there. Then, he moved to Sana'a and Zabid, which were very famous for science during that time, to complete his studies. After he completed his studies he went to Aden and started his career as a journalist. He established his own newspaper and named it after himself; "Al-Fadool." The paper was established at a dark time both in the South where the British colonization was taking control and in the North where the tyrant Imam reigned. This paper gave him great publicity. He had neither an office nor an editorial staff in Aden. He was the one and only working staff. He used to carry everything in his bag which he never abandoned. He used to call his bag as "Al-Fadool Saddle" which was his movable administration through which he could do much to criticize the terrible despotic tyranny of both reigns. He used to mingle comic with somberness. However, the British authority gave orders to close it as a result of its critical attitude.

After the declaration of the Republic in the North on September 26, 1962 opened a new era for Yemeni society, he held high positions including the Ministry of Media in Sana'a.

He had contributed considerably to the social, political, traditional, religious, and economic dimensions of Yemeni society. He then gave up being a journalist saying that we had to admit that our role was over. He felt that he found himself more in poetry. Al-Fadool started his literary career specifically in 1968. He devoted his whole life to writing modern poetry. As mentioned earlier he was accompanied most by Ayoob Tarish. They worked in perfect harmony and complemented each other well. They had the same way of thinking and the profound love for

their homeland. Al-Fadool used to write poems that had a profound impact. Their ideas were brought from far-fetched sources which were often mixed with Yemeni features. Listening to these poems will make anyone sit up and take note. His poems were considered to be the source of the Yemenis' hopes and ambitions throughout the 1970s. They were crowned by the reunification declared in 1990. To cap it off, Abdullah Abdul Wahab "Al-Fadool" was one of the outstanding figures who has left clear footsteps in the



history of our literature. He has had a strong impact on all the dimensions of the Yemeni people. He was quite instrumental in emancipating Yemen from the dark decades of oppression and illiteracy. He was honored and was given the literature and arts medal.

He passed away in 1982 at the age of 65. What we hope is that the Ministry of Culture will move and do something to collect all his work and compile them in a book so as to give him his due right, at least after his death.

**ОБЪЯВЛЕНИЕ**  
Граждане Российской Федерации, достигшие 18 лет и находящиеся в Йемене, приглашаются для участия в выборах в Государственную Думу России.  
Для голосования организованы избирательные участки в г.Сана (здание Посольства и Торгового представительства), г.Аден (Генконсульство), г.Ибб (гостиница Феруза, рядом с госпиталем Аль-Саура), г.Ходейда (ул.Муvasалат, дом Абу-Аделя).  
Выборы на территории Йеменской Республики состоятся 17 декабря 1999 г. с 8-00 до 20-00.  
За справками просим заблаговременно обращаться по телефонам: г.Сана - 278719; г.Аден - 232792.  
**Посольство России**

**The Drug Fund** صندوق الدواء  
For Medical Supply للتأمين الطبي

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

Country: REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
Sector: Essential Drugs and medical Supplies  
Specification: The Drug Fund of Yemen  
Subject: Purchase of Essential Drugs and Supplies for Primary Health Care  
Financed by: The Drug Fund  
Amount: USD 3.50 million.

Description:  
The Yemen Drug Fund, P. O. Box 8561, Al Hasabah Zone, Sana'a - Republic of Yemen is floating a tender for the purchase of essential drugs and supplies (tables, injectables and galenicals, Xray consumables and Medical Sundries) to the value of USD3.50 million (YER 560 million). The essential drugs and other supplies must e delivered to the four Regional Drug Funds Stores (Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah and Mukalla). The tender document ref: FUND/MED/3/99 is available from the project authority mentioned above against a payment of USD 100/- per copy. For delivery by courier service an extra USD 50/- is required.

Place of destination: Sana'a, Aden, Al-Hudaydah and Al-Mukalla.  
Duration: 1 year  
Starting date for supply: the 30th of April 2000  
Closing date for supply: the 30th of November 2000  
Closing date for tender: the 10th of January 2000  
Closing time for tender: Not later than 10.00 am

Information: For further information you may contact the Executive Director of the Drug Fund: Mr. Kasseem Abdul-Aziz, P. O. Box 8561, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, tel. (967) 1 252209, fax (967) 1 252209  
Authority: Project Authority: The Drug Fund for The Ministry of Public Health Al-Hasabah Zone, P. O. Box 8561, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, Tel (967) 1 252209, fax (967) 1 252209

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٥٠ موزع معتمد للشركة بجميع المحافظات



# COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## The SFD: An Impressive Show in a Sea of Disappointments



Often, it is thought that commentators and journalists tend to look at the bad side of things, and that they tend to ignore some of the favorable aspects of society – living on sensationalism and excitement. The truth of the matter is that in Yemen, it almost seems hard to ignore human suffering in the wake of a depressed economy that has no mercy on the poor or those with fixed limited incomes and political instability and rising social unrest, thus commentators are forced by the state of the times to reflect the sorrow on the faces one is bound to come across at every turn and in every street corner. Moreover, commentators are usually guided by good intentions and by the belief that the government wishes to be aware as to how the public sees its doings, or does not see its doings, whatever the case may be. On the other hand, it is important to note that for every situation there are causes and effects and for every problem there has to be remedial solutions, if only those concerned can really share these good intents and act with a greater sense of responsibility, which can only be gauged by performance and positive results that are seen and felt on a widespread basis. Well, this brings us to one of the very few good signs of the times and government, where one sees the cooperation of government and the donors as well as the positive responses of the beneficiaries

work hand in hand to produce a dynamic and truly productive phenomenon that produces a gleaming ray of hope in a sea of unlimited problems and discontent. We are, of course, speaking about the Social Fund for Development or the SFD, as it is widely known by all those who work or deal with it. Indeed, in the space allotted here, it would be unjust to try to point out all the positive and refreshing achievements of this truly fantastic organization, where one can readily see how the wise use of funds leads to results felt not just by the direct beneficiaries, but by the general public, the financiers and the government as well. With the broad objectives that the Fund has and the huge amount of funds at its disposal, the SFD has shown that nothing can be overwhelming if there is competence in management, which is guided by good intent, a sincere desire to serve the national interest and to make the maximum use of available resources in a fair and equitable manner. Moreover, the SFD is not like the other government entities that seek to produce an exaggerated public image without having produced anything of material content to back up its bloated image of good and public welfare. On the contrary, the SFD keeps a very low profile mediawise, believing that if its work does not testify to its good performance, then there is no need for any fanfare. On the other hand, why go through all the trouble of trying

to convey how good you are, when others who monitor your performance and have a stake in the good results you achieve will do that for you and continue to back you up as long as you are performing to their satisfaction and meeting their intended targets accordingly. This is the kind of organizational acumen that is indeed refreshing and leads one to believe that there is hope that, really, all is not lost after all. The Social Fund for Development is one of the very few, but by no means small, good elements of the Yemeni Government's Social Safety Net, which is a series of institutional steps to alleviate the hardships of the Economic and Financial Reform Program that has been ongoing since 1995. The SFD was inaugurated in 1997, but has rapidly produced a presence in almost all the districts of the Republic of Yemen. Cosponsored by a Consortium of Donors, including the World Bank (the International Development Association), the European Union, the Dutch Government, the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, and soon to join, the Islamic Development Bank, the SFD has succeeded in exceeding almost all of its intended targets, not by tens of percents, but by a number of times! This is significant, when considering that the Fund has such a wide range of objectives and has to work in the most remote areas of the country that are lacking in any

facilities and services. What is even more impressive is that the SFD is doing this within well-defined cost applications and effectiveness. Mind you, these are not the observations of just this observer, who has had the pleasure in leafing through some of the literature that has been produced by other outside observers, but of the donors, the beneficiaries and the non-governmental organizations that work with the SFD. On the other hand, the management of the SFD has shown that it can both meet the requirements of the donors and produce a positive image of government, by simply not acting the way government seems to act these days. Obviously, the negative attributes of the government are shoved aside and SFD staff are telling the beneficiaries, "Hey, we are here to help you help yourselves. All you have to do is show us that you are really ready to start depending on yourselves and to put in a small stake to reflect your sincerity in keeping what we provide you running, even after our job is done." The SFD does not wait for the donors to dish out their dos and don'ts. On the contrary, the SFD moves ahead of its stakeholders in adapting to its own experiences, so that in the end the donor produced evaluations can only come out with the conclusion that all that needs to be done here is to increase the resources of this dynamic organization to enable the SFD to continue doing good. How refreshing

can one get beyond this. Yes, the donors are all pleased with the ample sums they have entrusted this truly fine vibrant organization with, and they are more than willing to let it carry on beyond the original three year life, that was originally intended for it. As I said before, it would be unjust to produce the statistics that would back up all that has been said before, but the US \$ 83,000,000 that has been committed to the Fund have already found their places in thousands of projects stretching throughout the country, from school buildings, to health units, to water harvesting projects, to small enterprise and micro enterprise finance – all good projects that are felt on a widespread basis and have widespread social impact. Fairly soon, all these funds would be transferred to hundreds of small units that are producing services or providing community needs in areas, where even the traditional line ministries of the government have dared not to venture. But no need to worry, as the donors are keen on continuing this positive side of government, and more funds will continue to come to the SFD, so that its good work is not subject to any abrupt halt. It is urged that all international, regional and bilateral donor agencies jump in on the bandwagon and finally see their funds going in the right direction. It is also important that the government be encouraged by the SFD success story, and work to make sure that all obstacles are cleared for the staff of the Fund to go where they have

