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EDUCATION

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Additional custom fees on imported goods

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, March 31 — A new government decision to increase the custom fees on 71 different types of imported goods has sparked criticism for causing price increases.

According to Sunday's decision, the fees will increase from 5 to 15 percent of the value of the imported goods.

The decision will apply to cars, motorcycles, bicycles, cigarettes, tobacco, perfumes, cosmetics, decorative items, toys, furniture, construction materials, cleaning substances, and electric appliances, all imported into Yemen.

This increased fee will also apply to imports of vegetables, fresh or canned, grains, crackers, milk, cheese, honey, cooking oils, canned fish, sweets, biscuits and drinks, except powdered milk and those used in manufacturing.

This measure came only three days after the National Defense Council's meeting on Wednesday that discussed strategies to tackle the economic deterioration in the country.

Merchants have said that the price of these items has already been increased

without exception for basic goods, such as food.

"The price of everything has increased, even local products produced by the Hayel Saeed An'am group, the biggest in the country," said wholesaler, Ghailan Assoudi.

He explained that the market has witnessed two separate increases, the first as a result of last week's devaluation of the Yemeni riyal against the dollar, and the second after the government decision to increase custom fees.

As an example of the increase, he said that the price of a 14-kilo can of ghee has increased from YR 4,400 to YR 5,000 and a 25-kilo sack of milk powder has increased from YR 18,000 to YR 18,800.

Even the price of white flour has risen, he said, although it was not included on the list of items for the custom fee increase. The price of a 50-kilo sack of wheat has also increased from YR 3,750 to YR 4,000.

Yemenis have complained about the latest price increases.

"This new increase is a heavy burden on our shoulders as our salaries

are low and are already not enough to cover our daily needs," said Ali Saleh, an employee who receives monthly salary of YR 33,000.

A measure to save the Yemeni riyal Secretary General of the Cabinet, Abdul-Hafiz Al-Semah, said the decision is part of the government's many measures to avoid any further Yemeni riyal devaluation against the US dollar. The measure aims to save the hard currency spent on imports, and favor the purchase of local goods at lower prices.

In a statement to the ruling party's website, Al-Semah said that the devaluation of the Yemeni riyal against the dollar and its use for importing goods to Yemen affects the national economy. He said that the government's latest measure is aimed at limiting currency exhaustion and controlling price increases.

"The government has cut off its nose to spite its face," said economist, Mohammad Jobran, explaining that instead of imposing extra taxes on traders, it has instead ended up inflicting them on ordinary citizens.

"Imposing these additional fees means that the Yemeni economy is in an even worse condition," he said. "If the government continues with this policy, the price of the dollar will not retreat and speculation will continue, because they haven't solved the root of the problem."

He suggested fighting corruption



A general scene of a popular market near the old city of Sana'a - With the additional custom fees, the retail prices of all goods are expected to increase. This could push people to buy cheaper goods of lesser quality and put their health at risk.

as a more effective way to rescue the economy, by limiting the demand for hard currency, because the corrupt have great liquidity and will continue buying dollars and transferring them

outside Yemen.

He also recommended that the government improve its income, and impose taxes and custom fees on those who are stealing tax money.

He finally suggested that the Ministry of Trade ban merchants from selling goods in dollars, as this policy increases the demand for the dollar and devalues the local currency.

Pirates continue to terrorize Arabian Sea

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 31 — Just a few days since the hijacking of a Yemeni fishing vessel by Somali pirates off the S northern coasts of Somalia, pirates have hijacked a Panamanian-flagged ship off the Yemeni coast with its 24-member crew.

The MV Iceberg1, owned by Iceberg International Ltd., was hijacked Monday about 10 miles off the port of Aden. According to NATO's counter-piracy operation, the 4,500-ton ship was carrying mechanical equipment to Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates, Ocean Shield.

The Yemeni ship that was hijacked last week remains under the pirates' control despite efforts for its release. During the hijack, one of its 12 crew members, who was a Tanzanian, was killed during the hijack according to official media source.

According to coastguard security, the Yemeni fishing vessel had embarked on its journey in February from the Al-Shihri port in Hadramout, and was hijacked last Thursday while it was on Somali territory waters.

Yemeni security authorities are currently working to release the fish-



Yemeni security leads two Somali pirates from their ship into the port of Al-Mukalla in April 2009. On the same day, the Yemeni navy rescued an oil tanker that had been hijacked in the Gulf of Aden. During the rescue mission, two of the pirates were killed and eleven captured.

ing vessel and its crew safely.

On the Yemeni shore of Shabwa province, the Yemeni Naval Forces foiled a hijacking attempt of a Yemeni oil tanker by Somali pirates last Wednesday.

The tanker was sailing from Shabwa to Aden port when four Somali pirate boats attacked it. The Yemeni tanker was however aided by the navy which in turn engaged in armed clashes with the pirates and rescued the tanker.

According to Admiral Ruways Abdullah Mujawar, commander of the

Yemeni navy and coastal defense, the four pirate boats escaped the Yemeni Navy and disappeared into the regional waters of the Arabian Sea. The Yemeni navy patrols are continuing to comb Yemen and regional waters to capture the fleeing pirates or others who pose a risk to ships' safety.

According to Reuters, the US government has warned ships sailing off Yemen's coast of the risk of Al-Qaeda attacks similar to a suicide bombing of the U.S. warship Cole in 2000 that killed 17 U.S. sailors.

In a recent interview with Reuters, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, who is commander of US naval forces in Europe and Africa, said that pirates were hijacking ships to use for their operations.

Foreign navies have been deployed off the Gulf of Aden since the start of 2009 and have operated convoys, as well as setting up a transit corridor across dangerous waters. But their forces have been stretched over the vast expanses of water including the Indian Ocean, leaving merchant vessels vulnerable.

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Sana'a University employees demand their rights



The main gate of Sana'a University

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, March 30 — The employees at Sana'a University are demanding unified regulations from the University, to protect their rights.

Administrative and technical employees are still unable to obtain their rights after many years of asking, according to the Employees Union at the University.

"We demand the University administration tackle employees' status and discuss our legitimate demands," said Mohammed Modhesh, Head of the Employees Union at Sana'a University.

"If the University administration does not respond to our demands, it will force us into a strike situation," he said, "We will not compromise our basic rights."

"The University must pay employees risk allowances, because their daily work can be held in dangerous labs, containing radioactive and chemical substances," he explained.

Modhesh sent a letter to the rector of Sana'a University explaining that problems of employees still have been not resolved after years of asking.

"We don't want to aggravate these problems, but the University will drive us to do just that," Modhesh said in his letter to Dr. Khaled Tamim, Sana'a University rector.

"We seek to achieve the principle of social and human justice for employees here and give them their rights," said Mohammed Abdulqawi, who is a rights activist at the University.

"Tackling retirees and former em-

ployees who have died, giving the qualified employees their rights to promotion and awarding them housing allowances are but a few of the issues needing attention. Moreover giving them land is also in accordance with directions of the government," Abdulqawi said.

Abdulqawi, who is also in charge of the Housing Association for employees at Sana'a University, confirmed that President Saleh has ordered land to be given to the employees, but the University hasn't recognized this order.

"The University must take action now to optimize the status of its employees," he said, "We are from the most important academic site in the country, therefore, the employees here must be placed in a better working situation."

"We seek only our rights; our rights in having medical insurance, funeral fees and compensation for injuries at work," Abdulqawi said.

The employees union at the University demand permanent posts for contractors at the university, in accordance with the prime minister, as asserted in a statement by the Union obtained by the Yemen Times.

The statement demanded the right to appoint a representative from the Union in the Council for Higher Education, that is run by the cabinet.

This statement also indicated the right of employees to obtain overtime payment for their work during vacations and it urges the University administration to provide incentives for employees who work on tasks that are additional to their daily remit.

Prison sentences for Southern Movement activists

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 31 — The Special Penal Court, which is the court concerned with security cases, has sentenced Hussein Muthana Al-Aqel, a lecturer in Economics at Aden University, to three years in prison. It also sentenced Fadi Hasan Ba Awm, one of the sons of a former leader in the Socialist Party, to five years in prison. Both Al-Aqel and Ba Awm were charged with promoting for secession and insulting the President Saleh.

Al-Aqel and Ba Awm rejected the sentences against them and said that they consider this verdict a medal they would carry proudly.

Al-Aqel was arrested while he was on the Aden University campus on June 8, 2009 along with a number of his colleagues. They were accused of promoting the Southern Movement. Ba Awm was arrested in Al-Mukalla on April 27, 2009.

Al-Aqel objected to the sentence and warned that the judge who read out the verdict would be blamed for any future consequences. Ba Awm refused to appeal and demanded that he be imprisoned in Hadramout.

The charges against Al-Aqel and Ba Awm included criminal offenses like

writing in newspapers that do not have licenses and distributing publications that are against the unity of Yemen, as well as offending the president.

The prosecution presented evidence against Al-Aqel to the court. This included an exam paper in which the questions harm the unity of Yemen and call for sectarianism.

His file also contained a scientific research paper called Oil Exploration in Yemen. The research paper covered the phases of oil exploration from 1938 to 2008 in the country, and was supported with numbers, maps, tables and photos.

After Al-Aqel was arrested, his mother developed thrombosis, a blood clot, and died before the end of the year. The authorities did not allow him to visit her when she was in hospital nor to attend her funeral. He has left behind a wife and nine children.

He wrote a letter to his academic colleagues that reflected his surprise at the university's indifferent reaction. He showed his astonishment that the prosecution had used an exam paper as evidence of harming the unity of Yemen and calling for sectarianism.

Confrontations in Al-Dhale' In Al-Dhale', confrontations took place

between the protesters and the security forces last Tuesday. As a result, three protesters were injured among whom was the spokesman of the Southern Movement, Brigadier-General Abdul Al-Ma'tari. Another six were arrested.

Earlier, the security forces had arrested Al-Ma'tari. He tried to escape and was shot in the feet in the process. He is now being treated in a clinic in the Al-Sha'b district, Al-Dhale' governorate.

Moreover, thousands of protesters participated in the funeral of Saif Ali Sha'eed who was a victim of random shooting by security on March 18 at the qat market. According to eye witnesses, after they were attacked by stones, government security forces shot at the people in the market where Sa'eed was selling qat.

Security prevented people from participating in the funeral, under the pretext that mourners were carrying secessionist flags and photos of Salem Al-Beidh, former president of South Yemen or what was known as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

During the protest around 60 protesters were arrested and 150 motorcycles were seized.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) condemned what they called criminal

acts in which people were randomly shot. They said on Tuesday in a press release that security forces who prevented the funeral and lurked on the house roofs had committed a crime against humanity, as 39 people were injured by them.

The JMP demanded that all those responsible be tried, and that those arrested be released and the injured treated. They also demanded that the motorcycles be returned to their owners. In addition, they also condemned arresting surgeon Mohsen Al-Haj to prevent him from doing his job to treat the injured people at the Nasr Hospital.

The JMP asked that the state stop the security forces from playing with people's lives.

