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YEMEN STRIKES GOLD!

The CEO of Canadian Ministry Company has recently announced a major gold discovery in Yemen, adding it may have discovered a gold mine in Yemen.
Charles Fibke, the geologist and director described the gold mine, in the Al-Hariqah area, northeast of Yemen, as the best gold property he is ever been on.
The company sources say that Context Mine Development Corp. has acquired the exclusive rights to over 40,000 Sq. Km. in northwestern Yemen, about 8% of the country's total area. It is also reported that on November 13th the company started drilling on all Al-Hariqah gold deposit in Yemen. Twelve holes have so far been drilled in the area.

Continued on Page 2



USA Ambassador Denies Claims That She Left Her Post as Ambassador to Yemen

SANA'A: The Embassy of the United States of America sent Yemen Times a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Abdulaziz Sultan Al-Mansoub, the Chief Editor of Al-Wahdawi Newspaper (Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionists Party) as a response to an article published in the paper several days ago. In her letter she condemned the false information published about her situation, and expressed her dissatisfaction with the article's contents which she mentioned as "replete with errors."
In a statement to Yemen Times, Her Excellency, Ms. Barbara Bodine said, "I was shocked to read such an article, and I feel upset that the freedom of press is being misinterpreted to write whatever you want." "I did not demand an apology, but the least I expect is the clarification that the article was not true."

Complete letter on page 2.

Westminster Court Hearings Confirm that the: UK Tourists Were Used as Human Shields

Inquests conducted by the British anti-terrorism police disclosed that two of the four tourists kidnapped in Yemen last December were killed by bullets fired by Yemeni troops during their attempts to rescue them.
Press sources said the four hostages were killed after the kidnappers used them as human shields during the battle between them and Yemeni troops on top of one of the mounds. The four hostages who were killed during the battle were Andrew Thirsk 35, Margaret Whitehouse 52, Edward

Rowe 60, and Ruth Williamson 34.
The sources also quoted British Police Detective Sergeant O'shea as telling a British court that, "The kidnappers began shooting at the Yemeni soldiers. They were using the hostages in the smaller groups as shields on top of a mound, with their arms on their heads."
The tourists were touring Yemen when they were attacked and taken hostage by a small radical Moslem group, the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army.

250 Houses Ruined by Floods in Socotra

Four successive days of torrential rains on Yemen's Socotra island, 350 km off the south coast, have severely damaged 250 homes and inflicted heavy damage to the island's farms and palm tree groves, government sources said on Monday, December 6.
The sources added that heavy rains and torrents cut telephone lines and damaged a large number of electricity and water installations, flooded farms and swept away hundreds of cattle, and left hundreds of the island's 100,000 inhabitants homeless.

The sources described the living condition of the people of the island as very difficult, appealing to international humanitarian and relief agencies and donor countries for assistance.
A government committee was set up to assess the damage and to offer relief for the inhabitants who fled to the mountains because of the torrents.
The government of Yemen has been planning to develop tourism on the island, which is known for its rare birds and plants.

Last Chance to Nominate the 1999 Person of the Year

As we are quickly approaching the end of 1999, we announce that the coming week will be the last chance for all who want to nominate a person for the 1999 person of the year title. This is the last opportunity to send your nominations to the Yemen Times 1999 Person of the Year Award. The award is given to a Yemeni person (male or female) who has succeeded in life (family + career), and who has made a visible contribution to the public. Nominations may be sent directly to the Yemen Times.

Nominations should be based on the following main qualifications:

1) The nominee must have a successful private life in terms of family and career;

2) The nominee must have made a visible contribution to Yemen. The Yemen Times persons of the year for the past eight years were Dr. Tariq Sinan Abu Luhum (1991), Engineer Ahmed Al-Anisi (1992), Ali Mohammed Saeed (1993), Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby (1994), Dr. Wahiba Ghaleb Fare' (1995), Dr. Mohammed Al-Naqeeb (1996), Dr. Yasseen Al-Qubati (1997), and Dr. Ahmed Al-Saqqaf (1998). Nominations for YT 1999 Person of the Year should be addressed to:

Person of the Year Committee - Yemen Times,
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a; OR fax: (01) 268-276
OR Email: Person99@yementimes.com

ترقبوا مسابقة يمن تايمز الكبرى ٢٠٠٠
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Words of Wisdom

"In many countries, some media organizations are given the right to yell or write the way they want. But, when public opinion is not important, how much of a difference can a critical media make?"

Moreover, the state often owns stronger and more influential media which can transmit a different message to the public, thus confusing the picture. In many countries, the state still has a monopoly over television and radio stations, and owns lots of journals."

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



In Brief

"Security Forces Attack Villagers in Marib"

The Sons of the Yemeni League "Ra'ay" issued a statement on December 11, 1999 condemning some actions conducted by the security and military forces against people which have frightened so many children, women and old men in this holy month. Many people were killed. The statement also requested that official organizations investigate the matter that has claimed the life of sheikh Ali Bin Ahmad Bin Showdak. The statement stated "we strongly condemn this aggressive action that gives a clear picture of handling security in the governorate."

The statement requested members of Parliament to search for the truth and follow-up investigations of the killing of the sheikh and the random canonizing against the people. They also called for submitting those responsible for court. They also called for local and international organizations concerned with human rights to stand against anyone who pursues any actions as such which according to the statement "oppresses the human rights of anyone who is in search of a secure living from his government."

Mousa: A Victim of Irresponsible Doctors



The 5-year-old child Mousa Abdullah Al-Yajouri was, like other children of his age, enjoying playing and running here and there. He was dreaming of a beautiful future while his eyes were shining with hope and innocence. One day Mousa felt a sharp pain in his throat and was taken to Al-Sabeen maternity & pediatric hospital, and there the doctors decided he should have a tonsillectomy. Fate proved to be against Mousa and his poor father. After the operation Mousa remained unconscious for a long time. When he recovered his consciousness it was found that he had become totally paralyzed due to the negligence of the anesthesiologist. Poor Mousa's case needs to be cured abroad. But despite the President's and the Prime Minister's directives, the ministers of health and finance refuse to send Mousa abroad for treatment. It seems that the only explanation of their stance is that the child is from a poor family and not a son of outstanding personality. Is there anyone

who can help this child?

Military Camp Attacked in Marib

A military fight erupted Saturday between military forces and Obaidah tribe in Marib after an attack led by the tribe on a military camp in the governorate. The tribe's attack followed the death of one of its members who was killed by military men while arguing about a gun the victim was carrying. Following this event, the governor of Marib formed a committee to solve the problem.

Mahboob Ali Escaped an Attack

In the last meeting of the Journalists Syndicate held yesterday, an attack was attempted on its president, Mr. Mahboob Ali, by his colleague Mutaahar Al-Ashmouri due to disputes over the Syndicate affairs. Yemen Times has heard that the Syndicate is on the view that Al-Ashmouri should be sacked. On another level, it has been heard that Al-Ashmouri had resigned from his post as a chief editor of Al-Riadiah newspaper.

Student's Office Held a Seminar

Under the title "Political Pluralism - Future Prospects," a seminar was organized by the students' office of the Islah Party. The outcome of the seminar was that people's unawareness of their political rights and duties is the main stumbling block on the way of the democratic process. People are not aware that rights are taken by force and are not given willingly. They have criticized the form ruling power in which every authority is overlapping each other. The participants expressed their hopes to get rid of the obstacles they face through more understanding and discussion between the political powers. On another level, participants pointed out that freedom of expression that is allotted to people is negatively dealt with by the ruling power which is oppressing freedom of the press.

Course on Ozone Layer

The Environmental Protection Council in Aden, organized a 2-day course about the Ozone layer for media people on December 5-6. The course aimed at raising the awareness about the dangers of the Ozone hole and its far-reaching consequences. During the course, Dr. Jamal Al-Lawzi talked about the importance of the issue and the role that media people should play in raising people's awareness about the importance of keeping the environment clean. He also said that the Council would

hold a number of meetings with factory and industries owners to discuss the alternatives that can replace the chemical substances used in manufacturing which negatively affect the Ozone layer. The course was concluded by distributing certificates among attendants.

Young Yemeni People Fighting in Chechnya

Reliable sources have told the Yemen Times that about 200 young Yemenis are fighting against Russia in Chechnya. At another level about 50 Yemeni Afghans arrived in Pakistan last month for military training before transferring them to Chechnya. The same source said that young Yemeni men are transferred to Chechnya through an office headed by an Islamic leader under the slogan of Fighting for God. It is also said that a well known Islamic leader has donated a great amount of money to help carry out these operations and to provide each person with tickets and US\$ 500 per month.

E.R. & W.S.C. Students Appeal to President

In a letter to President Saleh, students of the Empirical Research and Women Studies Center urged him to turn down the decision to cancel the center and establish a new center called Woman Studies Center. They stated that they all-out reject this center for a number of reasons including that the decision to close the center paid no attention to more than a hundred students studying in the center who are preparing for higher studies. More than 150 students are affected by its closure for they won't be able to finish their studies.

The closure of the center was not made after the curricula and center activities were evaluated by an academic committee. Rather, it was done after a strong aggressive campaign against the center and those working in it was conducted. The committee assigned to investigate the matter did not meet any of the concerned, neither did it meet the students who could say how things are at the center.

Al-Ray Al-Aam Newspaper Fined

In its last session held on December 7, the West Capital Secretariat Court brought in a verdict to fine Al-Ray Al-Aam newspaper and its chief editor YR20,000. The newspaper stood trial after a case was filed against it by the Ministry of Information because it published a photo with the caption "When will this government leave?" The defense lawyer introduced an appeal saying that the accusation and investigation process, etc. were all unfair.

UNDP and Italy Extend Help to Socotra

The government of Italy and the United Nations development Program have signed an agreement in which the Italian government will contribute US \$600,000 and the UNDP will provide US \$350,433 to cover the environment, natural resources and health management in Socotra Island. This will be managed under the Regional Development Component of the Poverty Alleviation Program in collaboration with Environment Protection Council and Ministry of Public Health and is expected to start in January 2000.

New Iranian Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has received the credentials of Mr. Asghar Quraishi as the Ambassador of Iran to Yemen. Mr. Kahnagi has held many positions before being appointed an ambassador. He was the Director General of Guidance in Karman in 1980, Assistant Manager of the Islamic Studies Office at the Ministry of Guidance in 1982, Director General of Culture and Social Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1983-1987, Director General of South and East Asia Office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988-1990, Iranian Ambassador to Indonesia in 1990-1994, Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office in the Judicial Authority in 1995-1999. His present post is as an advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



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The Letter of the American Ambassador to Al-Wahdawi Chief Editor

Mr. Abdul-Aziz Sultan Al-Mansub
Editor of Al-Wahdawi
P.O. Box 13010
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Dear Mr. Al-Mansub,

I have just returned from an official visit to Washington to read your recent article concerning my departure from Yemen. Normally I would not respond to such an article, as replete with errors as it is. But, since this directly concerns my status and tenure here, I feel obliged to correct the record.

- I am not departing Yemen soon, nor has my assignment to Yemen been curtailed. I will leave as and when normally scheduled.

- The allegation concerning falsification of a report from my Embassy to the US Government or the US Senate is without foundation, baseless and insulting.

- By Constitution and by custom, the Senate does not have the authority to demand the recall of an Ambassador. An American Ambassador serves the President and is the President's representative.

The Senate's role is to consent to that assignment when it is initially proposed. It has no role thereafter.

- The previous Ambassador to Yemen, David Newton, did not become the Under Secretary Assistant for Middle East Affairs. He retired from government service at the time and now lives with his family in Europe.

- The officer of this Embassy who resigned was not under investigation for her treatment of Yemenis. She resigned voluntarily and with the regret of this Embassy and the US Government in order to live with and help support her recently widowed mother. Part of aspiring to be a free press in any country is the corresponding acceptance and responsibility by that press to be as accurate and factual as possible. A simple phone call to the U.S. Embassy would have corrected these errors in fact, analysis and conclusions and saved your respected journal from the embarrassment of such a faulty article.

I look forward to the remainder of my assignment in Yemen and to future issues of your newspaper.

Continued from page 1:

Yemen Strikes Gold

On the other hand geologist Fibke says the gold deposit is over a 3 kilometer long area, adding that they are trying to test the zones on the 3 kilometer strike length. Asked whether there will be revealed mines in the area, Mr. Fibke has said they also have zinc, lead and silver deposits in the rocks in the area, not far from Al-Hariqah.

The company has chosen to start drilling at the Al-Hariqah site "because of the persistence of the gold occurrences. Each new showing led to yet another showing. The gold can be seen in flat lying quartz veins." The company says that at Al-Hariqah there are baseball to basketball-sized pods of very high grade materialization. The best examples have gold grades ranging from 3 to 186 grams per tonne.

Yemen Times conducted an interview with Dr. Ismail Al-Jund, head of the Geological Survey and Mineral Wealth Authority in Yemen who emphasized that operations for mineral discoveries accomplished during the past period by several foreign companies resulted in showing gold and other minerals. He further said that these companies' efforts proved to be successful. They have spotted specific areas where mineralization exists within the area of the exclusive rights acquired by the Context Mine Development Corp., situated in north-west of Yemen, Hajjah, Sa'ada and Al Jawf. He has also confirmed that the company has achieved a significant discovery of gold in Al-Hariqah and Bani Rahib in Hajjah governorate, the final findings of which are good and encouraging.



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The more your purchases are the more coupons you win. Do not miss your chance in this blessing month.



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Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-WAHDAMI, People's Nasserite

The American Ambassador: I'm not leaving

The American Ambassador to Yemen, Ms. Barbara Bodine, sent a letter to Al-Wahdawi in which she said that she is not leaving Yemen and will stay until her term in Yemen is concluded.

The American Ambassador added, in an answer to what was published by Al-Wahdawi last week, that the published report that she 'twisted' a report to the American Administration or to Congress was baseless and offensive. Our sources confirmed our published story and wondered how the Ambassador could ignore the main facts of the story about moving Yemen to the list of countries with some transparency in military expenditure (Full text of the Ambassador's letter and Al-Wahdawi's comments on page 2).

AL-RA'Y AL-A'M, Independent

Wide Popular, Political & Media Condemnation:

The sinful attempt to assassinate the Chief Editor, Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Ulufi, of 'Al-Ra'y Al-A'm Press and Publishing House' by a criminal gang led by the so-called Mohammed Mohammed Uthrub, his brothers, and the so-called Mohammed Saleh Al-Qisami and his sons, was met with angry reactions by media, economic, popular, political and social circles. All these circles denounced the barbaric attempt and strongly condemned the feebleness of security organs which through refraining from bringing about a prompt end to that evil gang had enabled it to become a professional gang that kills, plunders, loots and engages in highway robbery and enjoys the support of high government officials.

It is recalled that the Chairman has received tens of telegrams from high officials, businessmen, ambassadors, sheikhs and media leaders which unanimously condemned the sinful attempt of assassination and congratulated him for safety and expressed their full support and solidarity with him and Al-Ra'y Al-A'm.

AL-WAHDAMI, Official

"No" to Violence against Women: The Second Yemeni Conference to Fight Violence Against Women, which was organized by the Center for Supporting the Issues of Women and the UN Women's Development Fund on the occasion of the 51 anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights, was convened under the slogan 'No to Violence Against Women.' It recommended an increase of the Female cadres in the Offices of the Public Attorney and the Judiciary. The Conference also called upon women to join in female and syndicate voluntary activities. During the conference, a number of papers covering international agreements on human rights ratified by Yemen, Laws and the Constitution of Yemen and their role in concentrating violence against women, and Islamic Sharia'h and its role in limiting violence against women, and lastly, Civil Organizations and Violence against Women, were read.

AL-SAHWA, Islah Party

Parliamentary Recommendations to Prohibit 'Gender' Teaching:

The Parliament Committees on Islamic Sharia'h Codification, Justice and Endowment and Youth and Higher Education have all recommended that Parliament should prohibit teaching, using and any application of 'Gender'

in all corporations and authorities and aspects. These committees said in a report, of which Al-Sahwa has a copy, that the expression 'gender' is a camouflaged expression which is being used to express a number of meanings which are all about the traditional family system that was established by all revealed and earthly faiths.

The study added that this expression was used during the Peking Conference to mean the freedom of 'non-typical life' and was explained in several UN documents to mean many forms of family, said to number more than 12 forms, including families of the same sex!

The committees indicated that with the exception of the U.S.A., the U.K., Israel and a small number of western countries, most countries that participated in the 1996 Istanbul Conference had rejected this expression.

The draft is prepared at a time during which a number of Yemeni authorities have confirmed that 'Gender' has become linked to international assistance in education, industry and agriculture.

At the Students Solidarity Gathering, Zindani: Chechens Defend our Northern Borders

Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar, the Speaker of Parliament, Chairman of the Higher Authority of the Yemeni Congregation of Islah, has expressed his grave sorrow for the complete silence from Islamic governments towards what Chechen Muslims are facing. He also wondered about the silence of the international community and asked if this is the case because the victims are Muslims.

Sheikh Al-Ahmar was speaking at a Solidarity Gathering which was organized by the branches of the General Union of Yemeni Students at Sana'a University in coordination with the Islamic Da'wah Organization. In his

speech Sheikh Al-Ahmar greeted the people of Chechnya who have kept their Islamic faith and identity. He demanded that the United States should translate the slogans of human rights and the right of self-determination by supporting the people of Chechnya in their fight for independence. He called on businessmen and rich people to give aid to their [Muslim] brethren.

Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani, Chairman of Al-Shoura Council of the Yemeni Congregation of Islah called for the building of an Islamic entity which is politically, economically, culturally and militarily independent, and which the Islamic Ummah can look towards and practice as a united and independent Ummah. Sheikh Zindani said that the Chechen Muslim fighters have always forwarded their lives for defending the northern borders of the Muslim Ummah and they are today facing the Russian terrorist policy of the burnt land.

Attempts to Turn Around The President's Decision to Close the Women Studies Center

Members of the committees that were established by the President, Parliament and Sana'a University have condemned the resolution taken by Sana'a University Council to establish a special center for feminine studies despite the fact that the case of the old one is not finalized yet and continues to work normally within Sana'a University.

They wondered about the cunning ways which some have used to turn around orders of the President that the Committee should prepare a comprehensive report on the old center, its background and relations with all relevant parties. They considered what is going on is an attempt to hide from the general public that the center has become a suspected center that works under the cover of an educational center. It is felt that the people shall not keep quiet if they become aware that a foreign embassy is administering an official government center without any supervision by the Ministry of Planning, something that breaches the sovereignty of the state.

AL-THAWRI, YSP

Clinton call for Freedom of Worship:

President Clinton indicated there are still places at which Muslims don't enjoy the freedom of worship. He added in a statement aimed at Muslims and to believers in other religions on the occasion of the holy Muslim month of Ramadhan that he is looking forward towards a day in which believers in all religions shall be free to worship in an environment of freedom and tolerance; and Americans shall be able to enjoy and gain strength from the aspects of diversity. Mr. Clinton said that Ramadhan carries with it a promise of renewal and hope in a more harmonious world and a better understanding of the plights of the poor and how to reduce their sufferings.

A Campaign against Anti-Women Violence:

The Permanent Arab Court against Violence Aimed at Women announced that its campaign for the 'Right of the Female' that aims to break bands forced on women in ten Arab countries, including Yemen, has begun. In its first phase, the campaign shall shed light upon several problems faced by women in these countries including equality in divorce, unifying of judicial references, women's rights of bringing up children and in marital home, and the establishment of a government fund to guarantee the right of alimony, in addition to personal status systems which don't guarantee for women even the minimum of human rights. These problems are a huge hurdle for female participation in social development and cause an increase of violence and divorce in families and limit the share of women in public life in the Arab World.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

USA

U.S. warns travelers of possible terrorist attacks

The U.S. State Department on Saturday warned of possible terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens traveling abroad for the holidays. The State Department issued a world-wide caution that said the government "had credible information that terrorists are planning attacks specifically targeting American citizens during the period of time leading up to and through the beginning of the New Year and Ramadan events and celebrations."

SYRIA

Syria says accord with Israel may be near

A peace accord with Israel could be reached within a few months, Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said Sunday, a sentiment expressed as well by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. "I am so optimistic to say that few months could be enough to reach a peace agreement," al-Sharaa said in Damascus after a meeting with Egypt's foreign minister ahead of peace talks set to resume this week in Washington.

CHECHNYA

Russia says rebels hindering Chechen refugees

Russian forces accused Chechnya's Islamic militants of hindering the evacuation of the territory's capital Grozny on Sunday after the Russians opened a second route for refugees to flee ahead of a threatened bombardment. A few hundred Chechens heeded Russia's warning to leave Saturday, carrying plastic bags or pulling their possessions on ramshackle carts as they trudged across a mountain pass to take refuge in Russian-controlled areas of Chechnya.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka says it pushes back latest rebel attacks

Sri Lanka's defense ministry said on Sunday government troops had repulsed further attempts by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels to infiltrate a key northern military camp. In a statement, the ministry said 10 rebels were killed when troops engaged a group trying to infiltrate through the southern defensive lines of the Elephant Pass camp.

INDONESIA

Wahid urges end to Christian-Muslim riots

Worried that sectarian violence could spread and tear his huge and restive nation apart, Indonesia's new reformist leader Sunday led unprecedented peace talks to halt bloodshed between Muslims and Christians on the troubled Spice Islands. President Abdurrahman Wahid was cheered by thousands of well-wishers who lined the wrecked streets of Ambon island in Maluku province, often the scene of vicious sectarian battles.

BAHRAIN

A call to release political prisoners in Bahrain

The human rights organization in Bahrain on Friday called on the ruler of the country, Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa al-Khaleifa, to release all political detainees on the occasion of celebrating the country's national day on December 16.

TURKEY

EU summit declared a success with Turkey's membership bid

European Union leaders began their final summit session of the century on Saturday set to welcome Turkey as a new candidate for membership, along with 12 other countries vying to join the rich Western trade bloc.

CHILE

Voting under way in Chile's presidential election

Voters in Chile are going to the polls Sunday to pick a new president. They are expected to choose between a socialist and a rightist who are each offering pledges to rescue their nation from recession.

CROATIA

Thousands mourn Tudjman in Croatia; opposition worries

Tens of thousands of Croats queued for a second day on Sunday to mourn their late President Franjo Tudjman and opposition leaders said the wave of public sympathy would count against them in January elections.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

In its annual report issued on December 9, 1999, Human Rights Watch said in a press release that last year witnessed increased restrictions on freedom of expression and the freedom of founding and joining societies in the Middle East and North Africa countries, adding that no remarkable progress has been achieved with regard to the woman rights.

The report covers conditions of human rights in 68 countries including the United States of America and ten countries in the Mideast.

Executive Director of Middle East and North Africa Division of the organisation Hanny Megally said the authorities in this region have targeted without lenience independent newspapers and journalists and human rights organisations in an attempt to silence public criticism. Authorities in a number of these countries have closed some newspapers and banned distribution of others in the Arab world in addition to trying some journalists and issued new laws with strong restrictions against the freedom of non-governmental organisations. He says that the authorities in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, and Libya have continued clamping down on any exercise of the right to expression, gathering and forming and joining the societies. Mr Megally has further said in the report that Iran has repeatedly used the Islamic Revolutionary courts to close down a number of newspapers and issue sentences against a number of journalists, chief editors and publishers. As for Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority, their authorities have stepped up their efforts to intimidate writers, publishers, lawyers and human rights advocates by arbitrarily arresting and trying them on false charges.

The report also says that government censorship in Egypt has banned circulation of some books in the American university in Cairo. The director of the strategic studies in the Jordanian university was forced to resign his post after he had published an opinion poll showing a drop in popularity of the government there. On the other hand the report mentions that Iraq and Libya remain the only countries that have no access to the Internet, while Syria has allowed very limited elements of its society to have access to the net.

Human Rights Watch report also says some governments have taken measures undermining independence and activity of non-governmental organisations, especially human rights organisations, as the Egyptian government has done. The Palestinian Authority has taken a similar step and ignored the elected legislative council, a matter that lessened the Palestinians' hopes in the presence of a government subject to accountability.

The report has nonetheless mentioned about activities of some independent elements and organisations in various countries of the region in defying their governments' measures against human rights and their achievement of success in some areas.

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Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf: Prominent Advocate of Human Rights in Yemen

A year has passed since the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights which was celebrated by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf welcomed the 50th anniversary from the podium of his forum "Yemen Forum 21." He talked about today's world which rejects the transgressions of human rights and regards them as taboos. A year ago Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf cited a memory of a personal experience and said, "In late 1982 some educated Arab intellectuals decided upon establishing the Arab Organization on defending human rights. We could not find a place to embrace us in the Arab World so we had to meet in Cyprus and declare the tasks of the organization there."

Assessing the human rights situation, Dr. Al-Saqqaf dealt with the official steps that Yemen has followed to indicate that they have become acceptable in the field of dealing with human rights especially that the Yemeni government established a special committee in defense of human rights in the parliament and in the Consultative Council.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was the chairman of the Human Rights and Freedoms Committee and the Civil Society Organizations in the Consultative Council. While Dr. Al-Saqqaf was praising the institutional development in the field of human rights, he remained alert and cautious to the many and serious transgressions of the Ministry of the Interior, especially in Criminal Investigation and Prisons. The Dr. stated more than once that the main reason behind these breaches is the lack of awareness in legal and judicial control authorities. Many officers and soldiers require training and qualification on the nature of their jobs. The 'half-blooded case' was one that took a



great deal of Dr. Abdulaziz's thought, the one who is always busy with human rights cases in Yemen. He criticized the procedures that the General Administration of Emigration and Passports and the Authority of Civil Register use and the several transgressions against the rights of half-blooded Yemeni citizens who are of foreign mothers.

In this regard Dr. Abdulaziz said, "The current procedures have created two degrees of citizenship which contradict Yemeni constitution and International laws."

Dr. Abdulaziz used to think that most of the transgressions against human rights are attributed to educational and social retardation but at the same time he recognized the presence of such transgressions for political reasons. Last year this month, I accompanied him when he visited some jails in Aden, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Taiz and other cities. We found kids, young girls, men and women in miserable conditions who were put in jail without standing trial. That situation made Dr. Abdulaziz angry and this made him take the humanitarian cause when he decided to bear the personal responsibility for releasing more than 3000 prisoners in different regions in the country. These are just examples

and not enumerations that this man was a defender of human rights. He also stood against rape incidents against Yemeni and Foreign women. For example, in a Hadhramawt incident, he adopted a campaign to defend two women who were raped by security and military members and the incident of the rape of a German tourist in Al Hodeidah. He also adopted a seminar about children and violence in the Yemeni society in which many Yemeni specialists participated. One of the seminar papers, presented by Dr. Mohammed Awad Ba Obaid,

pointed out that the most important reasons that led youths to commit violence crimes are attributed to inappropriate family conditions, bad adaptation with school and the influence of friends.

Dr. Abdulaziz has stood in face of the most dangerous case, the case of torture and prisons. He aroused the case of Mohammed Al-Kawkabani who was tortured to death by security officers in Al-Mahweet and because of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, along with the well-known lawyer Mohammed Nag, these officers stood trial.

In the field of defending freedom of opinion and expression, Dr. Abdulaziz defended press in a manner that assured the presence and dignity of Yemeni press for the first time after the 1994 civil war. He was the only adventurous and brave person in discussing the war's case and its effects on democracy. That stand led to his arrest by the authorities. Even after that, Dr. Abdulaziz was always the defender of journalists and freedom of the press.

As chairman of the Freedoms Committee in the Consultative

Council, he held many seminars concerning children, environment, woman and education. He was also the head of the committee which was established to stand against torture and held a seminar in this regard.

In addition to all that, I have never seen a man who stood in such admirable courage in support of a seminar to be held regarding the Yemeni-Eritrean affair. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf acted as a lightning conductor in the stormy atmosphere of the relations between Yemen and Eritrea.

By: Ahmed Al-Haj

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The Ordeals of the Yemeni Emigrants

Since time immemorial Yemen has been renowned for the migration of its people. Before Islam, Yemenis migrated to Egypt, North of the Arab Peninsula and to Ethiopia. In the Islamic era, Yemenis helped the Islamic armies in conquering countries outside of the Arab Peninsula, especially during the period of the Orthodox Caliphs and the Umayyad state. Yemenis participated in the Islamic conquests in the form of tribes along with their chiefs and leaders. Many of them settled in the countries and regions conquered by the Islamic armies such as Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Morocco and Andalusia. They formed communities and residential quarters of their own which were known by the names of their tribes and families.

Yemeni waves of migration continued throughout all stages of Yemen history until now. Modern Yemeni migration destinations included many areas and countries of the world, such as islands of the Far East, India, Ethiopia, East Africa, some Arab countries like Sudan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. Yemenis migrated further to the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Ibrahim Abdulrashid, undersecretary at the Ministry of the Expatriates, is a social researcher who specialized in immigration affairs and has been working in the Ministry for over 15 years. He has also been working as a journalist since 1972 and contributes to different newspapers. Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Mr. Ibrahim and filed the following interview.

Q: What are the major problems faced by Yemeni emigrants?

A: Their problems abroad are mainly legal and the majority of them are embodied in problems among themselves. Some countries do not allow the expatriate to have dual nationality, so he has to choose either his original nationality or that of the country where he is living. There are some very regrettable problems faced by Yemeni emigrants in many countries, particularly in certain African countries, such as pillage and attacks, a situation which reflects the instability of security conditions, civil disputes and wars in those countries. Examples of these incidents were what

happened in Somalia and during the Gulf War.

In some African countries many emigrants had lost their fortunes and possessions under nationalization measures which put them in very difficult circumstances. This happened in Uganda, Tanzania and in Eritrea where the Yemeni emigrants had to leave.

Personal problems among these Yemeni emigrants may sometimes cause them to lose fortunes of money. This is particularly the case concerning with Yemeni emigrants in Djibouti. They are suffering more than others from personal disputes leading them to courts where they lose a lot of money. These problems do not only waste their time and money but also negatively affect the embassy and create some obstacles in handling their affairs there. There are also some problems that emerge through the administrative bodies they elect and are often run according to personal interests. Such problems among the Yemeni expatriates are reflected in their relationships with different authorities in those countries.

There are some social problems which come to being as a result of family problems which existed before immigration, especially pertaining to inheritance, rights, and other family relations. Even when they return home they are received by some greedy influential persons who pretend to take upon themselves the responsibility of solving these problems, but actually they try to exploit these emigrants and swindle them out of their money. If they fall back on courts they will be met with some rapacious judges who tend to put off their cases over years to exploit them as much as possible. The ministry is doing its best to follow up all the procedures that come from representatives of the emigrants, however, this does not put an end to these problems.

Emigrants also complain about the insufficiency of services rendered to them by some concerned organizations and institutions, especially regarding sea, air and land terminals. On their return home the expatriates suffer from problems created by some concerned parties in the governorates related to services for getting identity cards and passports. Little awareness



of some returnee emigrants makes them an easy prey for these greedy, dishonest people. The ministry of expatriate affairs should unleash serious efforts to raise the awareness and understanding of all the issues related to procedures of travelling and settling abroad.

Q: People used to travel mainly because of poor living conditions and were in quest of better prospects for life and education. What about the new migrations that include

skilled and talented people?

A: For Yemenis, emigration is not a new phenomenon. We at the Ministry of Expatriate Affairs are concerned essentially with modern Yemeni emigration. In regard to the migration of the qualified and competent cadres we find that is very much discernible nowadays.

In the late 1990s, we find that migration of this segment of the society has increased sharply. They have migrated to different parts of the world for various factors such as the returnees from the Gulf countries during the war, unemployment and hard economic conditions. It is true that the number of these people is not so big, nevertheless they have negative effects on the society which suffer a lot from the loss of these cadres.

Q: How many do you estimate migrated in the past ten years?

A: We do not have statistics but we have some indications that show that there is a strong migration drive, especially in regard to those who are qualified and capable, the majority of whom go to America, Europe and Canada. There are no organizations to facilitate their migration therefore such people depend on their personal contacts and relations.

Q: What kind of assistance or help do you offer to emigrants?

A: We offer many facilities, however they are not enough. Some of these facilities are rendered through the Ministry of Expatriate Affairs in which the ministry tries to ease the difficulties faced by the emigrants. It also tries to follow up the complaints it receives from Yemeni communities abroad. It also tries to make plans and studies for the future which will help offer more services to them. There

are also different activities offered to Yemeni expatriates such as schools established in America, Britain, Africa and India where curricula are in Arabic and the students are taught Islamic religion and the national subjects. The issue of preserving Yemeni identity is the most important matter that draws the ministry's attention. There are also some programs broadcast on Sana'a and Aden radio which are beamed to these expatriates. Some newspapers specify full pages every week for the expatriates in addition to activities by some Yemeni organizations.

Q: What is the role of Yemeni Satellite TV channel in keeping the expatriates cultural identity?

A: Our TV channel is not actually doing what it should do. It seems to give these emigrants a cold shoulder. We have received many complaints from expatriates saying that they do not find what they long to watch on our channel.

Q: We have heard that the ministry suggested that place of birth be deleted from the identity card, what is the point behind that?

A: This is actually one of the problems that deeply concerns the expatriates, especially those living in non-Arab countries some of whom have been living

there for more than half a century. Though this is a very sensitive matter, we find that it is not given the concern it deserves by the competent authorities. The process of emigration is still going on and this means that new citizens will be born abroad and we have to deal with emigration as a social phenomenon, considering all its sides and facets. The point is not that of giving an identity card or not. It is actually more critical than this. Putting such a piece of information on the card tends to isolate those who were born abroad from those who were born in Yemen. We want to bridge this artificial gap and incorporate these emigrants and their children with the Yemeni society. If such problems are solved, our society may gain many advantages in terms of attracting the expatriates to invest in their own country.

Q: In America there is a Yemeni Jewish community of more than 5000 people and there are other Yemeni Jews in countries like Canada and Britain. Do you consider them as Yemeni expatriates and should they get the same attention?

A: In fact this is a very important issue and the exact answer can be given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However our ministry has clear and specific laws and a standing order to deal with these emigrants accordingly. We deal with all the Yemenis irrespective of their colour, religion and race as long as their procedures come under our specialization and according to effective Yemeni laws.

Q: Emigrants complain about high charges of obtaining passports in the countries abroad. The same thing happens when they try to get passports for their children. How do you respond to that?

A: This is another problem that the ministry pays attention to. We have discussed it with the Ministry of the Interior and the Committee of Expatriate Affairs at the Parliament. We have asserted, in many meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that the charges of issuing passports are very high. They used to be for \$100 for a family passport. We also used to receive complaints from emigrants in some countries saying that \$100 is too expensive. However, the Ministry of the Interior has endorsed new procedures necessitating that each individual child of the emigrant must have a separate passport. This has actually caused more problems as the father can no longer register his children in his passport, and the cost of these passports is much too expensive, especially for those living in Saudi Arabia. When they want to visit their homeland they must pay entry visa charges for each member of the family.