to go and do what they have to do to insure that the positive work of the SFD is not hampered by any bureaucratic bottlenecks and political maneuvers. Moreover, the management of the Fund does not seek any pat on the back, it just wants to continue doing what it has been doing without any interference. That is not too much to ask from a government that should really appreciate what the Fund is doing to restore some semblance of a positive image for the government, with the donors as well as with the Yemeni public – which has almost become a loss to find just what it is that the government is really doing for them these days. One very important point that should be raised is that the relatively small SFD staff, led by the hardworking and conscientious Managing Director, Mr. Abdulkarim Ismael Al-Arhabi, has been the hallmark of this phenomenal achievement. Mr. Al-Arhabi, a well-educated and cultured technocrat should be congratulated for guiding this dynamic organization, in "whitening" the face of the government and in letting the donors be reassured that, "Hey, things can be done right in Yemen and that productivity is no mystery to Yemen as long as there is encouragement, a sense of responsibility, accountability and apparent transparency." Carry on SFD staff and rest assured that the Yemeni people are pleased with what you are doing for them. Of course you know that more than anybody else.

# Letters to the Editor

Any letter sent to the Yemen Times office is subject to correction and modification. Letters which are seen suitable for publishing will be published as soon as there is space. Letters without the name of the author will not be published. Yemen Times is not responsible for the contents of the letters.

**Like Fault, Like Punishment**  
On Wednesday, the 27th of Oct., at around 12:30 in the afternoon, I was coming back to my home from the college. On my road, I heard two men talking to each other about the criminals who were killed and hung on a cross. "Twelve bullets penetrated into his body, and still he was alive, and they had to spend two more bullets to kill him," one of them said. "What kind of man is this? Fourteen bullets until he died," the other man said. "By the way, they deserve it." It astonished me when I heard the news and decided to know the whole story. So, I approached them and started to ask about the incident. After that I went home and begun to think about the event. I said to myself that was OK. I would know all the news from the television or newspaper. But neither of them gave any news. I don't know why? Therefore, I tried to collect the news from different sources, until I get the perfect news. The whole story begun in JIBLA, ten years ago, where these criminals entered a jewelry shop which had only the 15 year old son of the owner at the time. The gang of criminals stole the jewelry and kidnapped the boy as well. They committed sodomy and cut the boy into pieces. They thought they got rid of him and there was no one who knew what happened. They forgot that Allah was observing them. Their crimes continued day after day and year after year! Allah may delay, but will not forget! One day the police caught them red-handed and forced them to confess their crimes including the murder of the boy and stealing the jewelry. After they spent a long time in the prison, the court sentenced them to death. After some days, the policemen took the criminals to the stadium in the presence of a large crowd and killed them one by one. One of the criminals was shot with twelve bullets and still he was alive. He asked for water. After he drank, they shot him with two more

bullets, but on the other side of his body. Then he died immediately. Some sources say that, his heart was in the right side of his chest. After killing them, they were hung on a cross and left there for three days. This action was a good lesson for the people to see the result of such crimes. It is worth mentioning that, the whole citizens of Ibb governorate could see the SHAMEFUL sight. Ibrahim Ghanem Al-Dahani Faculty of Art, Ibb University

**English Language Problem**  
Actually, you have taken a responsibility on your-side for developing English language and to promote it in everyone who knows where the global train is going. In order to spread English language by the easiest way and with beautiful style. Now, I would like you to know that I started reading your newspaper from the first time of my studying of the English language. I tell a truth that I get benefit day after day. In spite of this truth but I still have problems. In order that, may I put my hand upon your hands to help me for solving or answering my notes through your newspaper. Perhaps, there are no questions entirely but I would like you to provide me with some notes about the writing compositions and articles or paragraphs. In this subject, I would like you to get some information about my study in faculty of Education department of English Language. Surely I can speak English very well because I have studied for four years and during my study I faced so many problems at the beginning. But I am ambitious and intend to defeat my weakness in the long run. Step by step I have succeeded in overcoming this milestone. What is the result? I have the degree of English language. However, I can't practice what I have studied and can improve neither my language nor my fluency in English after graduation as there are so many factors behind my problems. Of course, these factors began from

the faculty; during my study in the faculty of Education, I have seen:

- 1) There is no English atmosphere.
- 2) There is no language laboratory "L-bab" in the faculty of Education.
- 3) There are no audio-visual devices to help for studying English language in a good way.
- 4) Sometimes, there are no tape-recorders in the college of Education.
- 5) There is no contact with any native speakers during four years of study, only by chance in the streets or any place out of the faculty.
- 6) There are no extra-activities in the faculty which help for improving the language. There is only a 'welcome party' and a 'farewell party.' Some activities come from students such as debates and short meetings.
- 7) There is no interaction between the faculties in this department
- 8) There is a shortage of books in the library. Most of the available books are about drama, novels, poetry and long stories. There are not enough books which deal with pronunciation, writing and spelling which are very important things for study of English.
- 9) There are many words in English which don't depend on logic, especially in their writing and pronunciation.

So, I would like you to help us through your newspaper which is the best English language newspaper in the whole of Yemen. I want you to evaluate me writings and compositions and if there are mistakes in letters, please correct them.  
Saeed Azazi

**Unemployment**  
Unemployment is a terrible social evil next only to hunger and illiteracy. Its horrible outcome is too grave to be overlooked; especially in a country like Yemen where the lack of decent jobs puts the livelihood of thousands of families in jeopardy. If we try to fish for the reasons behind such a malady, we shall come up with plenty. First, the threatening population explosion which is going incredi-

bly out of control. Just as this is going on, thousands of graduates are waiting desperately for jobs to be provided for them. What adds fuel to fire is the fact that many of them are not skilled enough to be depended upon, hence, they become unemployable. On the other hand, the competent ones might tend to demand only white-collar jobs. Moreover, those able to run their own businesses are not prepared to take the risk of self-employment. With all this going on and on, various consequences will float to the surface at full speed! The unemployable person has to make a choice between a life of crime or death from starvation; which might not take him long to decide, especially if he's responsible for feeding several hungry mouths beside his own. "Necessity has its own law." As a result of the outbreak of crimes - thefts, robberies, vandalism, etc. peace will be disturbed, kindling a sense of insecurity and distorting the present and the future as the outrageous waves of civil disobedience - riots, protest, marches, rallies, violent speeches, etc. are likely to break out, engulfing everything in their way in a most impressive manner. Finding a remedy to such a malady is badly needed before it's too late. The case isn't that hopeless though! If the population is to be checked either by giving wide publicity to family planning or through informing people about birth control, the hope of a better future would be welcome to spring in everybody's heart. Increasing the employability of the graduates by reorganizing the educational system, will certainly lead to eradicating unemployment little by little. Finally, as everybody knows "talk does not cook rice" and printing words on papers can not make the situation that is getting worse any better. If the unemployment problem is not solved, God only knows what lies ahead.  
By: Nadwa M. Ahmed Education Faculty.

## A Yemeni Plastic Artist Invents a New Art

Abduljalil Al-Matari is a talented Yemeni plastic artist who had his solo exhibition in Sana'a several days ago, in which he displayed a lot of his fine paintings and marvelous art works with light beams. This latest method of drawing has attracted several local and international observers who were interested in knowing how he could managed to create different images that reflect the solar system, and geometric shapes with a high degree of symmetry. In a statement to Yemen Times, Abduljalil Al-Matari indicated that he did not study art, but rather began drawing as a hobby. He started painting when he was a teenager, and now that he is almost 28, he has fascinated most of the people who saw 60 of his magnif-

icent paintings and drawings, of which 30 were normal plastic art, and the other 30 were images created with light beams. The method which Abduljalil uses to create light pictures is quite simple, but requires a lot of patience and concentration to have a beautiful scene out of light. He reflects the light coming from a source such as a flashlight, on a white sheet or wall after going through various transparent materials such as glass covered with oil or water, etc. Abduljalil added, "I won the first prize in a plastic art contest held at Sana'a University last year. In the contest, I only participated with one painting which was my best painting so far. Every other competitor had several paintings of his, but I only had one, and I thought that it was not fair. However, at the end of the exhibition, I was delighted to receive the first prize for my painting,




which I later gave as a gift to the President of Sana'a University who helped me a lot in promoting my work and encouraged me to do more in this field." When asked whether he thinks that drawing with light would flourish in the future he said, "Of course, I think it is one of the most attractive, interesting, and talent-demanding fields. Hence, I feel that it will gain a lot of significance in the future. I think that the images created using this technique are magical and inspiring as they usually consist of imaginary views from outer space, sunset, sunrise, eclipse, comets, and even extinct creatures. The amazing thing about these images is that they can all be in motion like cartoons that can have magical effects when played with music in the background. That is not all, as with this method, if enough light is available, the art can even be reflected on mountains and clouds. I feel that there will be a great future for this field, however, I also need all the support I can get to reveal this mysterious method to the public and show it to the world." It was quite fascinating to know that such techniques, which are not yet known in the rest of the world, are being used by a talented Yemeni artist. We, at the Yemen Times, believe that if he gets more attention, he may one day be a great artist on an international level.