Human rights activist and lawyer Afra Hariri said that the problem of the Southern Movement lies in the fact that its numerous leaders are not united.

She told local media that the objectives of the Southern Movement are not clear. In addition, she said that the absence of a strategy of the Southern Movement confused others who could have been supporters.

"There must be certain qualities for the leader, including that he must believe in his case to the degree that he is willing to die for it," she said.

No mobile phone coverage in southern districts

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 31 — For over a month, mobile phone coverage has been suspended in the southern governorates of Lahj, Al-Dhale' and Abyan by order of the government.

On February 26, the ministry sent a letter to the four mobile phone network providers in the country, Sabafon, MTN Yemen, Yemen Mobile and Y, to suspend coverage in fifteen southern districts.

The letter, signed by Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Kamal Al-Jabri, specified that should be no coverage in the districts of Al-Dhale', Jahaf, Al-Azariq, Al-Asha, Al-Ayen, Yafe', Habel Al-Jabr, Radfan, Al-Milah, Tuban, Al-Hota, Al-Musaimair, Halmain, and Al-Shuayb.

In the letter, he justified the action to the companies by saying, "In the

interest of the public and for security prerequisites, turn off your company's transceiver stations," according to a copy of the letter obtained by the Yemen Times.

The ministry's order has in particular cut off communication between people originally from the south but working in the north and their relatives.

Mohamed Al-Da'iri, a soldier working in Sana'a originally from Radfan in Lahj, said that he has been unable to call his mother and father for over a month to check if they are well.

"I have been here for a couple of months, and usually I call my mum and dad once a week, but now a whole month has passed without any call," said Al-Da'iri. "When I call my family and the mobile company replies that it is out of coverage, I feel worried."

Al-Da'iri said that these measures would not lead to any concrete results



The letter from the Ministry of Telecommunications instructing mobile phone companies to suspend coverage in southern districts.

in alleviating the unrest in the south, except inciting people to be more violent.

Fauzi Ghaleb, who works in a money exchange center in Sana'a, is originally

from Al-Dhale'. He said that he has been unable to contact his family in his village for one month.

Abdurrahman Al-Barman, human rights activist and lawyer at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms known as HOOD, said that blocking mobile coverage in specific districts is illegal.

"Communication is a right for everyone, like freedom of movement," said Barman. "Depriving specific governorates of communication is an inhuman act and a kind of discrimination."

Unrest in Yemen's southern governorates broke out three years ago, but it is the first time that the government has blocked mobile coverage in the area.

From 2007, over 150 supporters of the Southern Movement have been killed and 500 wounded in demonstrations calling for secession from the central state in Sana'a.

Historical photograph exhibition "A Time in Hadhramaut" launched

HADRAMOUT, March 29 - As a part of Tarim festival being the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010, an exhibition of historic photographs was inaugurated last Wednesday in Sayoun. The exhibition displayed photographs taken by Harold and Doreen Ingrams during their stay in Hadhramaut in the early 30s.

Mr. Abdulrahman Hasan Al Saqqaff, Director of Seiyun Museum said "The General Authority of Antiquities and Museums in Wadi Hadhramaut always aims to amaze its visitors with more historical photographs that document their way of life and the environment. The importance of these photographs increases in this rapidly changing world.

We are glad to open this exhibition and to add the fourth historical collection of photographs to Seiyun Museum.

The photographs taken by the British political writer and traveler Harold Ingrams and his wife Doreen during the nineteen thirties form an important addition to the museum's collection. The exhibition is also a big cultural event as it coincides with the celebrations of Tarim being the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010.

We, the Seiyun Museum would like to thank the British Council and the effort made by Leila Ingrams to produce this exhibition and to make it see the light."

Harold and Doreen Ingrams are famous in Yemen for their efforts in bringing peace to Hadhramaut, and the scientific and social work they did there. They first came to Yemen on 1 April 1934 when Harold was appointed Political Officer in Aden, after he had served in Zanzibar and Mauritius. Harold sat in the Secretariat in Tawahi day after day dealing with tribal affairs, which amounted to little more than deciding which chief should have more arms and which should not, and who was deserving of an increased stipend, or what section of what tribe was causing trouble on a caravan route. Doreen felt a need to have some interest also and asked a young Arab to give her conversation lessons. She and Harold had taken an intensive course in Arabic at the School



of Oriental and African Studies in London. Harold grew impatient with his unproductive work at the Secretariat, and after some short trips into tribal areas near Aden to sort out various problems, he convinced the Resident of the need to visit the little known, distant Hadhramaut. The Resident agreed. In 1934-35, Harold and Doreen paid their first visit, which lasted nine weeks, to Hadhramaut. Doreen was the first European woman to enter Seiyun and Tarim.

After this visit and the publication of Harold's official report on conditions in Hadhramaut the British Government decided that further investigation should be made to see if it were feasible to aid the Qu'aiti and Kathiri Sultans in developing their states. Influential Hadhrami leaders in Hadhramaut were asking "What is the use of a Protectorate treaty if the protecting power takes no interest in those it is protecting?" The Qu'aiti and Kathiri Sultans had a genuine concern for the development of their states, and an earnest desire for peace.

Harold and Doreen arrived back in Mukalla in November 1936, almost two years to the day of their first visit. After a week or two in Mukalla for Harold to assess the situation and to have

talks with the Qu'aiti Sultan, they set off up-country for the Kathiri State, travelling by the eastern route from the port of Shihir up to Tarim in Wadi Hadhramaut. Soon after arriving in the Kathiri State Harold had begun discussing with Sultans, seiyids and tribal chiefs, the possibility of arranging a three years' truce between all the tribes, for without peace in the country there could be no orderly administration and no development.

A Peace Board was set up, and the first peace conference was held on January 24, 1937 in Seiyun. Travelling by donkey and camel, Seiyid Abu Bakr Al Kaf, other Hadhramis, Harold and Doreen made journeys all over Hadhramaut to persuade the feuding clans to sign a three-year truce, which was extended to ten years. Doreen travelled without Harold accompanied by Seiyids, beduins

and others propagating peace, and she had access to the women wherever she went. This was crucial for the women, some having lost husbands and sons in the fighting, and they urged Doreen to persuade their husbands (whom Doreen could also visit) to sign the truce. Altogether some 1,400 signatures were gathered from the tribesmen, in what became known as Ingrams Peace. After the declaration of peace came the surrender ceremonies. There was rejoicing in the streets and women wept with joy. Later in 1937, the Qu'aiti and Kathiri Sultans signed a treaty with the Government of Aden agreeing to accept British advice "in all matters except those concerning Mohammedan religion and customs". Both stipulated that Harold should be the adviser.

After peace was established, development could begin for which there was great enthusiasm. An education department was formed with an advisory board. Sheikh Qaddal from Sudan, was Harold's Educational Assistant and he organised and gave teachers' training courses and girls began to be educated particularly on the coast, in Mukalla and Shihir. Doreen ran a small club for

women and at their request gave them lessons in reading and writing Arabic and arithmetic. As the women teachers were all in strict purdah it was not possible for Sheikh Qaddal to give them training courses so Doreen attended his courses and passed them on to the teachers. Among other things, Doreen started a school for the blind in Dis, and schools for beduin girls and boys. Slowly development took place in agriculture, education, medicine and other welfare needs.

Harold and Doreen's daughter, Leila Ingrams, has preserved the collection of the photographs her parents took during their time in Hadhramaut, as well as their journals and other writings. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of their first arrival in Hadramaut, she has worked with the British Council to create this commemorative exhibition.

Leila Ingrams, Daughter of Harold and Doreen Ingrams said "Harold and Doreen Ingrams were known affectionately as 'Grams' and 'Duree'. Their time in Hadhramaut was the most significant period in their lives, for the Hadhramis and Hadhramaut, from all the places they had lived and worked, held first place in their heart: "it would be impossible to exaggerate their friendship, their help and their hospitality." Doreen and Harold's publications were prolific and formed a unique contribution to the study of Hadhramaut. Friendships made during these years continued throughout their lives."

During their time in Hadhramaut, the Ingrams also kept diaries, the captions for this entire exhibition come from these Diaries, their books: Arabia and the Isles, A Time in Arabia, Social and Economic Conditions of the Eastern Aden Protectorate and A Report on the Social, Economic and Political Condition of the Hadhramaut and from a number of articles by Harold and Doreen in different Journals.

The exhibition covers some of the journeys made by Harold and Doreen Ingrams and especially The First Detailed Survey of Hadhramaut 1934.

The British Council Yemen held an opening reception for the exhibition

at its final home and current venue, Al Kathiri Sultan's Palace in Seiyun.

The inauguration was attended by Yemeni Minister of Culture; Dr. Mohammed Abu Baker Al Maflahi, who termed the exhibition as "a window through which you can see the lives of Muslim people, accepting others and living with them in harmony. This exhibition also documents an important era and an important history of our people

and our beloved homeland"

In his introduction in the exhibition booklet, Michael White, Director of The British Council said "this exhibition helps us understand that the world is richer, more complex and more rewarding than we might imagine. It helps us appreciate that sometimes the contact between two cultures, handled sympathetically, can result in lasting benefit to both"

Vacancy Announcement

إعلان عن وظائف شاغرة

AMI is a humanitarian, apolitical and non-profit French non-governmental organization created in 1979. Now present in 7 countries, for over 25 years AMI has brought medical cares to those most vulnerable populations excluded from all health care systems. AMI is established in Yemen since 2007, in Hodeidah governorate. AMI health projects are implemented in closed collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The country representative office based in Hodeidah is seeking for:

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In brief

Yemen first woman filmmaker in Gulf Film Festival jury

Yemen's first woman filmmaker was chosen as member of a jury of eminent film professionals who would judge the competitions in the Gulf Film Festival to be held April 8-14 in the UAE city of Dubai.

Yemeni filmmaker Khadija Al-Salami was instrumental in altering the biases in the Yemeni film industry.

Al-Salami has produced a number of documentaries, including 'Women of Islam,' 'Land of Sheba,' and 'Amina,' which won the second prize at the Muhr Arab Awards in DIFF 2006.

The Gulf Film Festival is an annual non-profit cultural event that aims to celebrate the highest standards of Gulf cinema. It will host two competitions, the film competition and the script competition, as part of its mission to encourage creativity and excellence among filmmakers from the region.

Al-Salami has made over 20 documentaries for TV stations in France and Yemen

and received several awards at various film festivals worldwide.

She has co-written a book with her husband, "The Tears of Sheba," about her experiences growing up in Yemen.

She currently serves as the Press Counselor and Director of the Communication and Cultural Center at the Embassy of Yemen in the French capital Paris.

SANA'A

Two persons get jail term for 'threatening unity'

Sana'a Penal court sentenced on Tuesday two persons on Tuesday from three to five years in jail for working against national unity.

In the hearing, the court sentenced Fadi BaAom five years in prison and three years against Hussein al-Aqil in charge of committing acts that target unity of the nation and public peace.