Q: In regard to the bone of contention among the Yemeni community in Birmingham, what is the role of the ministry in settling this?

A: The problem of this building is an old story. The building used to be inhabited by the Yemeni Workers Union and then by the Yemeni community after unification. Some expatriates said that since it was used by the Yemeni Workers Union, it belongs to them and the Yemeni community claims it to be theirs. The problem has been taken to court. Its decision should be committed to by all parties.

Q: In the last few years it has been noticed that there is a migration drive to New Zealand and other new countries. How would you deal with this new problem?

A: The process of emigration is not an organized one and not preceded by certain agreements, contracts or protocols between Yemen and the destination countries. Immigrants travel on their own. What concerns us more as a ministry is not the new migration but rather the previous ones. We do follow up the affairs of these expatriates through direct or indirect diplomatic channels, and when their number increases the ministry will set up an organization for them and start dealing with their affairs.

SILVER
LINING

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor

The Arab Mind Set Predicament & the ERWSC

Arab and Yemeni thought is still under its regressive outlook. It is still motivated by the mentality of the past which is trying to exist in a world which is moving forward; a world pulled by a glorious outlook of the future. It stands to reason that history repeats itself. Again the Protestant mentality is still living among us. The monster of the medieval ages where mind was under a constant threat of the church is being restored now. The Arab mindset faces many challenges, the most important of which is its struggle against the past-oriented mentalities and the rulers of the darkness. And because of such fossilized mentalities, it is brought to court now and again. In fact, we occasionally hear of cases filed against thinkers, opinion makers, poets and even singers. The Arab mind is kept in a cage everywhere and in each country without exception. Last month we heard of the tribunal of the Lebanese singer Marseel Khaliifah. Some years back we heard of the trial of the famous Egyptian thinker Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid. The predicament of Arab luminaries appears to be similar.

We were all shocked by the unwise and sudden decision of the Sana'a University Board to close down the Empirical Research and Women's Study Center (ERWSC). The decision came as a result of criticism of the center and its staff due to the hosting of the International Conference on Challenges for Women's Studies in the 21st century. Guided by their past-oriented mentalities, some Islamic personalities lashed the center with all sorts of criticism, accusing everybody there of working against the very principles of Islam, but this is not true. The main motive behind the campaign launched by mosque pastors is very much political. They want to take charge of the center.

But this is very terrifying when difference of opinion is explained as anti-Islamic. We claim to have a democratic society where the freedom of thought should be upheld. Closing the center is against the provisions of the constitution which upholds the freedom of expression and thought. It is also against the human rights of those 150 students whose fate now hangs in the balance.

What is more funny is that Sana'a University said it would establish another center carrying the name of Women Study Center. Is it a matter of changing names? Was all the big fuss made because of the center's name? Is the term "empirical" against religion because it relates to science and experiment? And who is going to take charge of the new center? I wonder when our people in charge will think wisely! In addition, in closing the center, the University Board admitted that the accusations against the center, its curriculum and its teaching staff goes against Islam. It is the same university board that closed the center that formulated the curriculum of the center. Why have they closed it if was they themselves who established it in 1995? It is really contradictory, isn't it?

It is now time that Yemeni thinkers, opinion makers and journalists join hands to resist the aggression not only against the ERWSC and its students, but also against the freedom of thought and expression at large. It is time to resist the rulers of the darkness of this world.

What is worse is that the Dutch Government, the major donor country to Yemen and the financier of the ERWSC, is now agitated by that decision and is now threatening to stop financing many developmental projects in Yemen. The government of Yemen should be wise enough to withdraw the decision.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf: Advocate of Human Rights

On the occasion of the final celebration of the Human Rights Declaration in this millennium, I think everybody in Yemen will not forget Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. He was the most prominent defender of human rights, freedom of speech and other such global values. His contribution in this regard is great. He helped in releasing many people imprisoned without charges. He was himself imprisoned, beat up, harassed and badmouthed because of defending such values and standing by the oppressed in Yemen. Therefore, will the Yemeni people remember the man who once devoted his life in the cause of their welfare? Will the government and human rights NGOs in Yemen and the world do the man a homage and honor him, even if posthumously? I wonder!

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The Project Development of Bank Sector Training in Yemen (1998-2000)



By
Ismail Al-Ghabiri,
Yemen Times

The training course on new bank accounting standards and principles and in presentation of Banks' Financial Statements was concluded Tuesday, December 7, 1999. The course was supported by the Institute of Banking Studies and the European Commission. The participants in this course have been trained in the preparation of financial statements and the standards of evaluation of banks in the Republic of Yemen according to international standards. This course was one of the important courses in the Republic of Yemen which was carried out by the Banking Studies Institute under a TA contract to develop bank sector training in Yemen and which is financed by an EC grant. Thirty trainees representing different working banks in the Republic joined in this course which lasted for ten days. It took place at the headquarters of the Central Bank. Experts from KPMG-London also lectured in this course. To shed more light on this course and the benefits of it, Ismail Al-Ghabiri of Yemen Times filed the following interview with Mr. Ahmad Abdul Rahman Al-Samawi, governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, Mr. Freund, the Head of the European Commission Technical Advisory Office in Yemen, Mr. S. P. Mangla, the Project's Senior Banking Adviser and Training Expert, Mr. Zain Al-Saqaf, general manager of the Institute of Banking Studies, Mrs. Nora Al-Adi, Financial Center and Analysis manager at the central bank and Mr. Abdul Al-Rahman Al-Hushaibri, general manager of Bank Auditing.



Q: Mr. Ahmad Abdul Rahman Al-Samawi, what was your impression of this course?

I first would like to extend my best thanks to Yemen Times, which is actively following up all the events that take place in our life. In regard to the course, I can say that it was successful by all means, for it was intended to accept one or two participants, at most, from each and every bank. However, banks presented requests that more than three or four join in this course. If the place was not that small, trainers could have reached sixty. This means that the participants have realized well its importance and benefits. Therefore, we feel confident to say that its fruits will be great and that it will be very helpful for them to understand their work. Furthermore, their knowledge in the unified and international accounting standards will be more comprehensive. Therefore, the Central Bank can play an important role in observing the other banks. The European Commission has a praiseworthy constructive program and this was the beginning of an active participation which the Central Bank should have adopted. The European Commission has many courses with regard to banking, and it is also the institution that funded the course.

Q: What about other banks, such as the Housing Credit Bank, that are said to be privatized soon even though they are doing a good job, rendering commendable services and are so far successful?

A: Nowadays the government has changed its role a lot. It used to be the main handler of the economy. However, now things have changed a lot. It plays the role of a lawmaker and an observer that the constitution is being abided by these rules and tenets of law. So privatization is the general trend of many countries all over the world. Therefore, the private sector should be given a chance to play its role in the development of the country.

Q: How has the Central Bank prepared for Y2K?

A: The Central Bank is one of the best prepared organizations which is concerned with this problem. The bank has different modern apparatus; An apparatus called "wing" is now replaced by new more modern ones that reached the bank in 1997. In my view, I believe that it will be difficult to solve the problem of Y2K of computers and this is what has been asserted by the company that we imported computers from and the company that exports software programs. Despite all this, we have taken different measures into consideration and have prepared a committee called the Emergency Committee. We have also made each branch of the Central Bank in all the governorates prepare an emergency plan in case the Central Bank comes to face this problem and can not cope with it. If this happens, then manual work will replace the machines. We are now performing experiments to check whether the apparatus we have will cope with this problem or not.



Q: Mr. Freund, the European Commission is supporting the development of bank sector training in Yemen. Could you briefly outline the rationale and scope of your support to the sector and also explain the link between the Commission financed program and the course on international auditing standards, which is closing today here in Sana'a.

A: At present, a sizable part of European Commission assistance to Yemen is directed towards supporting a number of components of the government's structural adjustment program as well as towards the social protection of those segments of the population who in the short and medium term are most likely to be negatively affected by the adjustment process. Financial sector reform is one of the key pillars of the adjustment package and its success is considered a pre-requisite for stronger private sector development and thus growth and generation of employment. Under the financial sector reform program, new prudential banking regulations, for example, are encouraging banks to expand their hitherto narrow customer base while, at the same time, developing a much broader range of products. From 1999 onwards, Yemen's banks will have to present their financial statements according to international accounting standards (IAS), thereby considerably improving the transparency of the sector. Financial service employees therefore need to meet the new skill requirements brought about by the reform, if the latter is to succeed.

The course on the principles of IAS held during this week here in Sana'a is part of a series of enhanced curricula offered by the institute of Banking studies (IBS) to the banking community in 1999. The cost of the course is covered by a EURO 750,000 pilot project which over a period of twenty



four months provides technical assistance to IBS, and which includes the trainee program and provision of teaching aids. The project anticipates that the IBS will design and deliver a range of customized service training courses for the banking community and moreover lay the foundation for a diploma and masters program in banking to be certified by a widely recognized body.

Q: Why did the EC pick the Institute of Banking Studies for this intervention?

A: The IBS is equitably financed and governed by the Yemen Commercial Bank, government specialized banks and the Central Bank of Yemen. It is therefore an ideal model for piloting the provision of vocational training based on the principles of the strict labor market orientation and financial sustainability.



Q: Mr. Zain Al-Saqaf. How did you find this course?

A: This course is part of a program to develop the banking training signed between the European Commission and the Republic of Yemen represented by the Central Bank and the Institute of Banking Studies. This course is the first of this project to develop banking training in the Republic and is prepared by the Central Bank and the Institute of Banking Studies. The preparation of material and conduct of the training has been carried out by the establishment of KPMG and their partners in Sana'a and Cairo. The 30 trainees were from the different commercial banks, government specialized banks and Central bank of Yemen.

Q: What is the main objective behind this course?

A: The main objective behind this course is to train and qualify staffs at different banks and to help them

understand the nature of the new unified accounting system according to the international standards to be applied to all the banks working in Yemen from the end of 1999.

Q: How do you assess the role of the European Commission in the field of banking training?

A: It is an undeniable fact that the technical as well as financial support presented by the European Commission deserves praise for it has helped a lot in helping the Institute to perform its mission to develop and train staff working in the different bank activities.



Q: Mr. S. P. Mangla, as an expert how do you assess this course and what is the nature of the technical assistance rendered to Yemen by the European Commission?

A: Having a work force which is trained and sufficiently motivated will benefit the banks. In the short term, responding to current business needs and new legislation, and in the longer terms, general skills improvement and further qualifications, thus improving the quality of the skills base of bank personnel, making them more flexible and productive. Soon after the introduction of new bank accounting standards in Yemen, we were asked to meet the need to train bankers in these standards. Recognizing urgency, the EC

program has been able to produce a highly-relevant training course for bankers. The course was never going to be easy for a number of reasons. However, the spirit of cooperation between the EC and Yemen has prevailed. Both wanted this and I thank the Governor, particularly, for his help and cooperation. Thanks are also due to his team, IBS general manager Mr. Al-Saqaf and his team and, of course, our two instructors.

Q: Are there any new courses in the future?

A: This is one of a series of courses, identified following an in-depth training needs analysis. The Yemen bank sector training project is being financed by the European Commission, and will assist in training Yemen bankers in several topical subjects in the coming year. EC support also includes strengthening of the Institute of Banking Studies, in terms of improving its capacity and capability, contributing to the development of the Institute as a sustainable professional institution for Yemeni bankers, which is able to raise the professional and commercial skills of bankers. You will have a more efficient banking system, ready to respond effectively to current reforms, and to contribute to its success.

Under the project, suitably qualified and committed Yemeni bankers, are being identified. They will receive training in modern banking practices, in Yemen and abroad, so that strengthening of IBS continues even after completion of this project, thus ensuring continuity. In his view, competition will intensify and many of the traditional professions will come under increasing pressure from a range of old and new providers of training and

education. The IBS wants to work with other organizations, both in Yemen and abroad to draw on expertise and experience. So, we have a lot of work to do. We have made a good start, and we shall build on it.

IBS resources are limited, yet the demand for its services is increasing. In order to be able to meet needs, it will be necessary for the banking community and authorities to commit additional resources to IBS, so as to meet the evolving training needs of bankers, etc.

One of those who was trained in this course was Mrs. Nora Al-Adi, Financial Centers and Analysis manager at the Central Bank, who talked about the course and said, "For me this course is one of the very crucial ones which I have ever had. It helped me a lot in my work as to observing bank statements and correcting things if they are wrong. These standards are applicable to all the banks."

Q: Is training in the bank sector that important?

A: it is undoubtedly clear that training and qualifying is important especially in regard to banks. Such training should be applied in all the banks continuously.

Another trainer was Mr. Abdul Al-Rahman Al-Hushaibri, general manager of General Bank of Yemen's Banks' Auditing, who said that the course was extensive in the accounting standards and was very beneficial. It is great that we have unified accounting standards instead of having each bank come up with its own standards. I would like also to thank the European Commission for their support.



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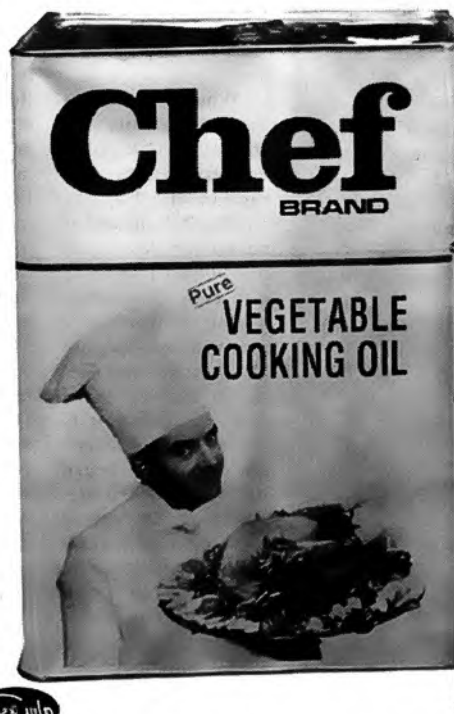
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Ramadhan and People in Yemen



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

Our country celebrated, as any other Arab and Islamic country, the occasion of Ramadhan (the month of mercy and the month in which the Holy Qur'an was sent down as a mercy for people). Ramadhan is an occasion during which all Moslems carry out the duty of fasting and almsgiving. We are following 'Sunnah' of our Prophet Mohammed (all peace be upon him). Islam came to save the Islamic nation from depravity and to show the right path for people. It came to change people's lives from illiteracy to religious sciences. Islam came to improve morality and the good behavior of people. It came to raise the way of living of Islamic nations. Ramadhan is a month of worship, mercy and almsgiving. People have to carry out their religious duties in this month. We have to repent for whatever we have done. We have to deal kindly with oth-

ers and follow religious values. Moslems have to keep themselves away from sins.

Yemeni people are distinguished from any other Arab society during this month in their social, Islamic and humanitarian customs. These customs are a part of the daily life of Yemeni people. If we look to the last days of 'Shab'an' (the month before Ramadhan), we find that the way of living of the Yemeni people takes on distinctive features. You can see people walking here and there to buy whatever they need during this month. They concentrate on beverages, vegetables, milk and other foodstuffs. As Moslems carry out their religious duty, the bond between God and them is strengthened.

On this occasion Yemeni people adopt social practices. On the eve of Ramadhan, people wait to see the crescent of Ramadhan to confirm the advent of the month. This phenomenon is found in all Arab and Islamic countries.

A committee has been formed in the Ministry of Justice to determine the

first and last days of Ramadhan. This committee consists of scientists and jurists. As people hear the declaration of Ramadhan they became very happy. Then they begin to prepare for this month.

You can hear the voices of prayer and worship coming out from mosques in all cities of Yemen. You can also hear what we call 'Adhan,' which augments our religious feelings. 'Adhan' is used to call people to come to mosques to pray.

During the first night of Ramadhan, people celebrate until dawn. Each one goes to his friend to congratulate him on this religious occasion. On this night which is called 'Qoratt Ramadhan,' all people gather at mosques to recite the Holy Qur'an and to read Prophetic Hadiths until the advent of dawn. Then they take their meal which is called 'Sahoor.' This meal consists of bread, boiled milk and ghee. All these ingredients are put inside a vessel and mixed together. Then people go to bed.

In the beginning of Ramadhan tranquility reigns throughout cities. People's faces are submissive and merciful. You can hear spiritual chants coming out from mosques. Mosques are full of those who come to recite the Holy Qur'an. Markets are full of people who come to buy different things, hawkers are spread in street-corners, especially before the time of 'Iftar' (the meal which people eat at the end of the day of fasting). All members of the family cooperate to prepare food and arrange homes for guests.

People go to mosques to pray after sunset, and then they come back to their homes to eat the main meal, 'Iftar.'



Saum in Islam



By:
Abdillah Saleh Al Hashedi
Sanaa University

says, "The month of Ramadhan is that in which the Qur'an was revealed, a guidance for mankind and clear proof for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). [2:185]"

It is clear from this statement that the choice of this particular month was not without reason. It's been chosen because the revelation of the Holy Qur'an began in Ramadan. The first revelation came to the noble Mohammed (PBUH) on the 24th night of the month of Ramadan when he was in the cave of Hira. Therefore it was in Ramadan that the first ray of Divine Light fell on the prophet's mind and the angel Gabriel made his appearance with the great Divine Message. Therefore, Ramadan was considered to be the most suitable month for the spiritual discipline of the Muslim community which was to be affected through fasting.