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## شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

ممثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة - الشيخ صالح سالم باثواب  
وموظفيها وعمالها  
تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات لقائد المسيرة وصانع صرح الوحدة فخامة الرئيس  
**علي عبدالله صالح**  
والي مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر  
والي الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم اليرباني  
والي الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى 32 للاستقلال الوطني في الثلاثين من نوفمبر - والذكرى العاشرة لتوقيع اتفاقية الوحدة اليمنية  
و بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك  
راجين أن تعود هذه المناسبات وقد تحققت المزيد من الإنجازات في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة  
كل عام وأنتم بخير

The Chairman sheikh Saleh Salim Ba-Thawaab,  
employees and Workers of

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The Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar,  
Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and his Cabinet,  
and all Yemeni People

On the occasion of 30th of November,  
and on the occasion of advent of the Holy Month of Ramadhan  
**Many Happy Returns**

# 30 November



Ramadhan  
Mubarak




Pall Mall



# مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

يتقدمون بخالص التهاني والتبريكات  
لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح

والى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني  
والى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر



وذلك بمناسبة ذكرى الجلاء

الثلاثين من نوفمبر

وبمناسبة قرب حلول

شهر رمضان المبارك

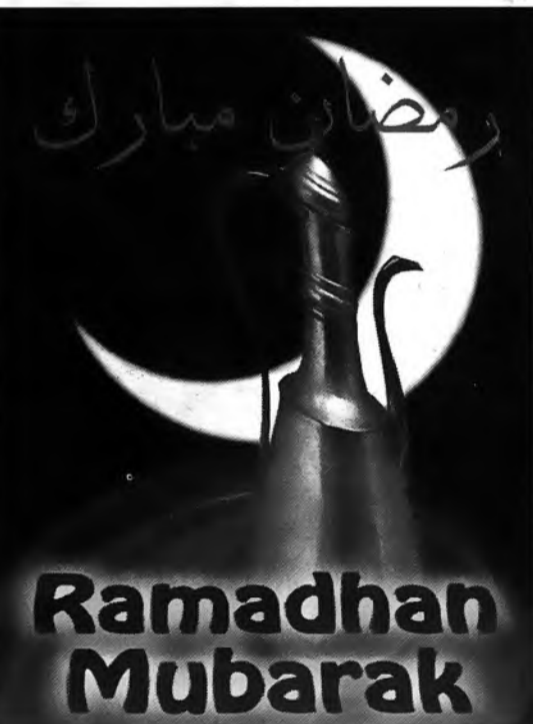
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عن المجموعة:

علي محمد سعيد أنعم، أحمد هائل سعيد  
أنعم



ASAA



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present their best wishes to

**President Ali Abdullah Saleh**

The Government of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani,  
The Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar,  
and the Yemeni People

On the occasion of 30th of November,  
and on the occasion of advent of the Holy Month of Ramadhan  
Many Happy Returns

On behalfe of the group:  
Ali Mohammad Saeed Anaam  
Ahmed hayel Saeed Anaam

**30 November**

# IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH



This weekly Education Supplement is presented by  
**Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,**  
Associate Professor,  
College of Education,  
Mahweet

5- He does not know even the alphabets of English.

### Answers to last week's Quiz

- 1- Credit this sum to my account
- 2- We should always be true to our word.  
Note: "Word" in the above sentence means "promise." Words means words in a language.  
We must be true to our word means we must honor our promise.
- 3- I have read these poems.  
Note: There is no such word "poetries." We do not have the plural form of the word "poetry." Individual pieces are called "poems."
- 4- Such phenomena have never been seen before.  
Note: "Phenomena" is always used in the plural sense. Hence, we use a plural verb with it.
- 5- Some of the guests were sitting on the floor of the room.  
Note: "Ground" refers to enclosed land attached to house.