On Sunday, the court also sentenced the Yemeni former ambassador to Mauritania

Qasim Asker to five years in jail after convicting him of threatening the national unity.

In June 2009, Asker, 58, was charged with committing criminal acts harming the national unity including violating the constitution, spreading the culture of hatred among the people, inciting a rebellion, and organizing unauthorized rallies, and spreading misinformation aimed at disturbing the public security.

Jews mark Passover in Yemen

The Jewish community in Yemen marks today Passover amid thanks to President Ali Abdullah Saleh who ordered to provide all requirements for the celebrities that last for eight days.

Rabbi Yahya Yusuf told the September website: in my name and on behalf of the Jews in Yemen I thank the president for care of us.

'Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) commemorates the formative experience of the Jewish people: their transformation from

scattered tribes indentured in Egypt to a nation on the road to redemption.'

Over eight nights, the people stay at homes, doing nothing but eating and drinking and studying the Bible.

DALEI

Security forces warn of any violent acts in Dalei

A security source in the southern governorate of Dalei has warned of any non-licensed and armed marches aim at spreading disorder called by southern separatists, almotamar.net has reported said .

Security authority in the province has announced these procedures after they failed a march two days ago by the outlaw elements.

Security sources affirmed that these security procedures will continue in all the country's governorates, expressing thanks to the citizens of Dalei province.

ADEN

Pakistani military ships arrive in Aden port

Two Pakistani warships and a submarine arrived on Tuesday in Aden port for several-day visit.

Pakistani hydrographic survey and Research vessel "Behr Paima", Frigates "Tariq" and the submarine "Hashmat" have arrived in a friendly visit to Yemen. The visit came to enhance the mutual cooperation between Yemen and Pakistan, especially in the field of fighting the piracy and terrorism, securing the international shipping lanes in the Aden gulf and the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

HODEIDAH

4th free eye camp in Hodeidah inaugurated

Secretary-General of Hodeidah local council Hassan al-Hajj inaugurated here on Tuesday the free eye camp, which is the 42nd in Yemen and 4th in Hodeidah

province.

The camp is organized by the International Eye Foundation (IEF) and funded by Sobal Charitable Institution and is to continue till April 9th.

Al-Hajj hailed the IEF efforts in establishing such medical camps as well as in carrying out free eye surgeries in Hodeidah within the foundation's charitable work to alleviate eye diseases.

IEF Representative Mohammed al-Himiary said the camp is the 42nd free eye camp in Yemen and it is a part of the IEF plan for the current year, which includes holding ten camps, two of them in Hodeidah.

The camp will provide services of medical examination, treatment, operations and free glasses, al-Himiary said, expecting that the camp would examine 10000 people and will conduct 1000 surgeries.

IEF aims to combat blindness in the world working in more than forty countries and has 22 hospitals in seven countries.

Their News

Three Japanese-funded projects inaugurated in Aden

Yemen and Japan inaugurated here on Tuesday three projects in Aden governorate.

General Secretary of Aden governorate Abdul-Karim Shaef and Japanese ambassador to Yemen Mitsunori Namba have attended the inauguration and handing over ceremonies for three projects of "Rehabilitating al-Burayqah Mentally Retarded Children School", "Improving Medical Services in Mother and Child Health Centre" and "Expanding Koud al-Othmani Health Centre" in Sheikh Othman District.

The first project at al-Burayqah school was to rehabilitate the 1960s building, aiming at providing safe and comfortable study environment for 72 disable students in the school worth at \$85,287.

The second project was building an additional medical centre and the third one was purchasing medical equipments for mother and child care and laboratory rooms. Both are in Sheikh Othman and were worth \$ 150,000 granted by the Japanese government in 2008 and 2009.

They will improve daily medical services for 90,000 local inhabitants in Sheikh Othman district.

Meanwhile, Governor of Aden Adnan al-Jeffri met on Monday with Japanese ambassador to Yemen Mitsunori Namba.

Al-Jeffri and Namba discussed a series of grant aids from the Japanese Government in the past, and means of further developing collaboration between the Embassy of Japan and the Governorate of Aden.

The Ambassador also visited the Aden Cleaning Fund, to which the Japanese Government had provided numbers of garbage trucks and walky-talky devices to enhance cleaning activities in the governorate in 2007.

The Japanese Government's scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects" has been assisting in the fields of drinking water, environmental, health care, education including disable and girls over the last 10 years in Yemen.

During this Japanese fiscal year (April 2009 - March 2010) Japan funded 18 projects in Yemen amounting to about \$ 1.5 million under the abovementioned Japanese scheme.

YDO holds launches its activities & holding a seminar about the National Strategy of Youth

Youth Developmental Organization launched its activities and held a seminar about the National Strategy of Youth in Al-Saed Foundation for Science & Culture. The ceremony was attended by a number of high-ranking personalities like Mr. Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-hayagem, the Deputy of Taiz Governorate, and Abdulnaser Alakhali, the manager of Youth & Sport Office in Taiz.

In this launching ceremony a speech was delivered by Prof. Mohammed Al-Shoaby, the head of the organization trustee board, and Mr. Maged Thabet Alkholidy, the head of the organization. Then Mr. Hayagem delivered a speech about the significance of such civil society organizations to push development process forward.

The ceremony was followed by a seminar about introducing the National Strategy of Youth. The seminar was funded by Safe the Children Organization- Siraj Program, targeting a number of 60 participants of youth.

In addition, the ceremony was also for publishing the first issue of Together Forever magazine, which is published by Together Forever Batch, English Department, Faculty of Arts. This magazine was distinguished for specifying one page for Yemeni culture, including translation of

Yemeni folklore like poetry, songs, proverbs, etc.

Inaugural Meeting of Friends of Yemen

On March 29, 2010, Abu Dhabi will host the inaugural meeting of Friends of Yemen. The group, which includes representatives both of states, such as Yemen's Gulf neighbors, and of intergovernmental organizations, was established at the High Level Meeting on Yemen in London on January 27.

Friends of Yemen is comprised of two working groups, one on "economy and governance," and another on "justice and rule of law." Yemeni representatives have made clear prior to the meeting that they expect it will result in commitments for economic assistance.

Human Rights Watch urged the Friends of Yemen, however, to emphasize improving justice and the rule of law to reverse the deteriorating human rights situation in Yemen, and not to offer economic support without regard to human rights concerns.

On April 7, Human Rights Watch will issue a report detailing alleged violations of the laws of war by Yemeni government forces and Huthi rebels during recent fighting in Sa'da province in northern Yemen.

"Yemen's friends need to make clear that they expect improved human rights for the Yemeni people as a major part of this effort," said Joe Stork, Middle East deputy director at Human Rights Watch. "Economic assistance alone is not enough."

Ahead of the London meeting in January, Human Rights Watch issued a briefing paper, "Seven Principles for Effective International Engagement in Yemen," urging its allies to:

1. Increase development aid to Yemen, ensuring a cohesive strategy in collaboration with the appropriate UN agencies, and use aid to address human rights concerns that drive instability.

2. Support the establishment in Yemen of a human rights monitoring mission by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a mandate to report publicly on human rights abuses by all parties to Yemen's conflicts; and press the government of Yemen to cooperate in the establishment of such a mission.

3. Add effective human rights components to any bilateral aid for security forces, such as law enforcement and military training and equipment, including non-lethal methods of crowd control, respect for the laws of war, measures to combat torture, and internal accountability.

4. Stress the importance of an independent judiciary with the resources and competence to address accountability for human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and torture.

5. Urge the government to ensure that impartial humanitarian agencies have access to all places of detention in Yemen, and end the use of private or unauthorized detention sites.

6. Ensure that no assistance goes to units of security forces implicated in unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests, torture and other serious human rights abuses. Publicly speak out when such violations occur.

7. Assist the United States and Yemen in repatriating or resettling Yemenis held without charge at Guantanamo, including the 40 Yemenis that the US government has already cleared for release.

For more Human Rights Watch reporting on Yemen, please visit: <http://www.hrw.org/en/middle-eastn-africa/yemen>

For more information, please contact: In Munich, Christoph Wilcke (English, German, Arabic): +49-89-1392-6193; or christoph.wilcke@hrw.org

In New York, Letta Tayler (English): 1-646-645-1806 (mobile)

SEMC trains marketing and relations directors of Hayel Saeed Anam Group

Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC), in cooperation with Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies, implements a training program on skills of communication with the media for employees of HSA Group of Co.

Chairman of SEMC, Mr. Mostafa Nassr, said that the program aims to acquire the participants skills to buildup their communication with various media "written, visual and audio"

This first course comes within a program seeks to promote communication between the private sector companies and media, in order to serve the companies and society as well.

Nassr hoped most of the companies and institutions of the private sector in Yemen to adopt training programs for their media, marketing and relations directors to enhance the cooperation with media.

CNN's Errol Barnett to Lead IPI World Congress Discussion Panel to look at Impact of New Technologies on Mainstream Media and Press Freedom

Errol Barnett, host of CNN International's "Report for iCNN", will lead a panel discussion on Sunday, 12 September, during the IPI World Congress in Vienna and Bratislava this September. Titled "Found News? The New Platforms for Delivering Information," the panel will look at the explosion of information platforms and devices - the world of Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Amazon's Kindle and the Apple iPad - and their impact on the news industry and freedom of the press.

Barnett, who also anchors CNN's "World Report," has been integral in incorporating social media into CNN's breaking news reports, including the aftermath of the Iran elections, the terrorist bombings in Jakarta and Israel's offensive in Gaza in late 2008 and early 2009.

"The new media technologies have proven to be a powerful ally of press freedom," said IPI Deputy Director Alison Bethel McKenzie. "As a means of disseminating information and countering government efforts to muzzle freedom of opinion and expression, they have often been invaluable, as witnessed everywhere from Iran to Tibet to Burma."

The "Found News" panel will feature a leading line-up of expert speakers, including Josh Cohen, senior business product manager at Google News, where he is responsible for global product strategy, marketing and publisher outreach. Prior to joining Google, Cohen was vice president of business development for Reuters, where he was responsible for content distribution, revenue generation and strategic investment agreements with AOL, Google, MSN, Yahoo! and numerous other media companies around the world.

In addition to Cohen, the other panelists slated to take part in the discussion are: Jeff Howe, contributing editor at Wired magazine, influential blogger and author of the seminal book, "Crowdsourcing: Why the Power of the Crowd Is Driving the Future of Business"; Hannes Ametsreiter, chairman of the management board of the Telekom Austria Group, the largest telecommunications company in Austria with international operations in seven additional European countries; and Rajesh Kalra, chief editor of Times Internet Ltd., the digital arm of The Times Group of India.

To see the biographies of all the speakers, as well as more about the programme and the IPI World Congress in general, visit the official Congress website: www.ipiworldcongress.com.