In Islam, fasting has its own values and benefits for Muslims. Primarily, it is a spiritual discipline. Both the Holy Qur'an and Hadith lay special stress on the fact that seeking Divine Pleasure should be the ultimate object of fasting. In the Holy Qur'an Allah says, "So let them obey Me by fasting and believe in Me, so that they be led aright." [2:186]

A Muslim keeps fasting regularly day by day for the whole month with a set purpose of drawing closer and closer to the Divine Being. In fact, a man can simply avail himself of the best diet, yet he prefers to remain hungry. He has the cool drink in his possession, yet he is parched by thirst. In other words, he touches neither drink nor food because he believes that it is the commandment of Allah that he should not do so. The Divine Presence which may be a matter of faith to others, becomes a reality for a fasting Muslim. This kind of feeling is made possible by the spiritual discipline underlying fasting.

Fasting is considered to be a perfect moral exercise for Muslims. The exercise of abstaining from everything that is not allowed, strengthens the moral



side of life. Fasting for one month teaches man a high lesson that, instead of being a slave to his appetites and desires, he should be their master. The man who is able to rule his desire, to make them work as he likes, is the man who has achieved true moral greatness.

Fasting also brings to man a very important social value which affects the whole Muslim world. The rich and the poor live in different environments. The rich usually sit down on tables laden with dainties and with these they load their stomachs four or even six times a day. On the other hand, the poor cannot satisfy their hunger even twice a day. It is only in Ramadan that the rich can feel the pangs of hunger like the poor by going without food for a day. In this case both the rich and the poor are brought on the same level in that they are only allowed two meals a day for the whole month. Moreover, this experience definitely awakens sympathy for the poor in the hearts of the rich.

The physical value of fasting is not less important than the above values. Ramadan is considered to be a rest for the digestive organs to restore their strength and increase their better capacity for work. Now many doctors all over the world declare that fasting is a perfect means which helps people to keep fit for life on this earth. In addition to this, fasting accustoms man to face the hardships of life and increases his powers of resistance.

In Hodeidah:

As Poverty, Misery & Negligence Reach their Limits: WHERE TO?

Jalal Al-Shar'abi,
Yemen Times

The customs of Hodeidah have a special taste and a distinctive flavor. In this governorate, which lies on the Red Sea and extends until the Tihama desert, you find simplicity in dealing and a primitive life which attracts you when passing through any of its villages.

The people of this governorate have certain customs which distinguishes them from people from other governorates. They have more celebrations and anniversaries than those in other governorates, and their rituals during these celebrations are more like worshipping and praying in a *mihrab* (prayer niche). You can notice differences in traditions between regions in clothes and the way of speaking.

In the Hays region, which lies 150 km

Sura (chapter). There is also another account that it is the night when the death, subsistence and fate of a human are written. In a third narration, for the Shiite of Jafar, it is said that it is the night when Imam Ali (may God bless him) was born.

Despite the changes of time and age, the people of Hodeidah are still strongly attached to their origins, and modernization has not changed them much. They are still using camels as a means of transportation and for carrying their belongings under the blaze of the sun. They travel long distances, challenging the burning hot climate with their dark skin increasing their strength and tenacity.

An owner of one these carts said, "Harsh conditions forced us to do so and modernization gave us nothing but the opportunity to watch it in other cities and countries which are more advanced and developed. So, I do not

sons and brothers have been victims of traffic accidents. There are no authorities which take care of us and we are always subjected to blackmail by the traffic police. Their excuse for what they do is often customs and sometimes disturbing public peace."

Another person, Ali Mohammed Al-Kawli, said, "Unemployment is the first and foremost reason why people of this governorate use motorcycles as a means of transportation. I think that the authorities in charge were right when they fixed number plates on motorcycles because this numbering is a validation of a motorist's identity in case he has an accident. However, this does not mean that we do not face irritations. On the contrary, we are always vulnerable to death and blackmail and this is how life with all its harshness goes with us."

A third person, Abdullah Abdul-Sobati, adds in a strident manner, "We are victims of violence, speed, trucks and policemen who impose harsh tasks on us. They set us a curfew after 8:00 P.M. but there are some bargains between a few policemen and motorists enabling them to work after this time in return for a sum of money. I think the main reason behind our problems is the absence of a syndicated body to protect us from being fiddled around daily and to demand our rights as workers even if we are miserable. The conditions of people in this governorate make them in great need of cheap means of transportation and still people can not abandon it though we often become victims and soaked with blood under the wheels of large trucks or high officials' cars who are not concerned about us at all."

People in this governorate are concerned about their daily food. They go out early in the morning to come back at noon carrying a little amount of wheat and oil which would only be enough for that day. They do not plan for the other days and so their lives and suffering journey continues unceasingly.

A man who works in a sesame oil mill



to the south of Hodeidah, Rajab's Friday is an annual festival where people wear new clothes and gather to chew qat in the evening during which they read religious books and relate prophetic traditions.

They have specific rituals to exercise their customs and traditions. You can find very unusual contrasts such as religious festivals which are full of music and folkloric dance that continues until the next morning.

During normal days, people go out early, every one to his/her own work, while after every festival, when they stay up until dawn, you can find them sleeping deeply.

In Al-Sha'abania, which is a great religious occasion on the 15 of Sha'aban, people in Hodeidah governorate, especially the indigenous people, celebrate. On this occasion people celebrate in a special way which people like to call "Al-Bahja." Mr. Abdullah Ali Ola said about this day, "The night of the middle of Sha'aban, which is called, Al-Sha'abania, is an occasion Muslims in all Islamic countries, one of which is Yemen, celebrate. However, celebrating this day in the Tihama has a special taste, for all customs on this day differ from those on other days.

On this day people fast, eat different foods and go to mosques where they make celebrations or what is called 'Mouled' after the dusk prayer. After the evening prayer people go home, have dinner and then stay up until dawn. Usually, everybody stays in his/her own home or some people and friends may decide to stay in a house that they agree on. There, they usually make conversation concerning religion and manners or they might watch TV. As for children, they often wear new clothes in the afternoon and spend their time in squares and gardens until night falls. What is so interesting, is that people who own carts drawn by donkeys rent them for children who ride them to gardens or to the beach which is a phenomenon that prevails in Hodeidah and its cities in the Tihama.

The Sha'abania night, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, is the blessed night when the Qur'an was sent down. This was mentioned in Al-Dokhan

think, even with the changes that occurred in Yemen, that we would be able to move from this age which represents the 14th century in its decadent periods, because harshness of conditions would hinder us."

Another person, who was carrying water on his exhausted shoulders, said, "The government does not consider us original inhabitants of this country. So, it treats us as naive and



cowardly people who fear all the government's threats."

The people of this governorate consider motorcycles the best transportation which suits their conditions, not because it is their favorable one but because harsh conditions force them to deal with it despite all the dangers it causes.

Statistics in the year 1999 have revealed that for every 500 accidents involving motorcycles, more than 20 people die. Despite all that, the motorists roam streets, alleys and areas hoping they will be able to obtain their daily bread though they are risking their lives. In addition, they are subject to blackmailing by traffic police who impose laws and taxes on them that weigh them down.

Yemen Times has interviewed several motorists and all their talk was about the nightmare of traffic policemen and accidents. One motorist, Sa'aed Thabit Zayd, said, "The necessity has forced people of this governorate to use motorcycles as a means of transportation inside the city although we know it is dangerous, for many of our

said, "I work in cleaning sesame seeds before they go into the old mill which uses wood, camels and traditional instruments in performing its job. I am personally concerned with my daily food. Some days I stop working when I find that I can cover my expenses for another day. We in the Tihama, and all our coastal cities and villages, consider our day our festival and do not think about tomorrow because it is not our concern. We live our present day."

You can also find that qat is the second concern of people after food and in some cases it is their daily food. Fateeni Omar, a qat addict, said, "We take the price of these leaves from our necessary food. We often buy the cheapest food, whatever it is, so we can save the rest of our money to buy qat. We spend more than 8 hours daily in chewing qat which enables us to forget some of our work pains. Some of us even chew qat three times a day, in the morning, at noon and at night when we take some Persian tobacco and stay up all night long blowing in what is called 'Mada'ah' (narghile).

Continued on page 14

A Special Study by the Yemen Times

Unravelling the Phenomenon of Kidnapping



By: Hassan Saeed Al-Zaidy
Yemen Times

Recently, the phenomenon of kidnapping in Yemen has become of great concern to the local as well as foreign observers. It has really tarnished the image of Yemen at both local and international levels. It has far-reaching consequences. For example, there has been a sharp fall in the number of tourists. Many international organizations working in Yemen have wound up their operations due to these incidents that may cost them their lives. In addition, some foreign countries regard Yemen as an insecure place and thus advise their citizens not to venture on

visiting it. What are the real reasons for these incidents?

The following are all speculations:

I) Deterioration of the government's control over the disruptive activities of tribes.

II) People's disillusionment at the non implementation of the essential projects which consequently leads agitation against the government to achieve their objectives.

III) Corruption in the judicial system which in many cases forces victims to avenge themselves by indulging in criminal deeds such as kidnapping, killing, etc.

IV) Disorder and chaos in the security system.

V) Political conflicts

VI) Blackmailing

The crime table below illustrates the gravity of the situation.

From the table below it would seem

clear that the phenomenon of kidnapping originated in 1991. The main factors behind those incidents were the demand to get jobs in the companies operating in or near the kidnappers' districts, secure some projects and so forth. Most of these demands, of course have been fulfilled.

The table shows an increase in kidnapping cases in 1993. Kidnappers' main demand was punishing one of the bodyguards of Saleh Mohammed, former member of Presidency council, who killed a man from Al-Hadad tribe in Dhamar. This problem was settled according to the tribal norms. After this incident, kidnappings accelerated to force various demands on the ground.

In 1994, fortunately, incidents of such cases decreased. The first incident of kidnapping took place on February 12. The kidnappers' demands now were

political, for they asked for the release of prisoners who were accused of murdering political figures and who were involved in bombing incidents. The subsequent kidnapping incidents in the same year aimed at pressing the government to change the course of the proposed highway from Al-Ahnoon tribe, which belongs to Bakeel tribe, to Hashed tribe.

This year noticed a tribal discrimination, a number of tribal conferences were held, such as Bakeel United Conference and Sheba Conference of Yemeni Tribes. Other reasons for kidnappings in this year were to force the government to fulfill its earlier promises. Considered from this point of view, we see that the government's lack of seriousness in fulfilling its promises has led to the occurrence of other incidents of kidnapping. We also notice that, in this year, some high ranking officials' sons were also kidnapped due to disputes between the people in charge of those projects and engineers.

In 1995, there were only two cases. Demands this time centered around getting shares from the international and world aid for flood victims. Kidnappers demanded funds for reclamation of their fields damaged by heavy rain. The government's dodging the issue and not giving them their share from the international aid also helped intensify the discontent. Other parties have seen in kidnapping an easy way to force the government to concede to their demands. Seeing that such operations were often successful to force the government to meet the demands of the kidnappers' tribes, other tribes which were deprived of many essential projects or services were encouraged to try the same strategy. In 1996, kidnapping cases began to reappear more than before. Authorities recorded 19 kidnapping cases throughout

the year. Problems, this time, were related to flaws in the judicial system, trade problems and tribal conflicts.

The remarkable rise in the number of kidnapping cases in this year and the following years 1997 and 1998 made the government think seriously to find a cure to this deteriorating situation. On August 1, 1998, it passed a law concerning kidnapping incidents, stipulating death as the punishment for kidnappers. However, only one kidnapper has so far been executed. Going back to the table we notice the following:

I) Nationality of kidnapped people is not a factor to reckon with. The fact of the victims being foreigners is the most important thing for kidnappers.

II) The fall in the number of kidnapping cases in 1994 and 1995 is due to a number of factors that need more space to highlight.

III) The rise in kidnapping incidents in 1996, 1997 and 1998 led the government to pass a law stipulating death as a punishment for kidnappers. The nature of solutions that have been tried so far:

At the beginning of this ugly phenomenon, in 1991, the government sent high ranking mediators to the kidnapper tribes for negotiations. Tribes were given cars and guns as "sobrah" (a term in the tribal norms meaning something given as a future guarantee for something) as a confidence building measure.

As the phenomenon began to reach new proportions and kidnappers' demands tended to be more personal, military intervention was the inevitable choice. The government cordoned off hideouts of the kidnappers and arrested a number of people suspected to belong to the kidnappers' tribes. However, the government soft-pedalled the issue due to its concern about the safety of the kidnap victims and its unwillingness to resort to military conflicts with tribes.

Generally speaking, most of the kidnappers' demands are legitimate. Ignoring the kidnappers' demands, the tough circumstances they underwent in their pursuit of getting these demands fulfilled and the absence of

any political dimensions to these incidents make many people sympathize with the kidnappers. Could these kidnappers have succeeded to get their demands fulfilled through peaceful means? Was it not the denial of the essential basic public services to them that pushed them to practice kidnapping? In fact, the answer to the above questions needs a thorough study with respect to each kidnapping case, the kidnappers' environment and their social and economic situations, etc. Moreover, the wide-spread corruption in the government's offices, problems of mediation, bribetaking and the like, make the prospect of getting projects implemented doubtful. As far as the denial of public services is concerned, the government has tried to find some solutions to the problem by providing these tribes with some of their basic needs as discussed in the First National Conference for Middle Districts, but the difficulties faced in accomplishing the conference's aims shows that there are people who do not want any permanent solutions to be found.

Can tourists move through the areas mentioned in the timetable without military guards? Will the government forbid tourists from visiting these areas because these are unsafe, despite the tourist potential? Undoubtedly, security is of great importance to tourists. They, under no circumstances, will risk their lives for the sake of a tour. The government must find fast solutions. For example, these areas which have become a cradle for launching kidnapping incidents need to have more attention paid to them and their problems, narrowing the gap between the native people and people of the other tribes and cities, etc. If this is done there is no need to deploy military forces from time to time, accentuate military conflicts with tribes and provide tight security to tourists. The matter needs serious attention of all concerned about stabilizing the national economy and accelerating development. Without cooperating with the inhabitants of these areas, finding a solution of the problem will be no easy task.

Year	Place	No of cases	No. of Kidnapped people	Nationalities of the kidnapped
1991	Sirwah/Marib	1	1	1 American diplomat
1992	Khawlan/Sana'a	1	6	5 American Expert/Hunt + 1 from Yemen
1993	Sana'a, Al-Jaof, Marib, Dhamar, Shabwah	14	64	59 American, Canadian, Dutch, French, Pakistani, British, Japanese, 5 Yemeni (sons of high ranking people)
1994	Sana'a, Marib	4	21	19 Chinese, French, Dutch + 2 from Yemen, one of them is a son of a minister
1995	Marib, Shabwah	2	5	5 American and French oil experts
1996	Marib, Sana'a, Amran, Aden, Shabwah, Khamer	19	76	67 French, British, American, Polish, dutch, and German (tourists, diplomat, expert) + 9 Yemenis (officials and sons of traders)
1997	Marib, Hadhramaut, Al-Baida, Abyan, Dhamar, Shabwah, Al-Jaof, Lahj	25	62	50 American, British, Sana'a, French Russian, Italian, Belgian, German (tourists experts, diplomats) + 12 Yemenis (judges, sons of high ranking officials and judges, relatives of military leaders, engineers)
1998	Sana'a, Bani Heith, Al-Heimah, Shabwah, Al-Mahfad, Dhamar, Al-Hada, Aanis, Hadhramaut, Seloun, Al-Hadi, Al Bon, Modiah, Sa'adah, Marib	25	59	50 Belgian, Italian, British, German, Australian, Swiss, Russian, Dutch, Korean (experts, organizations' members, diplomat tourists) + 9 Yemeni (sons of judges and officials, judges, traders)
1999	Sana'a, Nohom, Marib, Habab, Shabwah, Bani Al-Harith	5	20	10 French, American, German (diplomat, tourists) + 10 Yemenis
Total:		96	376	318 foreigners + 58 Yemenis

If Qat Markets are Diminished, What is the Substitute?

By: Abdulhakem Hashem Othman

Studies and statistics indicate that 50-90% of the youth over 18 years are qat chewers, and 30-50% of women over this age chew qat, while 15-20% of children under the age 12 also chew qat. The proportion of arable land planted with qat amounts to 48.7% of the total area of arable land in Yemen. There are also a large number of farmers, dealers and consumers who are dealing with selling qat. The problem of qat is a problem which cannot be solved by words, but it is a problem which needs action. We have to go into the depth of it in order to know the reasons and find appropriate solutions. Millions of Yemeni Rials are spent in markets of qat both in rural and urban areas. Giant volumes of employment is absorbed by markets and many farms are devoted to growing qat. We can say that this evil tree has entered Yemeni daily life, it has affected the culture and customs of the Yemeni people. Agriculture, weddings, sorrows, their social relations and daily routine, are all affected by qat. Markets of all cities are full of qat. We find that each market has a different system for selling qat. The educated, traders, laborers, employees and managers are equal to the dealer of qat. Qat markets cause traffic congestion and cause accidents because at the appointed hour people hasten to buy qat. This thing causes quarrels between people. So, in spite of the change of working time, we have not seen any improvement yet because the price of qat keeps on increasing.