### III. How to express it in one word?

- 1- One who has no belief in the existence of God
- 2- One who believes in fate
- 3- One who plays a game for pleasure and not professionally
- 4- One who has grown old in or has long experience of (specially military) service or occupation
- 5- One who lends money at very high rates of interest

### Answer to last week's Quiz:

- 1- One who loves and works for his fellow men: **Philanthropist.**
- 2- One who hates mankind: **Misanthrope, Misanthropist.**
- 3- One who hates women: **Misogynist.**
- 4- One who lives on vegetables: **vegetarian**
- 5- One who has belief in the existence of God: **Theist.**

### IV. How to spell it correctly?

Choose the correct spelling of words from the choices given below:

- a) arange, arrange, arrange, aringe
- b) A gast, Agust, Augast, August
- c) accept, acsept, axcept
- d) acording, according, acarding, accarding
- e) adress, address, address, adreis

### Answers to last week's Quiz:

- a) agreement
- b) alone
- c) already
- d) allow
- e) although

### IV. Quotable Quote:

**"If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you aren't, you don't."**

**"Time and tide waits for none."**

### I. What to Say.....

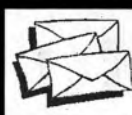
- Mona:** Nabilla, Elham, Fatema. Let me invite you to my birthday party on Thursday next week.
- Nabilla, Elham:** Congratulations in advance. We'll surely be there. What time does the party begin?
- Mona:** Please come around 7 o'clock in the evening. The party begins around 8 o'clock. What about you Fatima?
- Fatima:** I am not so sure. I may have to go to Sana'a with my sister. One of our cousins is getting married two days after your birthday. That is, on Saturday next week.
- Mona:** You mean the one whom I met in your house the other day?
- Fatima:** That's right. Huda's marriage is fixed on Saturday next week.
- Mona:** I am so happy Huda's going to be married. Please, convey her my greetings and best compliments. But I'll be sad to miss you at the party. Could you, by any chance, postpone your journey by one day? I suggest, your sister and you leave for Sana'a on Friday morning. Then, you can come to my house on Thursday evening. Anyway, the marriage function is on Saturday.
- Fatima:** Yes, that is a good idea. I shall try to persuade my sister to go on Friday morning.
- Nabilla, Elham, Fatima:** Our best wishes for your cousin on the happy occasion of her wedding. We are so glad you would be able to join us at the party.
- Fatima:** The pleasure is mine. So we'll go to Mona's place together.  
(Mona's house on her birthday)
- Elham, Nabilla, Fatima:** Happy birthday to you, Mona. Many happy returns of the day.
- Mona:** Thank you all very much. I'm so happy you all are here. Especially I'm thankful to you, Fatima, that you could make it.
- Fatima:** I'm happy too.
- All:** Let's enjoy ourselves.

### II. How to say it correctly

- The following sentences contain an error in some parts. Can you locate the error and correct it?
- 1- Twenty males and thirsty females were selected for admission.
  - 2- What is your date of birth?
  - 3- I met him in the hospital and enquired about his state of health.
  - 4- Scientists have not been able to tell the reason of an earthquake.



## YOUTH FORUM



In order to benefit fully from our studying in the university, we, as students of English, should develop a set of skills to listen, read, speak and write. I will shed light on the importance of developing the oral communication skills in English.

As we know, there are the following aspects of the speaking skill:

- 1 - **Conversational skills:** We ought to know how to take part effectively in conversation. We ought to practice skills such as starting a conversation and keeping it going. Unfortunately, some of us can't keep a conversation going for at least ten minutes.
- 2 - **Discussion:** students should be capable of participating effectively in classroom interactions. The principles of arguing on any issue are necessary to acquire and practice.

**3- Listening and note-taking skills:** This helps us to take note when listening to lectures. In order to do this, we must practice recognizing the organization of a lecture, identifying the main points, and noting down in an organized fashion.

I might add to what I mentioned above that our teachers need to pay close attention to the accuracy of our spoken language. This can be achieved by informing us of errors of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, pointing out the areas in which we need to improve. Moreover, to make progress achievable, we should have at least one note-book solely devoted to vocabulary, developing an effective system for recording, organizing and revising new language. A good dictionary, with examples, and information about

the pronunciation and grammar is another valuable aid to learning.

**Mohammed Ali Ahmad**  
College of Education,  
Mahweet.

### Congratulations,

#### Yemen Times

At first I would like to convey my love and appreciation for Yemen Times. It is a newspaper which most people love. Would you believe me if I tell you that Yemen Times has helped many of us to improve our English? I always read it. It gives me lots of new words and a general cultural outlook.

Finally, I thank all the staff of Yemen Times especially the Editor-in-Chief Walid Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaq. Thank you.

**Abdullah M. Ghazi, Taiz**

**Golden Advice**  
Do you want to live in hap-

piness??  
If you do,  
\* You must have a pure heart, a heart that is free from evil thoughts.