The 2010 IPI World Congress is the pivotal event of IPI's 60th anniversary

year and will be held in the "twin cities" of Vienna and Bratislava, Slovakia, from 11-14 September 2010. Previously an information hub between East and West, Vienna is host to many major international organisations, including the IAEA, OSCE and OPEC, and is the uncontested media centre of Austria, with the headquarters of all the major Austrian print and broadcast media located here. During the World Congress, IPI's affiliate, the South East Europe Media Organization (www.seemo.org), will celebrate its 10th anniversary of fighting for press freedom in southeastern Europe.

Parallel to the World Congress, IPI will also hold a "New Media & High-Tech Innovations Exhibition," showcasing the latest in new media technologies and information platforms.

IPI's partners for the World Congress include: Google, OMV, Samsung Electronics Ltd, Telekom Austria Group, the City of Vienna, Twin City Liner and Austrian Airlines, the official carrier.

IPI's media partners for the Congress include: Austrian Broadcasting Corporation, Der Standard newspaper and Austria Presse Agentur.

Follow all the latest news about the World Congress on Twitter at: http://twitter.com/ipi_woco2010

Launch of Yemen LNG Scholarship Program 2010 - 20 Scholarships to France



Under the auspices of HE the Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir Salem Al-Aidaroos, Yemen LNG launched on Thursday, 25 March 2010 a scholarship program for undergraduate and postgraduate students. 20 scholarships are available for the year 2010 to both male and female students from all regions of Yemen to study in Paris and other French cities, in French or English languages.

In the launch ceremony, General Manager of Yemen LNG, Francois Rafin, noted that "it is a fantastic opportunity for the Yemeni students to obtain a world class diploma and to gain knowledge of the French culture and civilization, one of the most ancient and modern in the world."

As the largest industrial company in Yemen, Yemen LNG actively participates in building the future of the nation.

The event was attended by H.E. Minister of Oil and Minerals, H.E. ambassador of France to Yemen, Mr. Joseph Silva, a number of the Board members and other government officials and representatives of the media.

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Safe drinking water and sanitation in Al-Mazraq

YT photo by Khaled Al-Hilaly



"Clean your hands with soap and water: after using the toilet, before and after eating, after washing children, and before preparing food," it says on this sign inside the Al-Mazraq camp. Inhabitants are encouraged to observe good personal hygiene.

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Saleha Mohammad stood near a small tent where she keeps her two cows in Al-Mazraq camp, Hajja, watching two of her children carry water back to the tent.

Saleha, a mother of nine, is lucky. Only a week after her family's arrival to the camp last September after fleeing from the war in Sa'ada, water tanks arrived at their camp. Now, the water tap is only a few meters away from her tent. Although she is illiterate, Saleha is aware of the importance of conserving water.

"It is haram [prohibited] to waste water," she said, her voice level rising. "Only take the water you need for cooking, washing clothes, and for providing animals with drinking water!"

Saleha is one of the 30,000 people now benefiting from the water and sanitation networks set up by the United Nations and partner NGOs in the camp, according to UN estimates. She, like many others, is well-aware not to waste these privileges.

Four big tanks, two in each camp, have

the capacity of 45,000 liters each. They provide water to points inside the camp, according to Ahmad Al-Yassin, water and sanitation consultant at the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Two thirds of those who benefit from the water supply live in Mazraq 1 and Mazraq 3, two camps supervised by the UN, according to Anne Marie Fonseca, UNICEF deputy representative in Yemen. Thousands more benefit outside the camp and water is provided to two school areas.

One person receives an average of 20 liters of safe drinking water per day, she said. About 44 water points were built in the both Mazraq 1 and Mazraq 3 in the first stage of the project.

The second stage, which funded by the government, is under development. It includes piping water directly from wells in the valley to the camp, which eliminates the need to fill the main tanks with water from trucks. The second stage will also connect the villages near the camp with water.

Jubran Ali, 45, walked to the water tap while covering his head with a straw hat made locally. He is a father of 12 children.

He said that they had a difficult time fetching water when they first arrived at the camp.

"They used to go fetch water from the valley," said Jubran. "People used donkeys to fetch water and for those without donkeys, women and children carried jerry cans on their backs."

"We were then provided with water tanks," he said. "For each living area there were three to four tanks."

There were times when the people in the camps were disconnected from water for two days because the water trucks were not constantly refilling the tanks. This led people to fight over water, he explained.

"I could barely fill one jerry can in a day," he said.

"Now the situation is better," he added. "Now water is distributed everywhere."

Hassan Al-Sa'di, 45, recalled how difficult it was to fetch water after their arrival at the camp. Now, one of the inhabitants of the camp, nominated as supervisor, prevents wasting water by making sure that taps are tightly closed after filling. People who live in the camp supervise each other similarly, he added.

Al-Sa'di fears the coming summer season when high temperatures inside the tent will be "like Hell," he said.

His daughter Fatima is 15 years old, is married, and has a baby girl. She stood in the entrance of the her tent wearing a black transparent veil and a colorful dress while hiding half of her body inside the tent.

"Our family doesn't have a donkey, so I used to carry water jerry cans on my back from the valley," she said. "Now it is easier and there is a water point near our tent."

"The time I used to spend fetching water from the valley I now spend at home taking care of my daughter, cooking and cleaning," she added.

The water supply system will enable thousands of internally displaced individuals now living in the Mazraq camps access to "convenient clean water provided with dignity," according to El Tayeb Musa, director of Oxfam in Yemen.

"This will contribute significantly towards addressing health risks," he said.

A latrine for each family

For most of the Al-Mazraq IDPs, the new water and sanitation network is a step up from what they used to know at home before they fled the fighting.

Yahya Ali, who does not know his age but appears to be in his 70s, came to Mazraq 1 in September. His 15 children and grandchildren live with him in the camp.

Ali said that they used to wait till night to go to the nearby valley to take care of their needs, before the new latrines in the camp. Now, a latrine is attached to each tent. Water is brought in buckets to the latrine and flushed down into a septic tank underneath.

Promoting hygiene

UNICEF, Oxfam and Al-Khair, a local NGO, have conducted a campaign to promote hygiene among the internally displaced individuals living in the camp, according to the UNICEF deputy representative in Yemen, Anne-Marie Fonseca.

Fifty men and women from the displaced community act as hygiene volunteers and water caretakers. They raise awareness in the community by encouraging people to wash their hands, for example, Fonseca explained.

According to Fonseca, the campaign has contributed to a cleaner and more hygienic camp environment.

better than in our area," Taleb said. "We don't have schools there and the market is so far away that we need to hire a car to get there."

One of his daughters, Dalal, 13, now goes to school in the camp. She is in first grade.

Although life is better in the camp for Taleb, he prefers to return home when the mines are removed.

"East or west, home is best," he said.

Ahmad Al-Kuhlani, the head of the governmental unit for IDP camps, said that the

government is arranging to rebuild the areas affected by the war in northern Yemen to repatriate the displaced to their homes.

He hopes that international organizations and donors will help the Yemeni government achieve this.

According to United Nations' High Commission for Refugees, since the beginning of 2004, an estimated 250,000 people have been displaced by the war between the government and Houthis in northern Yemen.

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YT photo by Khaled Al-Hilaly



Over 30,000 people now have access to safe drinking water, according to the UN.

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“Terrorism has no religion” “It is only a reaction to injustice and indiscipline on earth”

By: Salim Aqeel AL-Kelali
anoors-salim@hotmail.com

What has been clearly noticed nowadays that the term “Terrorism” is being used more than the terms “horror, fright, awe, terrifying etc...” However, the all carry the same meaning. Perhaps it is because of its relation to every day's incidents including bombing here or there.

Whatever the reason is, the main matter is the attempting of sticking terrorism to Islam and Muslims whereas they reject it thoroughly.

Since the truest religion, Islam, has appeared to humanity, it has called for peace and human rights and practiced them in reality “not as what is being done nowadays about human rights” It has also fought and overcome injustice and tyranny that were being practiced

against weak people at that time.

So I am not here to show the glory and greatness of Islam – I cannot offer it what it really deserves - , but I want to clarify that trying to attribute terrorism to Islam is a very dangerous matter that can lead to the conflict between civilizations and countries since Islam is the most widespread religion among the others.

It is true that most of the terrorists attribute themselves to Islam. However, they don't have the true sense of the message of Islam. So we clearly see the majority of Islamic sheikhs and scholars completely refuse such acts, but the acts in the sense of defense of one's self, religion, country etc..

One may ask him or herself what are the sources of such devastating concepts and thoughts that do not, however, relate to any sense of humanity and what humanity really means, he or she will find that this phenomenon has appeared recently as a result of misunderstanding

of the greatest message of Islam by some bogus scholars who look at the verses of holy Quran or Hadith “saying of Prophet Muhammed” apparently without going deeply through the text to discern “What is meant by saying this? Who was it talking about? Under which circumstances was the verse or the Hadith said? Before to judge on others.

Terrorism has also come to existence as some countries and forces exploited a number of Muslims and volunteers for their own interests and welfare under the name of “Jihad” against the Union of Soviet Republics. They reinforced them with weapons and money until the Union of Soviet Republics was defeated and withdrew. And then they turned their “Jihad” to their former supporters including their countries under the reason they are corrupted governments that cooperate with enemies of Islam. Thus they started to target everything that has any great effect on such counties' economy, welfare,

interests etc...

Terrorism has also appeared as reaction of oppression and tyranny being practiced against Muslims all over the world as in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine etc., especially when such repression is supported by the enemies of Islam regardless of them, whether they are individuals, associations, and governments. So what is being done in Palestine is a clear example for this. It is Israel's right to do whatever it wants, to kill Palestinians, devastate buildings, build settlements etc. by the time all Israel's doings are met by the shameful silence of most Muslims and Arab leaders without doing anything except condemning, and by the blind support offered by U.S governments and some other forces. Hence such things led to the existence of some enthusiasts who sympathized towards their brothers in Islam and wanted to lend them a hand against both the shameful silence and the blind support for Israel.

Unfortunately, the main victim of such unwise enthusiasm is Islam, just for the reason that most of the unwise enthusiasts attribute to it. However, Islam never adopts their doings at all.

In spite of all the fears of Islam and sticking it to terrorism, it is the only religion that is spreading fast and fast and this is obvious to everyone. This tremendous and remarkable spreading is the result of truly understanding of the truth of Islam and the concordance of it with the instinct of human being since it is from Allah the Creator of all people and creatures.

After all mentioned, terrorism remains a great danger that threatens humankind, especially when such acts are based on the terrorists' strong beliefs through which they justify what they do. So this is one important secret behind their existence up to now.

Ultimately, in order to defeat and mitigate terrorism, everyone should perform

the required role. Sheikhs and scholars ought to advise, talk, and meet people in mosques or some other places such as universities, clubs etc... since the majority of terrorists are young. They should also have a chance to advise and talk with terrorists themselves because most of them have been brainwashed. So showing the true way talking to them more and more will have the effective result as it happened to many enthusiasts who finally repented and returned the straight path.

Parents should try their best to care of their children against such destroying thoughts that quickly find their way to these children's minds; moreover, the awareness of the company their children keep.

The teachers in schools should also spread the awareness and guidance among the students in order for the students to have solid immunity to such devastating thoughts.