What will happen if qat markets are moved out of cities, while there are many areas which grow nothing except qat. Without doubt this decision will cause poverty for those who depend for their living upon qat. To know points of views, reactions and other suggestions, I made the following survey with a number of people who are pro and con this decision:

Those who chew qat:-

1- Engineer/ Abdulaziz Abdulaziz- Al hasabah Market:

"Qat markets inside cities is a bad phenomenon because qat causes heaps of garbage inside those markets. In addition, this will affect farmers and those who chew qat. Moving qat markets out of cities will affect farmers' income because buyers cannot go to the far areas to buy qat. In this case, dealers of qat will be forced to smuggle qat into cities. Perhaps moving qat markets outside towns may urge qat addicts to form a group and only one of them goes to buy qat for all and thus reduces transport costs. Regarding the one who chews qat, he will be affected because of the increase in the cost of buying qat in one way or another. But the positive effect will help some people to give qat up because of the difficulty of getting it. Regarding the price of qat, it will be according to the policy of supply and demand. Qat centering in one market will increase supply and reduce demand. On the other hand, it will lead some traders to take qat to their house to sell it, which will cause an increase in the price of qat. I believe that this decision was taken randomly as some other decisions, because the one who took this decision did not look at the consequences

and/or he himself never chews qat and never realized the reality of Yemeni society. This decision caused many problems for all classes of people. Because of the absence of state control, planting qat overcame most of planted soils, so qat became the main resource of farmers' income, especially in the rural areas. It was better if the state thought of this decision tens of years ago and gave substitutions and solutions. Farmers haven't anything except this tree as a source of income. This decision will also effect sellers of qat because they will find themselves without jobs. We find that there is a number of small traders who buy qat from those who bring it from the rural areas. Those small traders will resort to smuggling qat by any means. Regarding those who chew qat, they will send any one of them to bring qat for all in order to save cost of transportation. With the change of the working time for the employees, they will never chew qat during working days, they have to chew qat during holidays or they will send any one of them to buy for all. If the employee thinks of giving up qat at all, where can he spend the time?"

2- Mr. Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Sabri: "Markets of qat inside cities has many positive things because they increase trade activity and decrease costs because the one who chews qat goes to buy qat and passes through vegetable markets to buy whatever he wants. In addition, there is a number of peddlers who gain through selling their goods in those markets. But if markets of qat moved out of the city, it will lead to many problems for farmers and those who chew qat while the price of qat will increase at the same time. If the price of qat increases, quarrels



will happen inside markets between dealers because each group wants to control the market itself."

Student Abdulbaset Al-Najdi, a graduate from faculty of sciences, specialist in physics - Haeil market:

"Markets inside cities are a bad phenomenon because they defame our country. In addition, it causes jamming and garbage masses inside streets. Regarding moving qat out of cities, it will reduce prices of qat and income of planted soils and increase the number of consumers. This means that positive and negative things will be caused by this decision. Positives will always be in favor of qat dealers. Farmers' income will decrease, therefore, they cannot get all that they need because there is a number of farmers who do not have any other resource except qat. I am sure that citizens and employees will not abide by the new system of working time or by any other decision."

Dealers of Qat:

Naseer Hamoud Al-Yaf'ei - Hasabah

market:

"Moving qat markets out of cities has a bad influence for us on the one hand and for the price of qat on the other. Regarding the price of qat, it will increase gradually, but the volume of consumers will decrease. This will force us to think of other ways for living. This will force us to commit crimes, and it will cause problems between us and any one who tries to stand in our way. In fact, we were happy as we heard the decision of changing working time because there is no crowd inside markets as it was before. Suppose that qat markets were moved out of cities. I will smuggle qat by any means because buying qat has become a job through which I can cover my family's expenses. So how can I leave this job while I have no other occupation?"

Yahya Saleh Atteah - Hasabah Market: "The decision of moving qat out of cities is not a good idea. It does not have any relation to improving living. The presence of qat dealers inside

markets out of the city causes many problems between those dealers on the one hand and between the consumers on the other. The price of qat will increase, the number of consumers will decrease, but the farmer will not be affected because he will sell qat to anyone.

It is true that markets witnessed a little improvement after changing working time, but we will not agree to move qat out of the cities. I, myself depend upon the qat trade, and I do not have any other work. This will force us to stealing and begging."

Faisal Abdullah Mohammed - Al Hashedi- Haeil market:

"This decision is not correct, it does not have any relation with the reality of people. I think that those who think of taking this decision are far away from the reality of society for the following reasons:

1- These markets are here for a long period of time, and during this period no problems happen to have bad effects on the society.

2- Qat price will increase because of additional costs for obtaining it due to remoteness of the place where to get it.

3- The people of limited income, especially youth who do not have work, will resort to other immoral works.

4- Most qat dealers who depend on it will turn to bring it by force into cities. This will cause many problems and bad results. In addition, there are small groups of people who work close to the markets of qat where they earn their living. This reduces begging, especially among children.

Dealers of qat will suffer a lot, while farmers do not care whether markets are inside cities or outside. If qat markets are really moved, I will sacrifice to smuggle it by different means even if it costs me my life because I do not have anything else to do. Are qat markets the main reason in the financial and administrative corruption in our country?"

YEMEN TIMES

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والمسابقة برعاية كبار الشركات المرموقة
ترقبوا مسابقة «يمن تايمز» الكبرى للألفية الثالثة

مزايا رعاية مسابقة «يمن تايمز» الكبرى (٢٠٠٠)

- لماذا تعتبر رعاية مسابقة يمن تايمز أكبر مكسب دعائي؟
- ١- يمن تايمز الصحيفة الوحيدة التي نالت مصداقية القارئ والفائز عبر المسابقة الأسبوعية التي ترعاها، حيث أن جميع الفائزين قد استلموا جوائزهم النقدية فورا دون تأخير أو نقصان.
- ٢- رعايتكم لمسابقة يمن تايمز ستمكنكم من نشر إعلانكم عبر صفحات الصحيفة في الإنترنت والتي هي أكثر صحيفة مشهورة في اليمن وقد فاق عدد قرائها المليون في الخارج والداخل.
- ٣- سوف يذكر الراعي في إعلان المسابقة في التلفزيون والذي سيكون له صدى كبير جدا في كل أرجاء اليمن.
- ٤- ستنتشر أسماء الراعيين وشعاراتهم في ملصقات ستنتشر وتعلق في عدة مناطق في المدن الرئيسية.
- ٥- صحيفة يمن تايمز أجود صحيفة في طباعتها وإخراجها، وشهادة المعلنين والقراء خير برهان، وإعلانكم في صفحتها الملونة سيعود بالنفع الكبير له دعائيا.
- ٦- مصداقية الصحيفة واستقلاليتها تجعلها من أكثر الصحف المقروءة خاصة في طبقات الشعب المثقفة.

- ٧- عدد المتسابقين والمشاركين سيفوق عددهم في أي مسابقة أخرى كون المسابقة لا تتطلب جمع الأجوبة في جميع أعدادها، ولكن كوبون واحد من أي عدد كاف للمشاركة، وبالتالي، سيكون عدد المشاركين أكثر بكثير من بقية الصحف التي تتطلب جمع الأجوبة لكل الأسئلة والأعداد.
- ٨- الأسئلة ستكون بالعربية لذا لا تتطلب المسابقة الإلمام باللغة الإنجليزية.
- ٩- سيكون السؤال له علاقة مباشرة مع الراعيين للمسابقة بحيث يكون اسم الراعي من أهم مقومات الإجابة السليمة.
- ١٠- فوق هذا كله الصحيفة، سوف يتم تسليم الجوائز علنا أمام جمهور غفير وسنسعى لتغطية الخبر في التلفزيون وطبعا سيتم هذا بحضور مندوبين عن الراعيين للمسابقة والإشادة بهم.
- ١١- سيتم منح كل راع من الراعيين على شهادة تقدير لمساهمته في هذه المسابقة.
- ١٢- إعلانكم الملون في الصحيفة سيكون لمدة أربعة أسابيع وستذكر فيها فعاليات المسابقة والسحب التي نتوقع مشاركة عشرات الآلاف فيها.
- ١٣- ستكون هذه الخطوة بمثابة قدوة لكل الصحف الأخرى.



بإدارة تعتبر الأولى من نوعها في الصحافة اليمنية
مسابقة تاريخية بمناسبة عام ٢٠٠٠ ورمضان وعيد الفطر
مسابقة الألفية الثالثة لـ "يمن تايمز"
جميع من اشترك وفاز في جوائز يمن تايمز يعلم مصداقية الصحيفة في تسليم الجوائز فورا دون تأخير، ويعلم الجميع مصداقية الصحيفة في الاقتراع والسحب الذي يتم أمام الجميع، جميعهم يتربصون مسابقة يمن تايمز التي ستكون بمثابة ثورة في عالم المسابقات والدعاية، ونحن لم ولن نخذلهم، لهذا فقد قررت الصحيفة تبني مسابقة الألفية الثالثة (مسابقة يمن تايمز الكبرى ٢٠٠٠) والتي من المتوقع أن تكتسح السوق وتجلب الآلاف من المشتركين في المسابقة التي ترعاها وتمولها مجموعة من أرقى الشركات والمؤسسات التجارية في اليمن، والذين حالما طرح عليهم أمر تبني هذه المسابقة أعلنوا عن رغبتهم للمشاركة لتفتتقهم في الصحيفة وقراءها، لذا فمن الطبيعي أن تكون الجوائز قيمة، فالجائزة الأولى ستكون مليون ريال تسلم نقدا في حفل التسليم الذي سيجتمع الراعي للمسابقة والفائزين، كما ستكون هناك جوائز أخرى عديدة تقدر بمئات الآلاف سيتم تقطيعها هذا الحدث بشكل واسع في التلفزيون وفي الصحيفة، إنها الخطوة التي ستشكل نقطة تحول للفائز والراعي على حد سواء.

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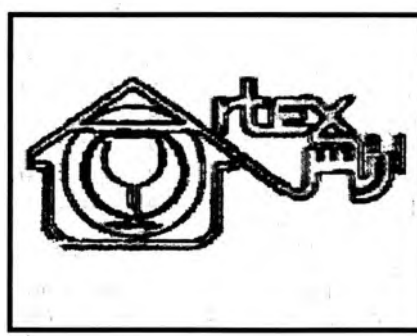
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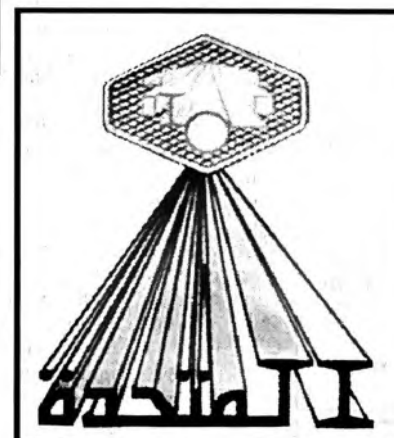
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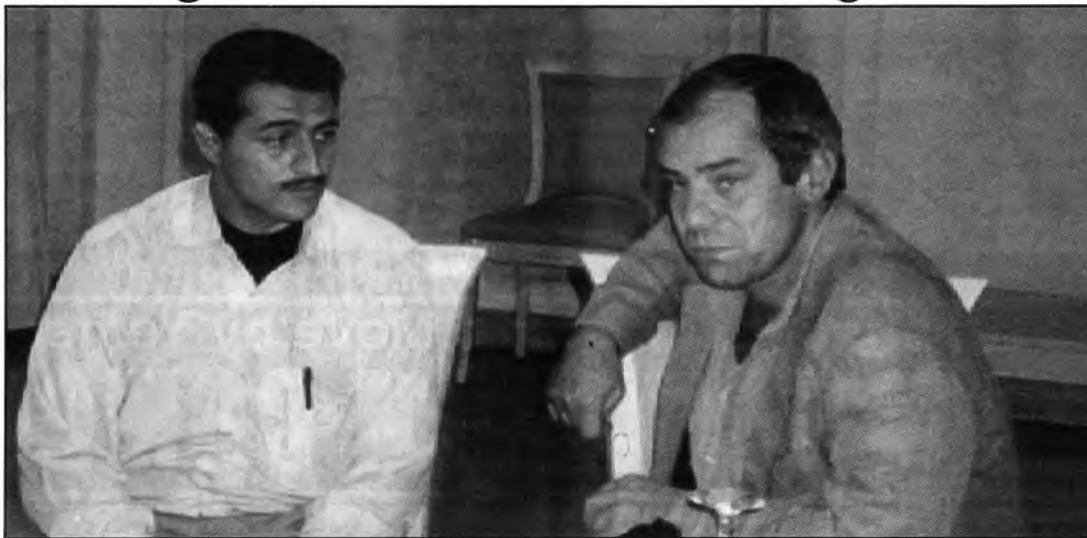
The Founder of JEMSTONE, Mr. Tudor Lomas Talks to Yemen Times

"It is a lot more solid ground to build an independent media role, than government control and government funding."

JEMSTONE Institute is one of the most important institutes standing for journalism in the Euro-Mid region. In the beginning it was funded by the European Union. It is now funded by the Dutch government. It plays a pivotal role in building links and contacts between media in this part of the world and Europe. It was established in 1995. It was based in Holland for 18 years, but for the past three years it has been based in Jordan.

Mr. Tudor Lomas, the Director and founder of Jemstone, was a BBC journalist for many years.

Mr. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times, met with Mr. Lomas in a seminar organized by Jemstone about independent media in Jordan and filed the following interview.



Q: How did the idea of establishing the Jemstone Institute come about?

A: What I would like to say first is that I was personally deeply upset when I was informed about the tragic death of my friend Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. I had a dreadful shocking time when I heard the news. I have always regarded him as a beacon for journalism in the Arab world and I do not know who will be able to follow in his footsteps and fill his shoes because he was a very important figure.

The Jemstone Institute came about through the European Union Project and through that the decision of Europe to build closer links between people in Europe and people in the Middle East and North Africa. The whole series of projects was something called the Mid Campus to link universities and to link towns and cities. The idea was to build links between the media. Over the years, we ran workshops, seminars and courses. We got to know the senior editors, edi-

tors, journalists of the media, and built up a track record and from that, when the European Union Funding disappeared, we felt that we should keep going. We created contacts with thousands of journalists and media managers whom we know and who work with us. They did not want us to pack up and go and do something else. They wanted us to keep maintaining links between them and trying to run events for them. I do not know what the future holds. We have short-term funding at the moment. We hope that there may be some following ones. We hope to come to Yemen and do something similar to this workshop in Jordan. We hope it will be funded by the Dutch government which seems to be interested in Yemen. We were involved in this with the World Bank. We are doing a project for them in March in Cairo which I think is the Mediterranean Development Forum. We are bringing interested media together to that forum to discuss developments in the Middle East and North Africa. This is the best way to

improve the life and conditions for people in this part of the world, and the media has an important part to play.

Q: What is the importance of the media in this particular era of globalization?

A: I think it is an end in itself. I think that if you have a good media providing honest, accurate information, then you will have a more developed and educated society as a direct result. People know what is going on. It is like having a lower infant mortality. So, I think that free media expressing things honestly and openly is just a good thing for its own sake, but I also think that it has a very important part to play in economic development. It checks things that are going wrong, it finds corruption, it raises important issues and discusses various sides of them. Social discussion, or public discussion in newspapers, televisions and radios stations is also very important. People come to know different better ideas. So, when a difficult decision

has to be taken by the government people understand why. Without that, the people are victims of these decisions without being involved in them. So, that is the part of the problem. A free media, working effectively, is really part of the democratic system. It is informing the people to have votes to choose the government when it works properly.

Q: How can we establish an independent media, particularly in the Arab World?

A: I have always regarded Yemen Times as a very good example of this because you have lots of adverts, you have income. For example, some newspapers are dependent on the government, others on sponsors, some on a political party while yet others depend on income from advertisers. So, the advertisers put adverts in the paper because people read the paper and people read the paper because it is interesting and if it is not interesting, you do not have the adverts. So, you are under pressure from the advertis-

ers to include interesting ideas. People want to read a good paper and once you do that, the advertisers see that you are read, they put the adverts there. It is like a virtuous circle and I think that is a very useful step forward. We have heard of attempts by the Arab Daily to move in a similar direction. The Arab Daily is an English language paper based in Jordan and we hope it will be a regional paper. We have been very privileged to have one of the senior editors from Jazerra present which has a similar strategy. They were established with the help of a large loan, to work and become commercially independent as a business that works. It is said that now, 40% of their costs are covered out of income, and the business plan means that after five years, they should be making money on that basis. Now that gives you independence, but there are risks. You work with business, you operate with business, it has its demands as well. But I think it is a lot more solid ground to build an independent media role, than government control and government funding.

Q: Do you think that establishing independent media like newspapers is enough, or do we need something else?

A: You put your finger on an extremely important area. In a country like Jordan, which has 93% literacy, newspapers can have quite an impact. On the other hand, newspapers cost money, and there are a lot of people in Jordan who are very poor. So, what the illiterate people need is to watch and listen to radio and television. In a country like Yemen this is even more true. People are not able to read the newspapers. However, all have access to radio and TV. They can watch Al-Jazerra, but really what they want is local information that reveals

their concerns in life. I think this is a very good example in Africa where community radio based around small communities developed and built up and became a very valuable part of life in villages and towns in Africa. We are very disappointed that the Arab world seems to be well behind Africa in this regard. There is very little community radio in the Arab world. I think it will be a wonderful move forward when communities can broadcast what is going on, keeping people informed about crises, about markets taking place, sales and local problems and disasters and needs for assistance. All the kinds of things that help to hold a community together would work brilliantly through community radio and perhaps in time you can have local or regional TV working in a very similar way because the cost of the equipment involved now in producing TV is coming down so quickly. It is quite realistic even in poor countries to set up local and regional TV stations.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would just like to say that I think that the workshop has been, from my point of view, interesting, worthwhile and successful. Again we have been able to bring together people from different countries in the Arab world and several countries outside. Just look at the pleasure on their faces. They are chatting with one another and discussing issues that they care about. We provided a forum where important issues about the media can be discussed, and people can think about things often for the first time, checking with people who have already experienced it. I just feel that we have been very lucky to be able to do it and I look forward to being able to do such a thing in Yemen as well. I have never been to Yemen and I really hope that I will find this privilege to be able to come to Yemen.