\* You must cultivate behavior in accordance with the highest ethical principles.  
\* You must treat others fairly.  
\* You must help others in everything.

\* You must be the master of your time, and not its slave.  
\* Never envy your friends.  
\* Be far away from wrong doings.  
\* Let a happy smile adorn your face always.  
\* Do not worry and be hopeful.  
Happiness is not something very difficult to get, is it?

**Mohammed Hassan Bakheet**  
Department of English  
Faculty of Education  
Hodeidah

## Value Oriented Education

**Dr. P. A. Abraham**  
Sana'a University

We live in an age where man has made rapid progress in science and technology, in the acquisition of knowledge about the outer world and in discovering the wonders of materialistic means. In the process, we forgot the human being, the inner self, with the result that emotional imbalance, moral degradation, economic barbarism, corruption, tension, terrorism and crime have become rampant everywhere. And what have we achieved? Powerful weapons, faster communication, computers, production of consumer articles to satisfy our growing lust and greed. This failure is now being increasingly realized by philosophers, scientists and religious leaders. Hence the importance of value based education which is now understood as synonymous with moral education.

Value oriented education, in its broad sense, not only includes the inculcation of moral and ethical values, but also spiritual, humanistic, scientific, aesthetic and sporting values. Thus, comprehensively, moral education means value oriented education.

Is moral education different from religious education? Being moral and being religious are not the same. Being moral, or value oriented, means understanding the principles of right and wrong and acting in the right way. Being religious refers to having belief in a supernatural power of God. It is not logically necessary for a value oriented person to have faith in religion. One could be value oriented without committing oneself to any religious faith. Should value based education be taken to be essentially a matter of developing character? Character, which refers to appropriate conduct and behavior, is undoubtedly a very important aim of value oriented education. But this does not mean that value oriented education has no knowledge component in it. In fact the ability to make a moral judgment based on sound reasoning is also an equally important aim of value oriented education. This ability has to be deliberately cultivated. Furthermore, character is not just a matter of conforming to certain virtues or norms. Blind adherence to custom or mechanical conformity with tradition is not a real indicator of moral character. Is value based education essentially a matter of educating the feel-

ings and emotions?

Morality is not just developing the right feelings and emotions. Moral development involves both thinking morally and behaving morally. Even effective outcomes are developed through their cognitive components. Moral thinking is a distinct type of thinking characterized by the exercise of rational choice. The separation of the cognitive and effective aspects of moral development is untenable. A moral person not only does the right thing but also knows the reason why he does it.

Value oriented education is thus a complex process which involves developing the ability to do right things, and also the ability to feel the right emotions.

There are two important methods of imparting value oriented education - direct method and indirect method. The direct method refers to a deliberate systematic approach by the teacher to teach important values and morals as a subject. This method may include regular classroom instruction and discussion to develop knowledge and understanding of moral values. Opportunities would be given to the students for resolving the questions on moral values in concrete situations.

The argument against this method is that there is already a big curriculum load on the students and the addition of one more object would not be welcomed by the students and teachers.

Through the indirect method, value oriented education is given by the suggestion or by implications and not directly through subjects already included in the curriculum. For example, literature, languages and other branches of humanities have great scope to help the students to distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad. Every teacher, whatever the subject he teaches, must see to it that in the teaching of his subject and dealings with his students, fundamental values such as integrity and social responsibility are brought out.

Different methods can be adopted while imparting value based education keeping in view the mental maturity level of the students. Of course, value based education programs must have clear objectives to be achieved. The important aims are: To make students understand the basic moral rules which govern all human behaviors, to help the student in thinking on rational lines and make moral deci-

sions by reasoning, to be aware of one's own cultural heritage and those of other societies, to develop in him a sense of empathy for others thoughts, feelings and opinions, to develop in him the ability to exhibit emotional maturity to various situations, to develop in him a sense of commitment in whatever he does, to help him develop meaningful human relationships with others, to help him evolve a code of ethics for himself with appropriate priorities.

The content material for a course in value based education should be made keeping in mind the student's level of comprehension and intellectual development.

Various instructional methodologies appropriate to different age groups may be thought of. There can be story telling, discussion, self study by students, visits to places of social importance, dramatization and role-playing, talks by eminent speakers, debates, brain storming, team learning, etc. The mass media, such as: newspapers, radio and television may design and project special programs for the development of values in children and also provide guidance to teachers in orienting them.

Various instructional materials and media, such as: textbooks, supplementary readers, posters, films, tapes and slides should be employed to make the course interesting and effective. These materials have to be specially prepared by agencies involved in the promotion of value based education. Teachers have a special role to play in the successful implementation of value oriented education. In the daily round of his teaching the teacher should see that his students are growing in moral awareness and experiencing enriched personalities.