Yemen's friends need to be honest

By Christoph Wilcke
Published in Al Sahwa

Abu Dhabi is the host today for the inaugural gathering of Friends of Yemen, a group established in January at an international meeting of concerned states in London. This members, consisting of Gulf and key Western states in addition to representatives of inter-governmental institutions, need to address Yemen's human rights problems honestly if they want to assist its people and address the threats emanating from that troubled Arabian country.

Yemen's Prime Minister, Ali Mujawar, on March 21 described his country's expectations from this meeting in purely economic terms. He hopes for “an international fund for development in Yemen” to tackle “poverty and unemployment in addition to ... electricity, road, health, water and education.” Mujawar also wants to increase Yemeni labor in the Gulf markets.

The London meeting designated “economy and governance” as one priority for Friends of Yemen, but that alone will accomplish little unless the group also addresses the second priority, “justice and rule of law.” If Yemen's friends don't tie economic assistance to improvements in the

country's rapidly deteriorating human rights conditions, they will have let the Yemeni people down.

Under international scrutiny, President Ali Abdullah Saleh in February agreed on a truce with the northern Huthi rebels, ending the sixth round of fighting there in five years. He has also offered to hold talks with southern protesters, and to pursue Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula more vigorously. These actions seem to have bought silence from Yemen's donors and allies even though serious human rights violations have escalated.

Yemen's government has shown its intolerance for criticism with heavy-handed repression of the media after they criticized the government's conduct of the war against the Huthis and its handling of southern protests. Last May, and again in January, government troops in Aden fired on the headquarters of Yemen's largest-circulation and oldest independent newspaper, al-Ayyam, and arrested the editor, Hisham Bashraheel. In September, security forces brazenly abducted Muhammad al-Maqalih, online editor for the Socialist Party organ, and denied for months that they were holding him. He is now charged with “undermining the unity” of Yemen. In mid-March, government agents confiscated Al Jazeera and al-Arabiyya satellite

channels' broadcasting equipment. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UK Foreign Minister David Miliband praised the Yemeni delegation at the January meeting for honestly broaching the country's challenges. The steady repression of dissent tells a different tale.

To prevent future abuses, there is a serious need to investigate human rights abuses in Yemen and hold those responsible to account. Next week, in a new report, Human Rights Watch will detail alleged violations of the laws of war by both Huthi and government forces during their latest fighting in Sa'da.

Each of the five previous truces since 2004 has broken down, afflicting civilians with further harm. Now is the time to lay the foundations for a lasting peace. Respect for the laws of war depends on prosecuting those responsible for serious violations, and ensuring justice and compensation for civilian victims. The Friends of Yemen should urge both the government and the rebels to investigate allegations of unlawful attacks that harmed civilians.

The Friends should also push the UN to establish a human rights monitoring and reporting mission in Yemen. The use of such missions in other conflicts has shown that these missions can act

as a protective presence for civilians.

An independent UN mission would also help to constrain growing violence surrounding pro-secession protests in southern Yemen. Government forces over the past three years have used unnecessary and sometimes lethal force to quell peaceful demonstrations. No one has been held accountable for the close-range shooting of at least a dozen peaceful protesters. This excessive use of force has fueled protests, which sometimes turned violent.

President Saleh's offer of talks about southern grievances is welcome; but he has failed to follow through on similar earlier offers. Resolving differences through talks is desirable, but should not substitute for providing for a safe space for southerners to air grievances, and holding security forces and protesters alike accountable when they use unlawful violence. An independent UN monitoring and reporting mission, and an independent Yemeni judiciary, could help provide this safe space, which in turn will keep the doors to dialogue open.

Respect for human rights is also essential in the struggle against terrorism. Since the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, and the attacks of September 11, 2001, Yemeni security forces have arrested hundreds of suspects, without regard to due process protections in Yemen's criminal procedure laws. Scores remain “disappeared” for months. Many have complained of torture after their release. Recently, US-assisted aerial attacks on suspected terrorists in Abyan and Shabwa provinces in December killed at least 42 civilians, as the government now acknowledges. When civilian lives are lost in such attacks, the US and its allies risk alienating local populations and making victories in counterterrorism ephemeral.

If the Friends of Yemen want a stable and united Yemen, they need to do more than offer economic aid. They need to underline that respect for human rights is critical to maintaining peace in Sa'da, resolving southern grievances without further bloodshed, and confronting terrorism effectively. Yemen's friends have the financial and diplomatic tools to do this. They should be honest with their Yemeni counterparts that they will not stand by San'a unless it ends these abuses.

Christoph Wilcke is a senior Middle East and North Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch.

CIA and Yemen playing a doubles game

By: Jeff Stein
The Washington Post

If Yemen seems like a terrorist playground today, the answer might be that its top intelligence service is run by jihadis.

According to a report in the reliable Paris-based Intelligence Online newsletter, White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan, “who has traveled twice to Yemen in the last six months, has been told by his advisers that Yemen's Political Security Organization has been infiltrated at the highest levels by jihadis active in the country.”

A Brennan spokesman declined to comment on the report, which most likely originated in the region. But it came as no surprise to a top former CIA counterterrorism official, who said with a chuckle: “that report is stating the obvious.”

“In 2006,” the IO newsletter continues, “Political Security let Nasser al-Wahayshi, the former secretary of Osama bin Laden, and a dozen of his associates escape from prison in Sanaa. The escapees are believed to have established jihadis camps in the province of Chabwa, to the east of Sanaa. Political Security is run by Ghaled al-Qimch, President Ali Abdullah Saleh's trusted right hand man.”

All this may be obvious, indeed, but it raises all sorts of troubling questions about Yemen, a virtual arms and manpower supply depot for al-Qaeda's assault on Saudi Arabia and the rest of the region.

“Last October,” my Post colleague David Ignatius reported Friday, “the Yemeni government came to the CIA with a request: Could the agency collect intelligence that might help target the network of a U.S.-born al-Qaeda recruiter named Anwar al-Aulaqi?”

Aulaqi, Ignatius reminds us, is linked to the Fort Hood shootings and the recruitment of Nigerian underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab:

“On Nov. 5, U.S. Army Maj. Nidal Hasan killed 13 of his fellow soldiers at Fort Hood, Tex.; Hasan had exchanged 18 or more e-mails with Aulaqi in the months before the shootings, according to the Associated Press. Then, on Christmas Day, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian who had been living in Yemen, tried to blow up an airliner bound for Detroit; he is said to have confessed later that Aulaqi was one of his trainers for this mission,” Ignatius wrote.

The Yemenis wanted CIA help to get Aulaqi, Ignatius writes. His sources told him:

“The primary reason was that the agency lacked specific evidence that he threatened the lives of Americans -- which is the threshold for any capture-or-kill operation against a U.S. citizen. The Yemenis also wanted U.S. Special Forces' help on the ground in pursuing Aulaqi; that, too, was refused.”

But given the jihadist inclinations of some elements of the PSO, it's also an intriguing possibility that the CIA suspected the Yemenis were playing a double game -- angling for clues about sensitive sources and sophisticated electronic methods the agency is using to pursue al-Qaeda in the region.

A Yemeni official acknowledged to me Friday that the PSO has had security problems, noting that 11 “junior officers” were prosecuted for their role in the 2006 jail break.

“It's a poor country,” where even intelligence officers are susceptible to bribes, said the official on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

The problems began back in the late 1980s-early 1990s, he said, when the PSO recruited Yemeni veterans of the Afghan war against the Soviets.

“It was a double-edged sword,” he said. Some remained jihadis, others would eventually help the PSO penetrate terrorist cells.

“We're addressing this,” he added. “We've demoted and shuffled people around” and taken other measures to tighten security.

Indeed, in recent months Yemen and U.S. security services have dramatically ramped up their counterterrorism cooperation while, behind the scenes, they each play a double game.

If the Yemen scenario sounds familiar, it's because U.S. intelligence grapples with similar challenges today in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. Indeed, throughout the Vietnam War, the CIA and military intelligence services had to work with South Vietnamese security services they knew had been thoroughly penetrated by the communists.

That's why the CIA runs on two tracks in Yemen and virtually everywhere else around the world, including most allied countries.

On one track it works with the host country's intelligence and military services.

On the other, it goes alone.



By: Hameed

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Arab world's first 'Webdrama'

Producers seek to seduce young Arab audiences with web-based drama

By: Benjamin Joffe-Walt
The Media Line

An upbeat, happy-go-lucky 15-year-old delivery boy swerves through the streets of Beirut on his moped. He brings people juice, does their groceries, delivers packages, gets into serious trouble, falls in love, and so on. The plot is inventive, animated and definitively urban.

But what's unique about Shankaboot is not its ingenuity, cinematography or content, but that its viewership is not Arab families sitting on leather couches all over the Arab world: the Arab world's newest drama series can only be seen online.

The world's first Arabic webdrama, Shankaboot (meaning moped) targets urban Arab youth in five-minute episodes broadcast on the drama series' website, YouTube, Facebook and other online outlets. There are online games for each episode, comedy clips, discus-

sion forums and competitions.

"We are trying to tell a story young people can identify through a medium they can identify with," Amin Dora, the director of Shankaboot told The Media Line. "You can't reach these people through TV. The young generation are much more web-based, with only 20% of their lives on TV."

"We saw the trend towards web-based series in the West," he said. "So our goal was to make the first Arabic web series. Of course if a TV station wants to buy it, there will be no problem and maybe another category of people will watch it, you know 45-year-olds and above, but 16 to 35-year-olds are the people who are watching this on the web."

Launched earlier this month, Shankaboot's 30-episode first season features an intrepid young street boy, Suleiman, the aspiring film star Ruwaida and their secretive friend Chadi who gets Suleiman into quite a bit of trouble. Four episodes have been aired to date.

"This is the story of a 15-year old

delivery boy," Dora said. "He's a freelancer of sorts, promoting himself. Then he meets a girl, gets some more serious jobs, gets into trouble and his life changes dramatically, but I can't tell you anymore."

"Suleiman gives a very dynamic, positive image of young, urban Beirut," the director continued. "We have many soap operas in Lebanon, most of them with fake stories that don't relate to society."

We are trying to show the kinds of problems faced by the young generation and to be more authentic with the subject, the characters, the acting, the visuals and the style."

"We are trying to capture the atmosphere of Beirut," he added. "So the locations that we shot in are rarely used on television."

Produced by Batoota Films, for now Shankaboot is not a profit-seeking venture, funded principally by the BBC World Service Trust with additional support from Zico House and The

Welded Tandem Picture Company. With extensive viewer input, the drama's producers say the second season will be based on viewers' ideas.

"Our idea was to do something new, not to make money," Dora said. "The advantage is that your viewers give you feedback on the spot and they are normal people, not critics."

"Maybe later we'll get advertising as we get more hits," he said, "but at this time the goal is not to make money."

While web access remains relatively low in the Arab world, a growing number of people have access to the Internet either at home or at work and the cultural penetration of the Internet is noticeable in middle class communities throughout the Arab world. Viral video clips, a phenomenon that began years ago in the West, are increasingly common in the Arab world. A recent independent clip about Beirut, for example, was widely referenced across the Arab blogosphere late last year.