A Seminar on Tourist Promotion in Yemen



Akram Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times

A seminar was held on Monday, December 6, 1999 at Taj Sheba Hotel. The seminar discussed the process of tourism in Yemen. Dr. Abdulmalik Mansour, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Mr. Hazem Derae, Manager of Look Advertising in the Middle East, members of the tourist promotion board, owners of tourist companies and agencies in Yemen, general manager of Look Advertising in Yemen, Mr. Khaled Khoresheed, and a number of officials, correspondents and journalists attended the seminar. Mr. Hazem



Derae opened the seminar by defining

the aims and details of it. He indicated that Yemen is a distinguished country in the field of tourism. Sheba Kingdom is the proof of Yemeni tradition and originality. A tourist can spend his vacation by enjoying the wonderful views in this beautiful country. He pointed to tourism in Egypt and how it was before, and the role of Look Advertising as it improved tourism in Egypt until it has become one of the best countries in the field of tourism. He highlighted that the aim of tourism promotion in Yemen should offer tourist facilities. Tourism in Yemen should be promoted by offering material in various languages in such international markets as Germany, France, Britain and Italy. He specified the CNN Channel as the best way for advertising. He suggested that the motto for advertising should be, "Yemen is Incomparable Country." An Egyptian documentary film on tourism promotion was shown during the seminar. At the end of the meeting, they decided to form a committee of governmental and private sectors to discuss tourism promotion, and to study strategies to overcome the difficulties, provided that Look Advertising should organize the propaganda part because it is one of the biggest advertising companies in the Middle East. Owners of companies asked questions on the difficulties which face tourism in Yemen such as tourists kidnapping, which is the most dangerous phenomenon that affects tourism in Yemen. On his part, Mr. Hazem indicated that there will be solutions for this bad phenomenon.

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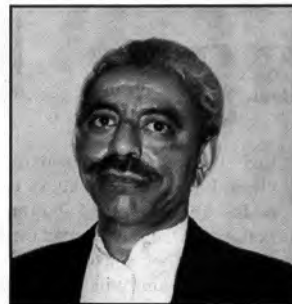
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Ramadhan:
The Month of The Truth

The significance of the month of Ramadhan just cannot be overestimated. It is the month of contemplation and meditation. For Moslems it signifies the time of the year that God chose to bring down the Koran – the eternal incorruptible words of Allah, the Almighty – to His final human messenger and prophet, Mohammed (Peace and Blessings of Allah be bestowed upon him, or P hereafter), some fifteen centuries ago. No one then could conceive that the arid mountains of Mecca were about to be the launching grounds of one of the most widespread religions and the fastest spreading one, despite the intense organized missionary activities of other religions that seek to compete with it. Mohammed (P), prior to this, has been going through an ongoing contemplation period for some time towards the end of the First Decade of the Seventh Century A.D. (He was born around 570 A.D.), finding solace in leaving the city of Mecca with its commercial activity and stark reality of human oppression and exaggerated idol worship. By this period in his age he had come to despise the cutthroat sleazy mercantile society and the illogical submission of his kinsmen and fellow Arabs to an assortment of deities. In fact, Mohammed could not find himself at ease with the horrendous

evil that had become symbolic of the Ignorance Period, as the times of pre-Islamic Arabia were called. He could not be impressed with the idea of seeking spiritual relief from scores of deities, which were symbolized by a multitude of stone or wooden idols, that were all housed in the Kaaba – the original House of Worship built by the Patriarch of the Semites and the grandfather of a long line of prophets and messengers sent down to pave the way for the Eternal Message that Mohammed would eventually be honored with delivering. During his 40 years of life in Mecca, Mohammed (P) was developing into the kind of unique human material that was bound to go beyond the mundane, social and economic status he had been able to acquire, mostly by the ideal traits and manners that he had been characterized by and inherited from the chivalrous Hashemite code of ethics, which Mohammed had refined to provide him with the fame of being the "Truthful, Trustworthy One," as he was nicknamed by his kinsmen. Even from his early youth Mohammed was quick to reveal a unique character that inspired the admiration and charisma that were the basic foundations of the mission he was about to embark on. His integrity, trustworthiness and insistence on upholding the

truth were not matched. His mother died while he was still an infant and his father later followed in his early childhood. He was reared and raised under the guardianship of his grandfather, Abdulmuttalib and then his uncle Abu Talib. Mohammed (P) comes from a long line of a distinguished hierarchy of notables who have lead the Tribe of Kuriesh, since anyone can recall. They were always praised for their honesty, courage and wisdom, and generally held control of the guardianship to the Holy House of God, which meant the Kaaba. Thus Mohammed, even before the call to carry the Message was already equipped with the character, the charisma and the reputation for high morals and honesty. It was these traits and characteristics that lead him to Khadija, a wealthy merchant woman who needed someone to help her manage her commerce. This ended the poverty of Mohammed, especially after this employment opportunity turned into happy wedlock (She was fifteen years his senior). Yet, even the comfort of wealth and social prominence in the community, were not enough to fulfill the quest for the increasing inquisitiveness that was nurturing in Mohammed's mind. The chaotic sphere, which characterized the Arabian Peninsula, was

bound to contrast with the notions of good and high moral standards that have set in on Mohammed's (P) mind. Petty tribal wars, a cutthroat mercantile establishment, a society drenched in evil – even the killing of infant girl children because they were not as good as boys – usury and several other social grounds for oppression and discontent among a significant proportion of the population. More than that, the idol worship of the Arabs at the time sought Mohammed to question the wisdom of such religious inclinations. Thus, there were several matters tossing and turning in Mohammed's mind as he saw the lack of social order plague the society and he saw the prevailing injustice, and as he saw the ignorance of preaching to dead matter. Even the Christian and Jewish communities that had grown in the region over the previous centuries were no source of comfort to the pondering that engaged Mohammed's mind. One is bound to wonder how a generally illiterate individual should delve into the complex theological and social matters that even the high priests of the existent faiths of the time could not give the proper answers to. The many monks and rabbis, who had met Mohammed in his early pre-Mission life had been impressed by Mohammed's character

and wisdom and were quick to suggest possible spiritual sponsorship of Mohammed's further development as well as a leading role for him in the society. Some had even suggested that he would be the deliverer, whom Jesus Christ (P), had predicted would come after him. But to Mohammed, all the existing faiths could not appeal to Mohammed's spiritual inclinations. He saw them as nothing more than variations of the same theme, especially with their complex clerical orders. They have all lost the one-to-One relationship between man and his Cause d'être (the Arabs did recognize the existence of Allah, as the Supreme God, even though their polytheism had overwhelmed their spiritual conceptualizations with their numerous deities taking prominence, or being used "to get them closer to Allah", as the Koran relates their false claims). The organized churches were not inspirational for Mohammed, as they seemed to create a self – centered clergy that stood in the way of belittling the significance of the Lord Almighty as the only source of direct salvation, and spiritual comfort of man. On the other hand, the mundane manifestations of organized church orders were bound to deviate from the spiritual missions they profess and block the freedom of the mind to delve into the mysteries of life, while at the same time give themselves powers of passing judgement on the spiritual piety of men, thus infringing on one of the authorities that should only be vested with God Almighty. Moreover Church orders tend to rely on compulsory submission to religion to inure their continuity, rather than to allow men to judge for themselves, which religion appeals to the natural attractiveness of simplicity and logic to the mind (Even in

the more secular orders that modern societies have evolved into, the economic holdings of Churches raises questions about the extent of accountability and transparency in the management of such awesome economic wealth), and how men should still view priests as intermediaries between them and the Divine. Accordingly, Mohammed sought more appealing guidelines, which Mohammed suddenly realized, could not come from the existing spiritual and social orders of the day. He was led into spending more time in meditation and contemplation, and eventually seeking solitude in the mountains that surrounded the City of Mecca. What is the answer then to the question, "What is life really all about?" Who should really be in control of man's political, economic and social orders? How are such orders to be managed? How can justice be meted out and to whom should people entrust their leadership and their public interests? These are some of the fundamental ponderings that overwhelmed Mohammed's mind as he sought the quiet solitude of the Mecca countryside, where the darkness of night was arrayed with a star-studded view of the universe and the quiet of the lack of human and animal presence was only broken by the whistle of the desert winds as they hit the rocky peaks around him. With these surroundings, one can clearly see that for sure, the universal order was broader in scope than what men could ever conceive it to be. With this then, Mohammed (P) reached the maturity needed to carry the torch that was to shed light to all those who sought the fundamental question of what is life all about. Where is the truth to be found? We will look into the rest of this fascinating story in the issues to come.

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.

Dear Editor,

Let me first express my admiration for Yemen Times. You are giving us some nice surprises in every issue. I'm so happy at your section of "IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH" as it is very important to all of us learning English. This page is a window through which we can know more about this language. We hope that there will be more development in this part with more useful features. Another thing, we are interested to contribute in this page poems, commentaries on phenomena, etc.

Al least a focus on this would let us express our talents.

Seaha'a Abdulkah Haza Al-Kobati
Student - Taiz.

Dear Seaha'a,

We welcome contributions from students like you for publication in Youth Forum. Keep reading Yemen Times and send us your comments.

Editor

I am also lonely

Darkness crawls slowly
when I find myself lonely
Mute walls sympathize with me
No voices, no motion
I was buried in silence
I found my imagination flying high
Flying to the realm of seasons
I invoked the four seasons' king
I was welcomed warmly by him
I begged of him to bless me
It assured me the bliss of the spring
In a flash I saw roses around
I was thrilled to pluck one rose
But I asked myself
For whom I cut this rose?
I am still looking for hope
Because I am lonely
The hope is beyond me
Which looks like a blossom
On the top of a mountain
And I am here at its bottom
Trying to get its touch
But all in vain
So the hope disappeared
Melted like a fond dream
Which I saw in my sleep
I can't remember where it was
Only the sadness and some dialogue
Between hope

And the desire of fulfilling it
But I am still lonely
Between tears and walls
There is no tissue to wipe my tears
Finally, I was enticed by slumber
When I got up
I found that I am still lonely
Then I shouted for hope
Lift me from the realm of sadness
But answer there was none
So I said Good-bye, farewell
I deeply realized the sting of sadness

Mohammed Yahia Saleh
Faculty of Education
Al-Mahweet

Happiness

Human beings always look for happiness. Therefore God sent his prophets to people to guide them to achieve happiness in their lives, the last prophet being Prophet Mohammed (peace and prayers be upon him). Many philosophers and intellectuals currently think that happiness is achievable through technological progress which has achieved many wonders and brought a lot of comfort, unimagined by people in the past. Some other people think that happiness could be achieved by soul searching only. So what is true happiness? Where can we find her? I want to say that the answer is within our reach. Happiness consists in maintaining a healthy balance between purity of life and technological progress and the exemplary conduct signaling the state of balance as directed by our Prophet (peace and prayers be upon him) and his followers. As the Prophet said, "I left two things, if you hold fast to them, you will never suffer after my death; the God's book (the Holy Qura'an) and my Autobiography.

Abdul Galil Nasser Al-Shara'abi
Arhb Education College

Theft in my Wooden Hut on
October 30th

I am aged 63, dependent on a monthly pension of £15 paid by the Brown Agents in London. I haven't any children to support me. I have a problem with my left eye which is developing a cataract and through which I am

unable to see. I can't even pay for the medical treatment fees. I am jobless. Let me tell you what happened on all these problems.

I live alone in a wooden hut on the hill at Khufaf behind Al Darwish Building. While I was away at night someone broke my door, entered and took my Toshiba TV, National Video and 6 video cassettes, which is my only entertainment as I am not an addict of qat, alcohol or even betel leaf.

I immediately reported to the police who came in their car and after seeing the condition called the fingerprint expert to whom I had to pay 200 rials for petrol and 700 as fees for photographing the thieves' fingerprints at certain places. There have been no clues of the culprits until now. I wasn't even in a position to pay for the police who were during their duty. Under the circumstances explained above, and as we are during this Holy month of Ramadhan, when will Moslems help a needy person?

Razzak Yassin A. Razzak
Afghan Street, Crater, Aden

Dear Editor,

I am really very pleased to read the editions of **Improve your English**. In fact, it is a very useful aid for the various categories of people who are interested in the English language. I'd like to request you to include some grammatical lessons in areas such as:

1) If & Relative Clauses,
2) Direct & Indirect Speech,
c) Active & Passive Voice, and
d) Tenses in General, etc.

This would help many students, here in Yemen who are lacking knowledge in the grammatical formations.

Sadik N. Mohammed
Traqi, Sana'a.

Dear Sadik,

We are planning to include some lessons on English grammar in the near future. Thank you.

Editor.

Dear Editor,

My full thanks to all who participated in Yemen Times in general and a chief

editor in particular. I would like to say that no one who reads YT can deny its

serious role as an independent newspaper. Because it embodies the meaning of 'independence of the press,' and criticizes and analyzes logically and objectively on any theme or subject it deals with. If it is an economic, political, social or a cultural one, then Yemen Times presents the solutions and benefits. As a matter of fact it is worth mentioning that dealing with the above-mentioned subjects frankly, bravely and with an open mind indi-

cates that our beloved writers devote their souls and energies for the sake of the utility and the honor of the word, and also indicates that our brotherly Yemenis are practicing a living democracy.

Lastly I would like to call up on every intellectual Yemeni and Arab to support and encourage our Yemen Times.

Tarig A. Ibrahim -
A Sudanese Teacher

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Telex: To Aden

Taiz Orphanage: Reality and Ambition

By: Imad Al-Sagqaf & Farooq Al-Kamali

With the advent of the third millennium, the world will receive the 21st century with huge developments in technology, but we, Yemenis will receive the coming century with qat, poverty and beggars. Many countries will receive this century with streets empty from beggars, while Yemen receives it with streets full of beggars and orphans who do not have shelters. We will receive it with mad people wandering through

said that Lebanese authorities had embarked on a campaign to find convenient lodging for the protection of orphans. Those authorities managed to clear Beirut streets from homeless children in this way. Yemen Times made the following reportage to explore the reality of orphans in Yemen. We went to the Social Care House (Orphanage), which was built in 1980 in Taiz governorate. We found out that in 1999 there are only 133 housed in the orphanage, while orphans are wandering the streets of the town.

As we reached the house, we were astonished when we saw orphans washing their bodies in a hole which is full of mud and polluted water. Then,

their beds were neat and the rooms clean, but we noticed sticks under the beds. The Deputy Director of the house said the area around the orphanage is full of snakes, which get in through broken windows of the bedrooms and panic children, so they keep these sticks under their beds to defend themselves.

The situation at the orphanage in Taiz is regrettable. We did not find any sign to presume it is a house for taking care of orphans. The house looks like it is just a dwelling for them. The orphanage is supposed to be a scientific, professional and moral school for orphans.

Orphanages should be centers of recreation, sport, technical and cultural activities. Many talented people in poetry, art, songs and theatre around the world graduated from orphanages. So, there must be a section in orphanages for various activities where talents could be spotted. There must be a professional workshop to train orphans in all professions such as smithery, carpentry and electrical engineering. These professions will help orphans in their lives after they leave the orphanage. Hence, orphanages must be religious schools where orphans learn the Holy Qura'an, sermons, and prayers. Their behavior will be polished and they will be virtuous individuals in their society.

The aim of an orphanage is to take care of orphans and pay attention to them, not just to keep them inside the house as prisoners. An orphanage must be a distinguished school compensating orphans for the sympathy of parents which they need. They must feel that there are some people who help them. They must learn many things which may help them as they leave the house, but unfortunately, we found a lot of orphans who are bound with chains and/or locked up in small rooms. In Taiz orphanage, we did not find a sports stadium. We saw a workshop and a library, both closed, and a closed room where some orphans are locked up.

The situation is bad, therefore, we call upon the Ministry of Security and Social Affairs and all charitable people to work for improving this situation.

In fact there are good efforts on part of the administration of the house, and by some of the social personalities in the private sector and the non-governmental organizations. We have also seen major efforts expended by Miss Faidah Haeil Saeed who organized the charitable day for the sake of the orphanage at the beginning of November. There is a bazaar organized at Mohammed Ali Othman school, the profits of which go to the house. The Director of the house says that they are doing their best to improve its conditions, but there

must be much support from the government and charitable people.

To know more about the situation of the orphanage, we asked Mr. Ahmed Kasham, director of the house in Taiz who said, "The Orphanage was founded in 1980. This house is one of the social centers which qualifies and takes care of orphans, including those orphans who committed such crimes as killing, stealing and sexual matters. The house protects homeless children and takes care of them. Those who have committed some wrongs are sent to the house by prosecution, while those who have certain social, economic circumstances are sent to the Ministry of Social Security to look upon their cases, and then they are sent to the house." There is a primary school for orphans, and for those who come from the neighboring villages. The total number of students is 800, while the number of the students who live in the house since its establishment is no more than 40 students. Some of the orphans are studying in high schools and at the university under the supervision of the orphanage.