The teacher should establish and maintain clear standards of behavior and encourage his students to behave towards himself, towards one another and towards the whole society in a very nice, orderly way. Every educational institute demands a certain standard of behavior from his students. The teacher should develop a rational acceptance of these standards in his students and also the ability to distinguish right from wrong.

The teacher also has to be a model for his students, a model of a free, rational and moral person who should be emulated by his students.

## Yemen Times Weekly Competition:

Issue no.  
49

### مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

Search for the answer of the question below within the contents of this issue and write the answer clearly along with the article's title and page number. Please cut out this coupon and send it to our Sana'a Head Office. The winners will be selected through drawing lots. The awards are YR 8,000 for 1st place, YR 5,000 for 2nd place, YR 4,000 for 3rd place and YR 3,000 for 4th place. The winners' names will be announced in the issue after two weeks. Answers will only be acceptable within 13 days after the date of issuance. Please write the number of the issue of the Yemen Times that you cut the coupon from on the envelope. One person can send more than one coupon to have a higher possibility of winning. Answers sent by fax or photocopy will not be accepted.

### Question of the Week

Why is managing TV programs a tough task?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Article's Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Page no. \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Answer of 47th Issue Competition:

Page: 6, Title: Agriculture in Yemen, Caption: "the expanse of Sands on arable land as a result of the lack of rain."

#### Winners of the 47th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

**Ammar Ali Mahdi, Sana'a**

Second Prize (YR 5000)

**Mohammad Sagher Mohammad Hamady, Ibb**

Third Prize (YR 4000)

**Mona Hizm Ahmad Al-Hada'a, Sana'a**

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

**Ahmed Abdul-Khaleq Al-Ariqi, Sana'a**

#### Congratulations to All Winners

To receive their prizes, winners should come with their IDs to the Yemen Times Sana'a Office, near the Palestinian Embassy, Hadda Street. Tel. 268861. Winners from other regions can contact our bureaux in Aden or Taiz. No prizes will be given to winners who do not come within one month from the day of announcing their names.

# Welcome Ramadhan

Only a few days are left until Ramadhan which is considered to be one of the most important months for all Muslims. This holy month teaches Muslims a lot of invaluable lessons. The importance of this month is stressed by the Holy Qura'an which made it clear that this month has lots of virtues that should be observed by Muslims to receive the mercy of God. This month is also important for Muslims to test their faith and sincere abidance by Islam's teaching. For example, by abstaining from eating and drinking all day, they learn how to be patient and how to control themselves. Moreover, fasting helps revive the spirit of mercy, charity and altruism among people by



making them feel for the poor who may spend days and nights with nothing to eat. Earlier generations tended to abide by all the good values and customs of Ramadhan than the present generation. Ramadhan was also a month of work and productivity. As an illustration in point we find that the first conquest (Bader) ever won by the

Prophet Mohammed (Peace and prayers be upon him) and Muslims was during Ramadhan. There were many others which took place in Ramadhan. Unfortunately, many Muslims misunderstand this fact and consider Ramadhan to be a month for sleep and food. Moreover, all good values have come to disappear from the face of earth for many people, who have become concerned with how to enrich their meals with so many different kinds of cuisine. Instead of being a month of asceticism, it has become a month of extravagance and care-less expenditure. During Ramadhan there are some good, benevo-

lent people who organize and hold banquets for the poor and needy people who are living in abject poverty. These banquets are organized throughout the month which gives a very nice picture of the solidarity among the haves and the have-nots. Another feature of Ramadhan is that in Ramadhan we distribute alms (Zakat). According to the instructions of the Holy Qura'an, the well-to-do have to give specific portions of their money that will be distributed to the deserving poor. This money, if distributed properly, will relieve some of the pain of many miserable people in our society. On another level, medical

researches and studies have shown what benefits fasters get during this month. For example, fasting is considered to be the best way to help smokers abandon smoking. There are a lot of other advantages that doctors have spoken about on many different occasions. During the last ten days of Ramadhan, Muslims intensify their prayer-hours in mosques for they believe that during these ten days, there is a day (Leilat Al-Qadr) in which God bestows His unlimited mercy on worshippers. Therefore, many of them try their best not to miss such a holy day.

The month ends with the coming of Eid Al-Fitre (Lesser Bairam) during which Muslims celebrate their togetherness with their families, relatives and friends. I hope that we will treat it as it deserves to be treated.

Yasser Mohammed Ahmad  
Yemen Times

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