"Young Arabs are hungry for high

quality, independent, creative content, that matches their expectations that have been built up by watching Western content," Hady Amr, Director of the Brookings Doha Center and a fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy, told The Media Line. "They want the quality of the West, in terms of cinematography, scripts, the financial investments, the sets, the speeds, but they want it in their own cultural milieu."

"Whenever content is produced that is genuinely Arab but of high quality, that lives up to expectations Western media has built up for Arab youth, it just gets gobbled up," he said. "So while I can't speak to the business model and whether it will make money or not, it could be that vehicles like this will be very effective."

"There are plenty of exceptions but people are people and in general things that work in the West will probably work in the Arab world," Amr continued. "The difference in the Arab world is that there is less content and the con-

tent delivery mechanisms in Arabic are weaker than they are in the West. Yes, if you're middle class and have a satellite TV you can watch hundreds and hundreds of channels, but while you have Arab TV stations, you can't watch hundreds of channels producing creative Arabic material."

Amr said successful Arab producers were those able to both produce high quality material while addressing issues of relevance to Arab audiences.

"The family dynamics in the Arab world are very different than Western dynamics," he said. "So there is extensive intrigue but we don't have everyone sleeping with each other and things like this."

"Some of the most popular shows in the Arab world are Turkish soap operas," Amr continued. "Why? Because they are approaching Western quality but the sensibilities, the background, the issues and the look of the people are all closer to the Arab world. That's what people want."

Youth hostels meet Indian youth desire for unknown and friends

By: Karuna Madan

NEW DELHI, March 31 (Xinhua) -- If you constantly imagine your heart beating in a new and distant land, your spine tingles with just the mention of the word "travel" and your every step gets charged with childlike adventure, and all you ever need in the world is snugly strapped onto your back, then Youth Hostel is the place for you.

It lets you see the world in its pure, unbridled and liberated avatar.

Youth Hostel is a misnomer. It is not merely an accommodation but a movement running since 1912 across all corners of the globe.

Whereas the virtues of travel have been acknowledged in all ages and in all climates, India's premier youth travel and adventure organization, Youth Hostels

Association of India (YHAI), has been most properly exploiting the two basic urges of the youth - love for the unknown and the desire to make new friends.

YHAI is affiliated to the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF), which is the largest youth accommodation body of the world promoting youth tourism with over 62 member and 18 associate member countries.

An enormous body, IYHF has over 3.5 million members and controls a chain of 5,600 youth hostels around the world.

Interestingly, convinced of the utility of the idea, the Indian government has sanctioned construction of a chain of 73 youth hostels in various parts of the country, 37 of which have already started functioning while over a dozen are under various stages of construction.

The establishment of so many Youth

Hostels at beautiful and attractive spots around the world has made the opportunity of travel at a nominal cost far more easily available for youth.

Youth Hostels across the world provide young people on their educational excursions inexpensive hostelling facilities where new friendships are formed.

"Comfy beds, fresh rooms, hot showers, delicious food and an overall ambience of home are important yet they are not the only reasons why travellers rave about Youth Hostels world over," Dr. Harish Saxena, National Chairman, Youth Hostels Association of India, told Xinhua.

"These Youth Hostels are a lively meeting place for a diverse bunch of travellers with a common love of independent travel and the desire to have great experiences in new places," he

said.

Saxena, however, cautioned that Youth Hostels are not to be mistaken for luxury homes, nor are they to be mistaken for residential hostels, which provide boarding lodging for long periods.

The Youth Hostel Association of India believes in providing learning through direct observation and often takes youth on excursions and hiking trips. The hiking trips sometimes go on for over a month.

"Almost all these hostels are the center of youth activities like trekking, hiking, cycling. Here the students are trained in rock climbing, archery, shooting, wall climbing, night tracking etc," Saxena said.

Like the organizers, the participants are equally excited to attend the training camps as it, apart from making them

physically fit, sometimes also helps them in pursuing their career.

"I want to join the armed forces and for that I will have to undergo hard training. If I continue to undertake such exercises at the Youth Hostel I would not face much problems in future," said Abhinav Chauhan, a student from Delhi's Ramjas College.

"This kind of adventure sports training helps students gain physical fitness and reduce their internal fear which is indeed required for coming generations. The training also enhances their concentration level," Saxena elaborated.

The Youth Hostel Movement was the brainchild of eminent German teacher Richard Schirmann, who believed in the virtues of group excursions to study geography, history and the world of nature.

Schirmann, who took delight in organizing week-long trails for students, opened the first Youth Hostel in 1912 in Altena, Germany.

"Before the youth hostel movement started in Germany in the second decade of last century, there was very little opportunity for young people of limited means to travel at will and see and enjoy the beautiful places in their own country and the world around. The hazards, uncertainties and costs of the travel used to be too great to allow the common youth to get as much benefit from it as was desired," Saxena said.

Youth Hostelling as a movement has not taken long to establish in the world. During the course of the last almost ninety-eight years, it has spread from country to country and spanned all the five continents.

Where has all the Afghan aid gone?

Adam Gonn
The Media Line

New report finds that the billions of dollars of aid spent in Afghanistan was poorly coordinated and lacked transparency.

The first Donor Financial Review by the Afghan Ministry of Finance cited serious concerns over rampant corruption and mismanagement within the government. Over \$36 billion has been spent in aid since the overthrow of the Taliban by the United States and local warlords in 2001.

According to the report, Afghanistan's per capita spending stands at \$1,241 despite rampant poverty and low rankings on development indexes, a lesser amount than that spent in Iraq.

The report found that only 23 percent or around \$8 billion of the aid is managed through programs or initiatives belonging to the Afghan government. The rest, over \$29 billion, is administered by various international aid organizations sidestepping any governmental involvement.

"There are good points, but on the negative side this circumvents the government structure and restricts the abil-

ity of the state [to function properly], as most people don't see the government as providing for them, they see international aid organizations," Alexander Jackson, Afghanistan analyst with the ICOS Group, told The Media Line. "The Afghan government has a world class reputation of being corrupt... Aid organizations fear that sending their aid through the government will only make it disappear or get lost in bureaucracy."

"There is also the question of access as the government does not have presence on the ground in some parts of the country," Jackson added. "Only international aid organizations have that."

Professor Sultan Barakat, director of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) at the University of York, UK, pointed out the deep division between the central government and the provinces.

"Afghanistan does not exist or function as a unified state," he said. "As such, internal reconciliation to promote a collective agenda between central government and provincial personalities is crucial."

The report highlighted two programs of particular concern: the Commanders Emergency Response Program, under

which American military commanders have access to large amounts of money to be used for tactical purposes as part of their counter insurgency strategy, and the Provincial Reconstruction Funds, which are meant to win the 'hearts and minds' of the civilian population, especially in areas where the Taliban or other insurgency groups are active.

Many international aid organizations have criticized what is being called the militarization of aid, under charges that such American programs make it harder for them to work as they are being associated with American soldiers.

According to the report, the security sector received more than half of all aid, particularly those units engaged with efforts to strengthen the national Afghan army and police.

Agriculture and rural development receives 18 percent, followed by culture at 9 percent and health care at 6 percent.

The \$36 billion spent is just over half of the total of \$62 billion pledged by various international donors. Sweden has the smallest gap between money committed and money given, standing at 90 percent, followed by the UK and the US.

Despite this, the US is the single largest donor with \$23 billions spent.

told The Media Line. "Tourism is not a fringe sector of their economy, and they want it to be a key component."

"Tourists from the Gulf tend to be big spenders compared to those from the United States and Europe, they stay at five star hotels, fly business class and so on," Ijtihad said. "Not just in the Gulf, but also countries such as Lebanon and Egypt would benefit greatly from Gulf tourists coming."

"There are also visa regulations which have to be taken into account," he said referring to more stringent rules when traveling from the Middle East to the U.S. "Lebanon is benefiting from this as they are seen as having more hospitals [than the West]."

There are previous examples of a common regional passport in the Middle East. In 2008 Kuwait started accepting the so-called Gulf Smart Card, a common passport for citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and The United Arab Emirates).

The implementation is being seen as a vital part of the economic integration of the member countries, though it does not especially target tourist despite the central role that tourism plays in the economy of many Gulf States like Dubai and Oman.

According to the World Tourism Barometer, a tri annual report from the World Tourism Organization, the number of international tourist arrivals in the Middle East decreased by 6 percent in 2009 but is expected to grow by between 5 to 9 percent in 2010.

Some experts say Middle East countries can be divided into two types of tourism destinations. On the one hand there are the 'old' countries with rich history to display such as Egypt or Syria. Lebanon also falls into this category with the added advantage that it offers outdoor skiing. The other category consists of the oil and natural rich countries in the Gulf region, which over the last twenty years have been working on diversifying their economies, with large-scale investments in airlines and hotels.

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'Arab Tourism Card' the New Passport?

A new electronic ID card may replace passports to make it easier for Middle Eastern tourist the travel the region.

Adam Gonn
The Media Line

A card containing the holder's biometric information may one day be used instead of traditional passports, according to a regional tourism organization.

A proposal to introduce electronic ID cards containing biometric information, instead of passports, was raised during a meeting of the Arab Tourism Organization in Alexandria, Egypt. The initiative might enable tourists to travel more freely both within and between Arab countries in the region.

"Tourism is an important sector in many Gulf countries as they are trying to diversify their economies," Yadhullah Ijtihad, Managing Editor ABQ Zawya.com,

Yemeni Islamic banks 'wheels for development'

By: Ali Saeed

Yemeni Islamic banks have yet to achieve their full potential in supporting the country's development, said participants at a conference on Yemeni Islamic Banks last week.

The two-day conference, which addressed the future of Yemeni Islamic banks, was organized by the Yemeni Businessmen Club (YBC). It was the first of its kind in Yemen since Islamic banks emerged 15 years ago.

Ahmed Ba Zara'a, the director of the YBC and Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain, called on all active Islamic Banks in Yemen to cooperate with each other. He suggested they be open to other financial sectors in order to benefit from the experience.

Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel, Minister of Industry and Trade, attended the opening ceremony of the conference. He said that the conference coincided with the unexpected blow to Yemen's economy as a consequence of the world financial crisis. He stated that in order to alleviate the negative impacts of the crisis, both the government and the private sector should take full responsibility.

"The government and the private sector should work together not only to alleviate the negative impacts of the world financial crisis, but also to push social and economic development forward and optimize its benchmarks," said the minister.

The minister believes that working to achieve high economic growth rates in non-oil sectors such as the Islamic banking sector, would contribute to the reduction of unemployment and poverty in the country. During the minister's speech in the opening ceremony, he described the banking sector as "the wheels that push development and growth forward." He believes that banking reforms are an important component of all economic, admin-



Islamic banks are now granting a larger portion of loans for businesses in Yemen.

istrative, and financial reforms and have been since 1995.