There are many obstacles that thwart our ambitions. We have to build a second floor to accommodate more juveniles in addition to repairing the building and overall refurbishment. We need clothes and shoes for the orphans, and to re-operate the workshop, we need a high-voltage electric power connection. We need to change the old beds, buy new cloths for orphans and connect electricity. We are in need of various pieces of furniture and new lockers for the juveniles to keep their things. We also need to provide books and sports equipment. The house suffers a lot from water shortage, this makes the house in need of additional quantities of water to plant trees and flowers in order to add a beautiful view to the house, and to give a good impression to visitors.

The house offers good services to those children whatever their cases are. Its role goes along with guidance and creating awareness. Undoubtedly, children who live in the house come from different social environments, but at the house they become well trained, and gain good manners.

Regarding the professional field, it is one of the main aims of the house. There is a professional workshop, but it does not work because there is no electrical current (high voltage). The workshop needs more 200kw generators. The director of the house highlighted the religious aspect saying, "We concentrate on this side because of its importance in the behavior of orphans and to protect them from going astray. We also teach them Qura'an." He addressed their assistance by saying, "The health office for social affairs supports the house by giving drugs, and sweets on certain



occasions." Mr. William Ken, Representative of Mamadani Association and the Director of Jiblah hospital also supports those orphans who live in the house. He, with Haeil Saeed group, fixed and connected water pipes, bought chairs and tables for teachers and repaired bathrooms. They also brought all school requirements, kitchen utensils and drugs. They spent money for some surgical operations for orphans. Haeil group built a school consisting of six classrooms. They bought mattresses, repaired windows and presented some meals on the religious occasions. They also buy cloths for orphans on the occasion of Greater Bairam. Al-Hekma Charitable Association provides clothes for orphans every year, mainly in 'Ramadan.'

Mr. Abdulhafiz Mohammed Taha and

office, who talked about the role of the office by saying, "The office offers services to all social categories, we do our best to improve and develop social care services for those orphans who live in the house. The services are confined to clothes, food and health care. Through a meeting with the director of the house, we found that the volume of assistance is big, but we did not see any improvement in the services at the house. The director said children receive cloths and shoes from different donors, but as we saw the children were putting on tatters. The orphanage needs serious action. The orphans need to be taken good care of. We have to join hands to improve their living, because the condition is very bad. It is a shameful to receive the upcoming century with such aggravated problems facing our orphans. We



the streets and sleeping on pavements. Hence, we will talk about our children, Yemeni children who are deprived of their rights, about orphans who find themselves without parents. They seek for careful hands, for kind hearts and for warm laps. They have found themselves bearing responsibility too early and become gray-haired too early.

We will talk about children who wear torn clothes and walk barefoot, about those children who are abandoned by their families, to find themselves in the streets begging and/or becoming delinquents in a society where their rights are not taken care of. The society does not even provide them with a shelter.

Every year witnesses an increase in the number of poor children and juvenile beggars. We also see a lot of children who abandon school because of their bad conditions.

The talk about orphans in Yemen is a heartrending subject. A news item I read in a newspaper the other day made me write this report on the problem of orphans in Yemen. The news

we reached the school of the house, which was built by Haeil Saeed Group. In the classroom, we saw two kinds of students. Some wear school uniforms, have new bags and shoes, while others wear rags, walk barefoot and have naked bodies. We find out that the miserable children are those orphans who are living in the house while the other children were pupils coming from neighboring villages to study at the orphanage school.

We met some of orphans who told us that teachers beat them. Some of them said that their brothers brought them to the house. One of those orphans said that the house has become everything in his life. They complained of not having exercising games. They all wish that they could to play.

A 15 year-old child said that he prefers living at the orphanage to living on the streets. All orphanage children say their food is good, but there is not enough. Hence we put this problem before the office of social affairs in Taiz which is responsible for orphan affairs.

Touring orphans' bedrooms we found



his brothers and Mr. Abdulbari Haza'a Taha and his brothers presented electricity service since the year 1988, and they also provided some plastic materials to the house. On the other hand, Sweden Children Care Association provided a complete welding workshop, some chairs and tables for the house restaurant, fridge, television and video and a tennis table. The Swedish association provided these through Mr. Abdulwahab Al-Qorbani and Miss Jalelah Shoga'a. Miss Shoga'a also provided 108 chairs through the Social Fund for Development.

We met Mr. Sheikh Zen'allah Shagerah, general manager of the social affairs

hope to visit this house to find it a better condition dwelling or enough food. Unfortunately, there is no house for female juvenile delinquents in Taiz, especially after the increase in number of girls who are wandering here and there. We heard that a lot of girls were raped or killed, and this happened because there is no house to protect these girls. Hence, we call upon social affairs office, all charitable people and all organizations interested in children affairs to build a house for juvenile girls.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to Yemen Times for its interest in social affairs.

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Corners Without Support

By: Najmah Ali

Iwrote an article in the Alayyam newspaper titled "Corners Without Supports." Through that article I talked about the corruption inside the Ministries and corporations, and how this corruption controlled every thing there.

I also talked about reform program, which covered all the political, economic, cultural and administrative subjects. I mentioned that it does not reflect a strong base in which it can go into the innermost reality and fulfill the aims as a program for reconstruction and reform.

I dealt with the matter when the President called for a report from all Ministries; complete files which include positive and negative results. All of us know that the President knows what is happening inside the corporations of the state. His attempt to get reports from the Ministries, is intended to evaluate the performance of each Ministry. But why does the

government wait for three months to get these results? Is there any need for this long wait?

We know that the first cause of corruption inside these Ministries is that we do not put qualified men in the appropriate places, and there is a lack of coordination between the different corporations of the state. In addition to this, there is no equal opportunity.

All should know that the program of political and economic reform is concentrated on one point through which there is no perceptible improvement.

We hope that Yemen will start a new era in all fields of political, economic, cultural and social spheres. This will not be achieved unless there is an integration in the different possibilities of the state, and there should not be any individual interest. We also hope that the new program of the President will be endorsed by the Cabinet with new qualified Ministers, whose culture and efficiency can improve the performance profile of the Ministries and other

governmental corporations. The main cause of corruption is the wrong choice of administrators. Hence, we hope that the government should lay down standards for the performance of Ministries, and to punish those who see performance is not satisfactory.

We also hope that the new reform program of the President will achieve great progress in the process of development, and revitalize the process of economic and social transformation.

The important thing through which we can achieve this objective is by stability in policies, separating it from the bureaucratic bottlenecks, which is the principal enemy of development. We are in need of strengthening the main base and to accelerate businesses to develop our economy.

Finally, I would like to say that the program of reform and reconstruction, even after determining problems and finding solutions, will be useless if there is no action.

أجمل التهاني القلبية أزفها للأخ

أحمد حسين أحمد البتول

بمناسبة عقد القران، فأنت مبروك

المهن:

هاني حسين أحمد البتول

مبروك

وأجمل التهاني وأطيب الأمنيات نزفها للأخ

عبد يحيى اسماعيل الرمي

بمناسبة المولودة الجديدة التي أسماها

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تهانينا

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مع باقة من الورود إلى الشاب الخلاق

أحمد عبدالواحد الحمادي

بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف، فأنت مبروك

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First Competition:
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Dr. Paramod Kumar
Taiz University

Frank Talk: Mama Cow has Last Laugh

When you feel like smiling and crying at the same time, do neither. Meaning and absurdity usually do not belong to one and the same experience.

Had Wordsworth lived now, instead of writing, 'And much it grieved my heart to see what man has made of man,' would have lamented, 'What (English) man has made of cow, you can make food out of cow but to make it mad! God forbid!'

But this is true about all good things. The lure for more is irresistible. In the case under review, it meant trying to get the maximum out of each cow in the shortest possible time. The attempt was to restructure and cut short nature's labor. Translated in commercial terms, it meant how much payload a cow could deliver to the market, how fast and of what quality. If one of the cow-body was more market-friendly, the aim would be to make that part grow exponentially. In the process, the cow was likely to be blown up into a hapless lump of massive mass. It would get metamorphosed to vegetative growth. The consequences were indeed alarming. But, the temptation to test the frontiers of possibility got the better of sanity as the chromosome cord snapped.

Dolly, the duplicated lamb, was already creating ripples worldwide. Now scientists set their mind on creating another biological wonder. By modifying the physiology of a mammal through genetic engineering and other means, a new breed of cow was to be brought into existence. Hybridization was by now routinely employed in improving plant health, yield and such. It was to be replicated in the animal kingdom. The exercise would mean something like taking the genetic code for size from the elephant and for accelerated growth from the earthworm and transferring them to the DNA strand of a bovine ovum. The result would be a cow which was much bigger than seen in nature and

growing much faster.

The task was clear-cut. First to select the right stock of cattle known for its fast growth; second, genetically engineer the embryo for even faster growth; and finally, to construct cattle-feed to sustain such growth.

Soon success followed on all fronts: the ideal breed identified and isolated; the embryonic surgery in place; and synthetic fodder manufactured. In addition, the technology for controlled mutation was perfected. From the lab to the cattle farm was a cake walk. It was a sensational break-through, something to brag about. The whole of the scientific community and the policy makers was neatly processed, packaged and presented for savoring by the most delicate palates. The whole exercise went through without a glitch. The cycle from idea to implementation was completed as one smooth operation.

And then it happened. Something snapped somewhere. The modified cows in the back-yard would not have mattered much; for, for sure, even the maddest of cows are not known to bite like a mad dog unless, of course, you take them as hot dogs.

Then, what are the French aiming at? Why are they so fussy, messy about British beef? Maybe E.M. Forster was right when he observed that between the two, the English and the French, the latter were more pronouncedly unstable, emotional and excitable. But then, such hysteria on such a non-issue, a mere edible, appears unwarranted, even by their standards.

Looking back, but for a brief interim like comic were up-stage, the French have always been at the receiving end of British largess. They ought to have got used to it by now. Being in the habit of consuming so much similar stuff in the past, one wonders, what they are bellowing and mooing about now!

The French insistence on having more scientific evidence before they signed

green to red meat scoured from British isles, smacks of prudish indulgence. What better proof do they ask for than what can be obtained from behavioral science? The most in-depth observation of the British people in the recent past indicates no major deviation in their manner or moral. They look and behave very much their usual selves. They don't betray any sign of being bitten by the cow-bug.

In more than one sense, the English are the most correct people on earth. During the last few centuries they were able to throw overseas all the unwanted elements from their pious land. What remains can be taken as the yard-stick of propriety and sobriety. Such a people, consuming their own beef with impunity and with no visual effect on their bearings whatsoever, must suffice as a tell-tale. It is only when faced with irrational resistance to what the French derisively call, 'British beef,' that they get a bit jittery. But that is understandable given the circumstances. For instance, when the track of the Anglo-French tunnel blocking their access to European Union, they could be seen, with their heads down, frantically digging a new tunnel to the common wealth market with great vigour. There is certainly more than meets the eye!

Seen in historical perspective, for once, the French have turned the table on them. They talk science as the British scurry around in deputation to put the genie back into the bottle and march on Dunsinane.

We, the third world people, surviving in the back-waters of civilization, can not be more profitably employed but sit with our fingers crossed. In the mean time, we can stake our pound of flesh on which side the camel shall sit. It is a weird time and we should not be surprised to find even bananas and potatoes losing their heads and getting out of hand. Maybe, the whole world is going the cow-way!

of wild animals or the spread of diseases. We are used to it and houses are no problem for us now. We can, with the aid of these modest houses, defeat the harsh climatic conditions which are like burning fire from the 1st month in the year until the last third of the year.

If this was men's problem, then what would be the case of women? Women are living in continuous misery; they carry wood and bring water and do not get any reward for the simplest jobs. They have become real victims of conditions, men, and a hard life. A female teacher in the city said, "A large generation of women in this governorate were deprived of their right to education. Illiteracy has become our main problem and because of it we were exposed to persecution and abusiveness and nobody dares to discuss the conditions we are living in. The majority of educated women live in cities, but as for villages and suburban areas, schools are rarely available. Some may not believe what I say but it is the truth and anyone can make himself sure of what I just said."

These are some of the problems of this peaceful abandoned governorate whose good-heartedness of its inhabitants led them to a deteriorated condition.

Despite the concern caused by health conditions, their hopes in life are still big. The health reports on this governorate point to the increased rate of fatality year after a year and reveal that in every 100 people there are 70 who carry Malaria.

High authorities should look into the problems of this governorate whose revenues go to other ones while it remains a victim of carelessness and forgetfulness. The local authorities in Hodeidah should protect and take care of the city. They should not turn it into a personal property where they establish their luxurious houses, forgetting the public concern of this governorate which, if not saved by the authorities in charge, is vulnerable to complete collapse.

Continued from Page 7:
In Hodeidah:

Poverty, Misery & Negligence that kills Humans

These are really bizarre customs and what is even stranger is their continuation in this unchanging manner. They are even becoming more entrenched and taking the form of tenacious beliefs.

This is not everything, this governorate is deprived of its magnificent beaches, marvelous sea and gardens where people can walk. On the contrary, the beaches are being buried down and Al-Hodeidah's corniche is decaying because of ignorance and its edges are filled with garbage; and authorities in charge still do not take any procedures in this regard.

Al-Ezzi Abkar, a social personality, said, "Carelessness has taken an unimaginable form in this governorate. Not just in its beaches which do not have any clean lounges, but also in the general shape of the governorate. It has become a garbage dump full of mosquitoes and insects which cause malaria and other diseases. We demand the authorities in charge to save this governorate from decaying. The daily income of the harbor in five days of a month is enough to improve the ugly look of this city. However, until now we could not feel any concern and carelessness is still the master of all."

In Al-Hodeidah you can find barefoot, naked people who sleep on the ground in public markets and crossroads. You can also see children, youths and elders begging for charity that may prevent them from dying. Poverty has spread so widely that it has become a social phenomenon which many suffer from.

A beggar said, "Conditions forced us to turn into this shameful state. Charitable societies and government did not offer us any assistance. We found ourselves on sidewalks after economic conditions became harsher and made us poor in the age of devel-



opment. We, in Al-Hodeidah, are not like other beggars in other governorates because most of the inhabitants of this city are under the poverty line. Therefore, our suffering is continuous and painful." A social specialist in Al-Hodeidah University said, "We can not be unaware of the social effects of the beggary phenomenon. It gnaws at our society and cripples it. It is also a phenomenon which affects social morals and damages behavior. However, the biggest harm of the spread of this phenomenon is its change into perversion, especially with ladies. Most social studies done in this governorate contain standard numbers that point out to frightening signs regarding the social status. They are also pointing out to an upcoming danger which has several sources and ways one of which is beggary."

The ailment of these people also includes housing. The majority of the population still lives in straw huts. However, they have adapted to this lifestyle and they enjoy it.

One of those whom we met in Bayt Al-Fakih region - 100 km from the center of Hodeidah - said, "Our ancestors lived in such houses and we are peaceful people who do not attack others. So, you would find us afraid only

Issue no.
50

Yemen Times Weekly Competition مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

ابحث في محتويات هذا العدد عن اجابة السؤال المبين في الاسفل مع كتابة الاجابة باللغة الانجليزية وكتابة عنوان المقالة مع تحديد رقم الصفحة التي بها الاجابة بخط واضح وارسلها الى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء. لا تقبل الاجابات من دون هذا الكوبون الخاص بالسؤال. الاجابات التي تصلنا بالفاكس غير مقبولة. سيتم اختيار الفائزين من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة، وسيمنح الفائز بالمركز الأول مبلغ 8000 ريال والثاني 5000 ريال والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000 ريال. وحتى يتسنى للجميع إرسال الاجابة إلى بريد الصحيفة فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحاً لمدة أسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد 13 يوماً من الإصدار). ستُنشر أسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مظهر الرسالة. بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون باسمه.

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

When was the Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center established?

Answer:

Article's Title:

Page no.

Your Name:

City/Province:

Address:

Tel. No.:

Answer to 48th Issue Competition

Page 11, Article: Common Sense - How to Stay a Big Power Without Really Trying, Text: "The Events in Chechnya, and in every Moslem country, are of interest to the Yemeni people."

Winners of the 48th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Ansam Mohamed Abdulla, Sana'a

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Salem Ahmed Ba-Abbad, Seion

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Muhsin Kassim Al-Hubeishi, Marib

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Wahda Abdullatif Al-Sanawi, Taiz

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. 268661. 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.

Crossword Puzzle

Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

Across Clues:

- A long round vegetable with a dark green skin and a light green inside which is usually eaten raw.
- Opposite of "hot."
- We bite foods using our
- The fourth planet in our solar system.
- An electric machine that you use to mix liquids and soft foods together.
- In my country ice falls in season.
- The present simple of "spotlit"
- Idiom "beat the bush"
- The two men shook

with each other.

- You are an adult, it is a shame that you cry like a
- When we talk, we move our tongue and
- A small fast boat with an engine.
- Idiom "cry over spilt"
- Let's clean the place quickly our parents come back home.