'People orientated'

According to Al-Mutawakel, the difference between Islamic banks and conventional banks is that Islamic banks consider people essential partners in business. Islamic banks provide loans to small Yemeni businessmen without interest. In return, the bank becomes a shareholder in the business and receives a share of the profits if the business succeeds. As a shareholder, the bank is also considered partially responsible if the business fails.

"Money doesn't generate money, but the people increase it," said Al-Mutawakel. He believes that because of this feature, Islamic banks in the country operate positively. This has enabled them to avoid the negative effect of the world financial crisis.

Yemeni Islamic banks are making progress in comparison to conventional banks. In 2009, 45 percent of all loans in Yemen were supplied by Islamic banks. According to Ahmed Al-Samawi, Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, the rate of loans supplied by Yemeni Islamic banks increased from 39.9 percent of total loans in 2008 to 44.5 percent of total

loans in 2009.

Tadhamon International Islamic Bank is the first bank in Yemen while Saba Islamic bank is the fourth, said Ali Al-Wafi who is a Yemeni economist. Yemeni Islamic banks are also ranked first in the level of foreign cash reserve available, according to the minister of industry and trade.

Areas for improvement

During the conference, participants and officials came together and discussed a number of the errors that administrations of Yemeni Islamic banks have committed during the previous period. "Even all of those positive

developments by the Islamic banks in Yemen, but the developmental, social and investing roles of this sector are still limited or at least below the desired level," said the minister.

The minister explained that this becomes obvious when we compare the difference between the total deposits of Islamic banks in 2008 and 2009. Total deposits increased from YR 1.2 trillion in December 2008 to more than YR 1.3 trillion in December 2009. On the other hand, loan and credit levels for economic projects decreased from YR 418 billion to YR 411 billion during the same period.

According to the minister, by the end of December 2009, it became apparent that the percentage of loans allocated to trade exceeded the percentage allocated to other sectors by over 60 percent. Only 18 percent of loans were allocated to the industry sector, five percent for construction and 17 percent for agriculture and fishing.

Some Yemeni businessmen accused Islamic banks in Yemen of being family businesses that favor big businessmen and family members over smaller businessmen. Ahmed Juma'an, a Yemeni businessman who participated in the session, said that the fact that the four existing Islamic Banks are family businesses, affects loan approval. The chairman of the board of Saba Islamic Bank, Hameed Al-Ahmar, denied this accusation by stating that his family's share of profits in the bank does not exceed 15 percent. He also said that his bank has over 6,400 shareholders including businessmen, individuals and corporations.

"The Islamic banks are open to all and there is no monopoly of a specific segment," he said.

Ba Zara'a, from the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain, said that the claim that Islamic banks in Yemen are family businesses is not an obstacle. Dr. Abdulbari Mesh'al, head of consultative corporation in Britain, chaired the session. He agreed with

Ba Zara'a that family businesses are not an essential problem.

Another issue raised in the session is the difficult access to small business loans from Islamic banks. When someone goes to an Islamic bank and requests a loan for his or her small business, they are faced with tough and inaccessible regulations. Al-Ahmar responded to this by saying that Islamic banks in Yemen are working under the law of Islamic banks and other regulations set by the Central Bank of Yemen. He said that the regulations that some people complain from need to be applied because the Central Bank of Yemen would not accept if they did not follow all crediting and loan regulations.

Recommendations

During the conference, the minister provided Islamic bankers with some suggestions that he believed would boost the role of the Islamic banking sector in the development of the economic, social and investment fields.

The minister suggested that, instead of only giving loans to trading projects, Islamic banks should give approval for loans provided to industrial and agricultural projects. This will result in the reduction of unemployment and poverty in the country. By applying this method, explained the minister, Islamic banks would be able to transform short-term investments into medium and long-term investments. He also suggested studying the possibility of having local and international Islamic banks cooperate in Yemen.

The minister recommended that Islamic sukuk, a new concept in Islamic banking implemented in the Emirates and Britain, be thoroughly studied in order to finance projects that promote investment and productivity. He also promoted teaching Islamic banking at Yemeni universities and institutes to qualify more Yemenis in this sector and to encourage research.

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“Desire to change embodied by an Honest Vision”

By: Safiya Mohammed
safjaljabry@yahoo.com
and Khadija Abdulhakim

‘Desire to change embodied by an Honest Vision’ is the motto lighting up the soul of 3yoon Shabah Youth Organization. Founded in 2008 by Taha Mohammed Muthana, a student of the Lebanese International University. This youth group is just one of the various uprising youth groups in Yemen. When asked why he founded this group, his simple answer was, “I couldn’t think of a more honest way to give back to my society.” Today, it has a lot of members from everywhere and it is still growing.

They say that charity begins at home but in this case we may say charity begins within our society. As members of this particular group, we get to be

involved in interesting activities that build us to be better individuals. One of our main goals is to teach our younger brothers and sisters the ‘Pay It Forward Strategy.’ This means that you have to give in order to receive; that what you receive drives you to give more. It is our duty as the youth of today to be role models in our society in order to create a brighter future. During the past two Eids, members dedicated their mornings to visit sick children and orphans to cheer them up. You are always told to look at those who are less fortunate than you are to realize how lucky you are. We chose the Eid festival because they are for everyone but it is a more special day for the children. By us showing them that there are people who genuinely care for them; it is a lesson that they too should do this in the future.

Another recent exciting activity that 3yoon Shabah members were involved

in was volunteering in the Special Olympics which were held in Sana’a on the 23rd till 26th of February. As volunteers, we got the opportunity to interact with these special needs children who proved that disabilities they had were not an excuse to live normal lives. The whole event was organized to shed light on the needs for kids and individuals who had Down syndrome and other disabilities. Their motto was ‘Yes I can...Be with Me.’ Most of us gained growth as a reward from this event because we had our eyes opened to new experiences that we would never have known. The most important thing for us was not what we gave, but what we received in return. The smiles on the faces of these children were priceless, the love they had to offer was pure and genuine, and the joy that they showered over others around them was something to be cherished forever.

It is said that the youth are the future

generation. We all know that actions speak louder than words and our group is just one of the many youth groups trying to live up to this belief. Learning how to open up and give from our hearts is truly a gratifying experience and it gives us a sense of purpose in our lives. What you give as a person costs you nothing whereas what you receive cannot be compared to all the riches in the world. By being the best role models to our society, we hope to build a better future. We all need to remember that nature has made all of us givers, our hands are born open and so are our hearts. And though there are times when our hands are empty, our hearts are always full to give from. As someone once said, “Aspire to inspire before you expire.”

For more information about 3yoon shabah visit our website at 3yoon-shabah.org or join our group ‘3yoon shabah’ on face book.

Yemeni people buy agony and poverty with money

By: Abdulkreem Al-Aawage

It is difficult to believe that a person can, by his own hands, destroy his family. Today in Yemen, however, many people are destroying their own families.

This destruction comes slowly and has become a part of the daily lives of many families. I am referring to the disaster which every Yemeni carries home under his elbow – qat; the plant that makes all Yemeni families poorer by the day and promises to destroy families, as the men, sit chewing qat, blissfully, hours after hours, oblivious of their families or their duties towards them.

Invariably, the love for qat, drives men to prioritize spending on qat rather than on the basic needs of the family like food and clothing. Qat is prioritized to the

extent that some men choose to spend on qat than on the education of their children.

One can easily distinguish between those who chew qat and the ones who abstain from it. Chewing qat leads to a loss of appetite. And thus deprived of healthy, nutritious food and decent clothing, one can tell the qat chewers, anywhere, simply by the pallor on their cheeks, old clothes and cheap shoes.

Qat destroys the peace of the families. Wives are continuously distressed as husbands neglect their household duties and do not even bother to ensure that the basic necessities are in place.

The situation is getting worse day after day, and will no doubt end in breaking families. And it is really heartbreaking to watch the ‘Yemeni people buy agony and poverty with their money’.

Dhamari English and its fans

By: Abdulkareem Abdullah
A Dhamar university student

Writing or expressing an opinion about current issues is not forbidden. On the contrary, it is your personal freedom to say whatever you really want. In fact, this is what we enjoy when we live in a developing democratic country like Yemen. As a result, those who have a particular opinion should be able to express them freely in any way, as long as it doesn’t encroach on Yemeni sovereignty.

In this article I would like to shed light on the English language situation and how it is taught in Dhamar language institutes and the university.

Dhamar city is well known. However, for the all those who do not know it, it is a city famous for creating jokes. Its people make others laugh to the extent that they might die of laughter. They are very smart jokes and usually a joke from Dhamar is worth two from

Sana’a.

Unfortunately, the Dhamaris are not as clever in English as they are in creating jokes. The students of English in Dhamar, represented by both the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Arts, are not real students of English.

They do not know how to use the correct word from many others. Dhamari English students depend on memorizing rather than understanding. The reasons for this is that their teachers force them to buy very boring materials, which aren’t focussed on communication with others. Instead it simply encourages them only to memorize and pass exams.

In the faculties previously mentioned, the practical side of English is totally absent and we all know that languages need to be practised in a lab but this is exactly what we really lack and is the main reason for students’ weaknesses in their language learning skills.

“mine bus is you when you neding it ask me nooo ooo was my days beauti-

fulin my live”

The previous sentences is a good example of how they write. Most of them are not aware of how English words are either pronounced or read. I never laugh at them because I want them to think about how they are ever going to teach English to future generations.

I think that their teachers should share the responsibility, as they are the main reason behind the students’ dislike of this language. They have to be trained at least to know how to deal with students of all abilities. So all English teachers, not just from Dhamar University, but throughout Yemen, should take more care of their students and motivate them to achieve their best.

Is it wise to bury our heads in the sand as if nothing is happening, or overcome this obvious disaster and quickly implement remedial measures?

I think this solution is the best in the current circumstances but despite all these obstacles, there is always hope.

The marriage and divorce myth

By: Afrah Nasser
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Love, then marriage, then children. This is the ordinary course of conventional life.

Occasionally, some people find this a difficult progression and they decide to change it supposedly to make it better. That is to say, there are some who would say that they are living an unhappy marital life and would like to just stop going down that road, get a divorce and hope to restart the whole process with a new perspective and a new marriage.

However, anyone who listens carefully to friends’ complaints about their spouses would notice that they are only superficial grumbles; they don’t have any specific meaning and the problem with this, is that it can be transformed into myth and fallacy. For a long time, we have been programmed by our upbringing and Arabic culture to overestimate the state of marriage. The truth of matter is that marriage is considered by many young girls and boys to be the first, final and only step in life.

Nevertheless, it’s preferable to just think of marriage as a step in part of life’s road so if this step does not provide its participant with everything desired and dreamt of, that doesn’t justify a cancellation of

the step, imagining that things could be easily rearranged. Even if a spouse doesn’t feel happy with the marriage, changing spouses should never be the first thing that springs to mind. Why shouldn’t one think of changing oneself and ones expectations and the circumstances influencing the couple’s life instead? Then, maybe, try to see if the circumstances feel the same or possibly have now changed?