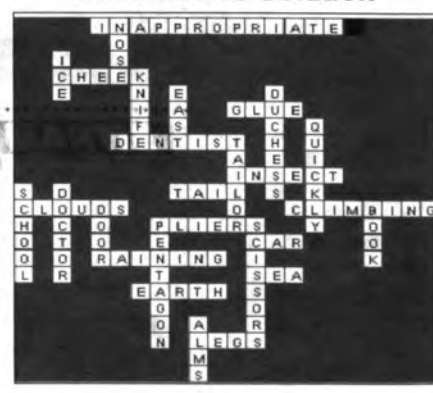
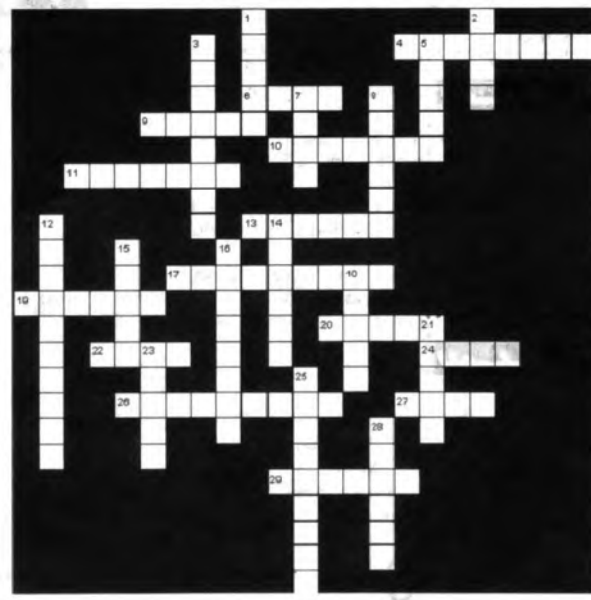
Down Clues:

- An area of sand or small stones next to the sea or a lake.
- A solid object with six equal

square sides.

- The part of your face above your eyes and below your hair.
- The cat hid down the table.
- The balloon blew up with a noise.
- A female parent of a child or animal.
- Opposite of "probable."
- A piece of land completely surrounded by water.
- A prefix meaning "five"
- The traditional stories, customs, etc. of a particular area or country.
- Weighing a lot.
- Past participle of "slew"
- A large brush with a long handle used for sweeping floors.
- Opposite of "safe"
- A completely round shape like the letter O.

Last Week's Solution



IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH



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

I. What to say...

- Adel: Hi, Asad.
Asad: Hi, Adel.
Adel: Nice to meet you again. I did not see you for ages. Where were you hiding?
Asad: I went to my village for three weeks. I got the news that my grandfather was ill.
Adel: Sorry to hear that. How is he now?
Asad: He is much better now. I hope he will be all-right in a few days.
Adel: Insha Allah. Where are you going now?
Asad: I am going to the British Council Library. What about you?
Adel: I'm also going there. Let's, then, go together.
Here comes the taxi.
(Taxi arrives)
Adel (to a passenger): Excuse me, is this seat taken?
Passenger: No, it isn't.
Adel: Would you mind moving over one, so my friend and I can sit together?
Passenger: No, not at all.
Adel: Thanks a lot. Get in, Asad.

Points to remember

- a) for ages..... is an informal way of saying 'for a long time.'
b) Where hiding: a friendly way of expressing mild surprise at long separation.
c) Would you mind moving over one? Would you mind is a polite request form meaning "Are you willing to." Literally, it is roughly equivalent to "Do you object to?" or "Do you dislike?" In order to express his willingness to comply with the request, the person answering normally uses a negative form, such as "No, not at all," or "No, of course not." By this he means, "No, I don't mind," or "I will be glad to."
d) Moving. Notice that the verb following the expression Would you mind is in the -ing form.

Other examples:

- Would you mind opening the window?
Would you mind waiting for a few minutes?
Would you mind speaking a little more slowly?
e) So that means 'in order that.'
f) No, not at all means "No, I wouldn't mind at all," or "No, of course not."

II. How to say it correctly

The following sentences contain an error in each. Can you identify the error and correct it?



YOUTH FORUM



When I Love!

As flowers do fade,
When cut or die;
As leaves do fall,
When autumn does sigh;
Comfort goes west,
When together,
Love and I.
Hisham Al-Quabti

Poverty

I want to eat
I don't like sweet
I don't ask for meat
I need some wheat
When I am ill
At home still
No money to heal
No hearts to feel
How to get money?
My sons are many
If you have money
Please help my family
If I don't hear a reply
How can I buy
Food or any supply?
Mohammed Al-Malahi
Faculty of Languages
Sana'a University

What is the year 2000 problem all about?

The year 2000 problem refers to the effect on many computers when their internal clocks tick forward from 11:59 p.m., December 31, 1999 to 00:00 a.m. January 1st, 2000. Computers store dates as numbers, and many computers and software applications store and manipulate dates as 2-digit numbers: e.g. '97 for '1997.' This has worked fine for dates throughout

the 20th century. But a problem arises for the systems when '99', meaning 1999 ticks forward to '00', meaning 2000, which the system may treat as if it was 1900, causing miscalculations and inaccurate information. An additional problem is that 2000 is also a leap year. Not every system recognizes this, as years which are divided by 100 are generally not leap years.
Khaled A. Suofan

My land

Even if they force, I will not surrender
Even if they gave me what I dream
I will not give them my humble land
My land my heart
always dearest to me
If they need a place to live
And me!! to be homeless and forlorn!
"Nonsense," I said "absurd thought!"
My land indeed needs me
To protect her citizen or chief
To sum it up, to be in brief
Our land for us is earth's cream
I shall do my all for her to beam
Will never myself be grief's victim
Fadi Ahmad Abbas Ghazi
Education college of Arhab
Sana'a University

Dear editor,

I would like to extend all my thanks to the staff of Yemen Times for making me improve my English a lot.
I am so happy about the Education page in which we find many inter-

esting and useful things. This information is very important for those who want to improve their English.
I wish you all success and a better future.
Sadiq Ahmad Al-ward

Value of Ramadhan
It is a month like others, but its value is great
For its coming every Muslim does wait,
And in everyone's heart it has a seat,
When it arrives all the hearts beat.
It is a guest it's name is Ramadhan,
Everyone knows, it's the month of Holy Qura'an.
It is cherished by every woman and man,
To ennoble and enrich and enlighten.
It purifies the soul, nourishes the health,
And makes a balance,
Among worshippers
There is no feeling of difference,
Drinking nothing, eating nothing,
It teaches patience
For sins, whims, or deviations It leaves no chance.
Heaven's doors are open for everyone to go,
Upward to the hallowed region you must know
To get God's mercy,
Have good intention in all you do
May all have devout worship,
Insha' Allah, falterings no.
Khalid Ali Ali Al-Qazahi
Faculty of Education,
Mahweet

Historically, nobody knew how the Ottoman troops carried this canon to Hajar Al-Yad, in spite of the height of its dome at one thousand two hundred ft above land level. The route is so tight that one person can hardly pass through. The canon's position fell at the hands of the popular national resistance forces which amazed the Ottoman military leadership.
Nothing remains but memories, and the tourist observation to the site as a tourist place because of the unique sample of the middle-age architecture, that has a characteristic engineering pattern.
It is not easy to recognize these particulars when the visitor is amazed by looking at the general frame of conventional architecture that appears at first sight to look similar. In addition to this location, there is another archeological site that is situated nearby some volcanic benches nineteen kms away from Al-Taweilah-Shibam. The individual shall meet a residential archeological building that stands on a volcanic mountain ridge called Al-Kheir fortress.

It is a mountain center polygon shaped like a concave-triangle that is surrounded by residential buildings whose background constitutes the defensive and protective line that can hardly be broken through, except by the only gate situated to the east. It is a sample of the historical residential buildings that used to protect people from foreign invasion Early Yemenis chose to live on mountain tops, and to cultivate the plains that supplied them with crops and protected them from hunger.

A Rejoinder to English Literary Studies: Need for Interfacing W.L.W.E by Murari Prasad

Dr. A. K. Sharma
Associate Professor,
Department of English,
Faculty of Education
Arhab, Sana'a University

Indian teachers in particular have in recent times applied their mind towards evolving a Yemeni model of English language curriculum world literature written in English (W.L.W.E.) in view of the arrival of the 21st century.

I would like to arrange some meaningful points to convincingly persuade the writer of this article to modify his unreasonably held views in context of possible replacement of Yemen university literary studies curriculum with 'World Literature Written in English,' i.e. 'W.L.W.E.'

If the writer of this article planned to write consciously within the relevant parameter of his concept of genre, i.e. English literary studies in Yemen universities, points of unnecessary relatedness to W.L.W.E. wide level four (4) integrated English course in language skills won't have originated. Therefore, the necessity to examine different angles of approach to build a solid infrastructure to introduce W.L.W.E. in place of current literary studies curricula in Yemen universities makes sense in different ways.

One would like to understand the implication of the word 'holistic' which means nothing in the context. If his clear goal is to make a fair publicity in order to build up a widescale readership and academicians' opinion in support of W.L.W.E. one need not be in a hurry to articulate his views off-hand about a topic beyond limits of relevant context. Let us look at points of confusion at work in his lines. For example, "mixing of English language teaching as the justified primacy in the context of Yemen in a functional and goal-directed way with literary studies 'crying out for certain alternative enterprises within the space of English literary studies' in Yemeni universities does not provide him with a point of argument about the topic at all. The worst that is added to one's confusion is treating of language, literature and culture together without any independent care of his topic 'English Literary Studies in Yemen: Need for Interfacing W.L.W.E.' While the writer of this article does not have anything to say in regard to the inadequacy of current English literature curriculum in Yemeni universities, he feels tempted to talk about multi-cultural curricula that would take care of world literature, i.e. W.L.W.E.

1- I firmly believe that any model of creative writing in the past, present and in future times, should involve discovery of one's voice and intent which constituted the universal features of world literature. So, he should be able to argue his point that cloned version of English literature that includes Shakespeare, Dryden, Milton, the Metaphysical poets and Romantics is inadequate and irrelevant. Therefore, his belief that classic world literature was written to establish British colonies in different parts of the world as mentioned in paragraph two of his article is not tenable. The writer himself states that the same cloned curriculum has come to stay in the post-depolarization period. However, he holds on to his views that English curriculum in Yemen continues to be 'cast in the colonial mold.'

2- I would rather observe that the writer is inclined to become a fundamentalist in the sense that he takes into consideration universal principles of writing world literature. What has come to happen to the post-colonial Indian universi-

ties imparting courses in English literature at M.A and Ph.D levels? Has even one percent of the Indian university professors ever talked about desirability of

replacing colonial English curriculum with a post-colonial English model of curriculum? I myself remember having enacted Macbeth's role on stage and felt that Shakespeare's discoveries of aspects of human life are ever lively in the lives of human beings all over the world.

The Rev. Thomas Dale, Lord Macaulay and others, being important personalities in the course of British educational history, never talked about reversing trends in British literature as pointed out by the writer.

Professor Edward Said at Columbia university in the USA has done a beautiful job in focussing upon the necessity of study of post-colonial writings. However, this is not at the cost of English classic literature of the West. Several universities in the Middle East have British and American teachers who should adjudicate the contentious issue of W.L.W.E. curriculum in their respective departments.

3- The writer should take into consideration the fact that the comparative literature came into being on global basis only to enable readers to have access to multilingual forms of world literature. This is how the westerners opened up to the entire world. Therefore, of all types of literature listed, for example, post-colonial literature, contact literature, commonwealth literature, third world literature in English being resistant literature sounds non-sensical in as much as it does not tend to grow independently.

The writer has informed us that Leeds University in the U.K. and Flinders and Macquarie in Australia, have introduced the English writings of writers from India, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa. However, any reader of English literature with a minimum of critical sense would not grudgingly accept to put it on the English curriculum of India. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nigeria and Caribbean Countries.

4- In my evaluation, most of the criticism of this article is to put across the message to Yemeni university administrators who might have included titles such as "The God of Small Things," "The Remains of the Day," "The English Patient," "The Famished Road," "Sacred Hunger," "The Bore People" and "A Suitable Boy" in their English curriculum. The Booker or The Nobel Prize is conferred on writers on the recommendation of a panel of so-called jury based on different considerations.

Otherwise Noam Chomsky for his most revolutionary work on syntax wouldn't have been kept aside. Rabindra Nath Tagore, an Indian Bengali poet, was awarded the Nobel Prize for his poem 'Gitanjali' more than fifty years ago, but not even one percent of the total reading public in India has read Gitanjali. Arundhati Roy, even though a recipient of Booker Prize, is not acceptable to Indian readers in general for the reason that presentation of materials doesn't necessarily qualify the writer to be called a classic.

5- The point that baffles everyone is to discover those compelling factors which might have motivated the writer to press for unanimous opinion to open a separate department for a writer who has influenced him most. I do not know how an Indian Chairman of the Department of Literature, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a, would take care of his well-planned exercise in demanding a W.L.W.E. component

of English literary studies. The ideal thing for anyone would be to experiment with it first in Indian universities. Yemen has to follow Indian and some affluent Gulf universities later on. Tribal culture keeps entire Yemeni people intact and in emotional bonds of brotherhood for all practical purposes. They speak Arabic and feel fulfilled without any feeling for exposure to the world culture i.e. W.L.W.E. Yemeni culture has tremendous potential to sustain and keep people growing accordingly. One comes across news items reporting suicide committed by lovers or unemployed youths across Asian countries. In addition to this, cases of rape, murder and ugly types of violence which make everyday life miserable are printed in newspapers of western and some Asian countries. Both writers and readers of these countries find their reflection in such shameful and ugly uses of human life. As a result, they draw their materials of art and culture out of these ugly practices. W.L.W.E. literature discussed as relevant for Yemeni universities does not hold good since Yemeni ways of life do not prevent them to experience or practice ugly, shameful and immoral acts out of which materials of art could be born for them. Let us take a look at a qat session at any Yemeni house which is indicative of their togetherness, contentment and a heavenly fulfillment. I am afraid, introduction of W.L.W.E. literature would corrupt both the cultural life and literary test of people in Yemen.

6- The necessity for interfacing W.L.W.E. as part of English literary studies in Yemen does not have anything to do with book launch parties in India.

7- While the writer should be critically sensitive to basic requirements of the reading public in Yemen, he is being swayed away by the hue and cry raised by western book launchers in India in the wake of the capital liberalization policy for multinationals. In view of the sale of thousands of copies of Arundhati Roy's novel, "The God of the Small Things," I would like to compare it with Shashi Brata's novel, "My God Died Young," which abounds in pictorial descriptions of oranges stimulating sex, and which hit the London market and was sold in large numbers. However, the book was not ever considered for inclusion in English literary curriculum anywhere in the world.

8- The writer has come to believe that British and Americans are both tolerant of truth in that the writings of Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan were recognized and consequently prized on the basis of qualities in them.

By way of conclusion, I would like to draw the writer's attention to the use of journalistic register of English which has to convey simple and clear academic messages. For example, 'literary studies cry out,' 'subtle social engineering,' 'to bone up on,' 'boot is on the other foot,' 'it is a thousand pities,' 'his gears seized up among peers,' 'books have hogged hype,' 'for their heft and gloss,' 'twirl phrases,' 'with a blaze of confidence,' 'compulsory page turners with a potent subterranean pull,' 'resonate with readers for a good measure,' 'stars a pond of stand up and feisty exponents,' 'breed of literary lions,' 'Indian ink could sell ninety eight thousand copies.'

From all angles of critical evaluation, it appears to me that the writer's argument for the W.L.W.E. variant of English literature for Yemeni universities sounds like irregular and rhythmless musical beats of a dancer, dancing to the prescribed tune of his master on the stage.

Continued from Last Page

A-Taweilah Fortresses & Citadels

Pride comes from the number of the forts that exist in one area: natives say proudly that there are Al-Qarani fort to the east of the town, Thihyan and Shamsan, and then the giant Al-Manqar fort to the west of the town, in addition to Hajar Al-Sayed citadel and Al-Taweilah fort.

Each citadel and fortress used to play a particular role in security, and military levels, keeping food and maintaining tools. The dome of Al-Taweilah fort has a drinking water spring that used to meet the requirements of other fortresses including Hajar Al-Sayed fortress which was connected by some suspension bridges and was topped by a big one hundred twenty caliber Ottoman canon.

Al-Taweilah Fortresses and Citadels



By:
Mohammed Al-Shaibi

ber of regions and housed judges' families, including scientific and literary people such as the great Yemeni scientist-judge Salih Bin Mehadi Al-Mugbli, author of the script "Al-Ilm Shamikh" and the book "Al-Abhalh Al-Musaddada fi Funoon Mutaaddida."

Al-Taweilah region is connected with Msawar lands, and Al-Masanih, Thula, Wallaa in the north, and Hamadan and Sana'a lands in the east, and in the west Al-Mahweet lands, Wadi Surdud and Haraz in the south.

Volcanic formations cover the mountain ridges that extend towards Bani-Al-Khayat region passing through the city center until Al-Mahweet in the west. Al-Taweilah historically were a bridge over which passed the Ottoman invasion forces in the fifteenth century under the leadership of the

Ottoman governor Sinan Pasha whose soldiers were positioned in Al-Taweilah town and citadels and which were a center for the movements of these troops.

In modern times, Colonel Mohammed Al-Wadie, leader of the revolution whose duty was to prevent the counter-forces invasion in 1963, was based here. There are five huge mountains that positioned such citadels and fortifications. They do not even have domes, contrary to the important military citadels populated with civil establishments, or defensive fortifications, but these mountains did not lose the property of the defensive fortifications available in other military fortresses. Military fortifications were dug near the top of these semi-conetopped mountains, and many military catering units were built therein. That raises the curiosity and inter-



est of the tourist regarding the origin of these fortifications and the nature of their defensive and security roles regarding the town and the surrounding region that mixes imagination with reality. Real stories are combined with fiction regarding the five citadels and fortresses and their characteristics in defensive performance.

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