Perhaps changing oneself could be easier than changing partners and getting involved in a new relationship. Moreover, perhaps the thought of changing a partner, would be a weak and a desperate attempt to conceal ones own inability to evolve and keep up with life’s development. Two factors of what would drastically affect marital life are life’s general progression and all the initial unrealistic expectations of how marriage would be. Naturally, the result of that effect occurs only after the marriage. Hence, it could never be predicated or expected before it.

Arabic culture tends to glamorize marriage more than life itself. In fact, it teaches us to consider ‘marriage’ more important than life. Obviously, that is not completely true. Essentially, the minimal effort to have a successful marriage is the couple’s ability to accept each other’s differences, have children and progress in life. Once children arrive, life evolves noticeably

into a new phase as the couple will never be the main players in their own lives again. That’s the role of children.

Life is a series of consecutive steps, each having different requirements. Future steps should carry solutions to problems of the preceding ones. That is to say, if there were problems at the beginning of a marriage, having children might solve them and if there were problems with the children, the way they would be raised might solve those. In the case of a deficient upbringing, the solution might be arrived at in maturity and they could turn yet out to be good people with their siblings, friends and so on.

Hence, life itself holds the problems and solutions of marriage and what follows on, and never vice versa.

We should not regard marriage as a final nor an initial phase of life. Simply, life holds its own solutions. Therefore, success in life requires a certain amount of general acceptance instead of desperately trying to manipulate it to follow our plan or a specific concept acquired earlier in teenage times.

Einstein was absolutely right when he said that the solution of any problem lies in rising to the higher level of its origin. In simple words, life’s steps are our ladder to climb in order to reach higher levels with each step that we take, instead of stepping backwards.

Magic

By: Henna Al-Hodaimi

It seems like magic tends to magically attract people in Yemen! Recently the word magic seems to be used more frequently. Why is this so? What supports the spread of occult practices in our country? Where do these practices lead our society? Many people, although educated, try to use

the power of magic to achieve personal goals like passing an exam or getting hired for a certain job. Others use it in order to achieve power and control over other people. A woman might try to bewitch her husband into loving her more or a man might try to use sorcery to defeat his enemy.

What is happening to Yemen? Where is our faith? We choose ignorance over enlightenment and replace right with

wrong! Don’t we know and believe that God is the only one that can and will help us in our struggles? Why don’t we trust him instead of replacing our faith with superstition? We need to clean our society from this great error and free it from all types of magic, or it will destroy us!

Let us stand together and move as one against the destructive influence of magic. We can do it!

My life without you

By: Mohammed Alkaderi alwsei
alkaderymoh@hotmail.com

I used not to be alone
My heart is your home, he is still showing me
How my life is without you
I came back and talk
To your picture and smell your clothes
When you will come? I miss you
And every thing in my life
Is getting dark without you
The beauty of my life has disappeared
It was there when your voice around
Here calling me and saying:
(My love don’t have fear you will find me every where)
I am still waiting for you
And this is my life without you
So comeback soon
And don’t make me feel alone again

Chat is like qat

By: Abdulkreem Al-Aawage

It is good for nations to exchange their culture, views, dreams and problems throughout different media channels and chatrooms are now very popular. Sadly, it has many negative aspects too. In fact, it is similar to qat in the following dangerous points. For example, it wastes time. One may spend 1 or more hours transferring between chatrooms without any advantage. A qat chewer is the same in that he spends 1 or more hours chewing qat and speaks nonsense throughout.

Chatrooms cause health problems because of the long hours the chatter spends sitting at the screen. Qat causes the same dangers for the chewer because most qat leaves contain toxic substances and can have adverse effects on the teeth and spinal cord. Chatters can also spend a lot of money in Internet

cafes because of the amount of hours spent online. Qat is expensive too.

Chatting is addictive; qat is the same. This is very clear through the long times spent online and chewing qat. Add to that the nervous state of both ‘addicts’ if they can’t chat or chew.

In addition, chatting has many dark sides. It can lead directly or indirectly to the linking up of some anti-social groups and tricksters. It can reflect some unhealthy habits that may affect Yemenis as good Muslims. Briefly, it is like qat and could be even more dangerous. Therefore, we have to make young people of both sexes aware of these dangers. It should be seen as our social responsibility as it is capable of influencing large sectors of society in an adverse way, if we remain unaware. This illustrates the similarities between ‘Qat and Chat’.

gtz Office Sana'a

Vacancy Announcement

The Yemeni German GTZ project Economic Development of Historic Cities of Yemen (EDHCY) is seeking to fill the position of ‘Project Manager’ for the Zabid Urban Rehabilitation Project.

The overall objective of the EDHCY project is: The central and local governments, together with the residents, artisans and small traders, manage the sustainable development of the cities of Shibam and Zabid and develop capacities for the protection of Yemen’s cultural and urban heritage as an approach towards promotion of the local economy. In order to preserve this living heritage of Yemen the project provides technical support to key stakeholders in the process with the aim of improving people’s capacity to develop visions for the future of their living environment.

The duty station of the “Project Manager” will be in Zabid/Yemen.

The tasks and responsibilities of the “Project Manager” will be as the following:

Managerial Tasks:

- Overall management of Zabid Urban Rehabilitation Development Project in close cooperation with partners (SFD / BMZ / GOPHCY)

Professional Advising and Consulting:

- Participate in the preparation of operation plans for Zabid
- Follow up the implementation of the Zabid component operation plan
- Prepare a yearly budget and procurement plan for the Zabid component

Networking and Cooperation

- Regular contacts, dialogues with local communities and other relevant organizations

Knowledge Management

- Compiles information about the Zabid Urban Rehabilitation Project and ensures knowledge transfer to the other historic cities

Requirements for this position are:

Formal Education

- Min. BSC graduation in architecture or civil engineering (MSC is an advantage)
- Specialization in Project Management

Professional Experience

- Minimally 10 years of professional working experience in a similar position

Further Knowledge

- High level of social and presentation skills, as well as good communication skills
- Capacity for independent thinking and self programming
- Capacity for team work
- Capacity for multi-tasking.
- In addition familiarity with GTZ procedures and projects is a strong advantage
- You are confident doing business in English
- Excellent command of MS-Office and AutoCAD

To apply, please send a copy of your CV with covering letter to: <gtz-jemen@gtz.de> or <lana.luqman@gtz.de> Kindly indicate in the subject: “Vacancy for Project Manager/ EDHCY-Zabid”

Only Short listed candidates will be invited for interview.

Deadline for submission of CV is: 6th April 2010

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- شرف العبيطلي - دبلوم محاسبة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - خبرة ثلاث سنوات في مجال المحاسبة - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر والطباعة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٧٧٠٥٧٨٧٩٦
- فلبينية الجنسية - بكالوريوس انجليزي - ترغب في إعطاء دروس لمادتي الإنجليزي والرياضيات في الفترة بعد الظهر ومستعدة ان تستقبل أطفال في منزلها . للتواصل: ٠١/٦١١٨٣٠ - ٧١١٤٣٥٣٣
- فهد - بكالوريوس لغة انجليزية - دبلوم صيانة حاسوب - خبرة في المراسلة التجارية - خبرة في الإدارة التجارية - خبرة في تجهيز جميع إجراءات أوراق المناقصة. للتواصل: ٧١١١٨٣٣٢
- خريج كلية الشريعة والقانون (ليسانس) - جامعة صنعاء - خبرة ثمان سنوات في صيانة الحاسوب. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٤٦٦٨١
- سيارات
- للبيع: سيارة سوزوكي فيتارا (الاسطورة) موديل ٢٠٠٦ - أبيض لؤلؤي - عداد المسافة: ٨٥٠٠٠ كم. السعر: \$١٥٠٠٠. للتواصل: ٧١١٦٧١٣٣
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- حمدي ناشر - مهندس في تقنية المعلومات - جامعة دمشق - جيد جداً في اللغة الإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٧١٤٣١١٢٢٨
- وضاح فضل - بكالوريوس علوم وهندسة كمبيوتر - دورات تدريبية في مجال صيانة وبرمجة الكمبيوتر في أكثر من شركة - شهادات شبكات CISCO - CCNA شهادة A+ من مركز NEW Horizon- اللغة الإنجليزية جيداً. للتواصل: ٧٣٤١٣١١٧١
- وائل أحمد - دبلوم كهرباء - المعهد التقني الصناعي - المعلا - عدن - خبرة سنة في شركة الغاز المسال وسنة في الشركة العربية للغازات والحديد والصلب - يريد العمل لدى شركة الغاز المسال أو أي شركة أخرى. للتواصل: ٧٠٠٣٠٦٢٦٨ - ٧٧٧٢٨٧٤٨٣
- بكالوريوس في هندسة الكمبيوتر وعلومه - كلية الهندسة - جامعة عدن - الترتيب الأول على الدفعة - خبرة في هندسة وإدارة الشبكات - صيانة الحاسوب والبرمجة. يبحث عن عمل في مجال التخصص. للتواصل: ٠١/٢٤٥٦٦٠ - ٧٣٣٩٢٤٦٩٠
- نصر سليم - المعهد التقني الصناعي (الحوبان) - تعز - تحكم الكرتوني صناعي للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٧١٤٥
- كمال اسماعيل - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم عالي في الترجمة المهنية - كمبيوتر - خبرة ست سنوات في التدريس - خبرة طويلة في الترجمة. للتواصل: ٧١١٤٣٣٩٣٣
- شوقي - بكالوريوس محاسبة - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - دورات لغة إنجليزية - مستوى جيد في المحادثة والكتابة - خبرة في مجال المخازن (أمين مخازن - مراقب مخازن - متابعة مشتريات) لمدة عشر سنوات. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٠٦١٠ - ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢
- خليل العتواني - درجة البكالوريوس في هندسة الاتصالات - جامعة دمشق - ممتاز



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باحثون عن وظيفة

- خبرة. للتواصل: ٧٠٠٨٩٥٧٥
- عادل اسماعيل - بكالوريوس لغة انجليزية - جامعة الحديدة - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - خبرة سنتين في مجال مراسلات الشركات - يبحث عن عمل في أي شركة تجارية أو في أي منظمة في فرعها في الحديدة. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٢٢٩٤٩٧
- ماثور - هندي الجنسية - ماجستير تجارة - خبرة لأكثر من عشرين سنة في مجال التجارة - إدارة - تسويق - مشاريع (مستويات عالية) - يبحث عن عمل ويفضل في مدينة تعز - مستعد للعمل فوراً. للتواصل: ٧١١٤٤٥٣٥٤
- مسعود حسين - خبرة عشرين سنة في السوافة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٠١/٩٦١٧٩٤
- بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - جيد جداً (جامعة تعز) - خبرة في الترجمة والسكرتارية - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة. للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٤٣٣٦
- ربيع محمد - بكالوريوس صحافة وإعلام - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - يجيد العمل على الكمبيوتر. يبحث عن عمل في محافظة عدن. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٨٦٩٥٥٤
- ضياء محمد - فني تشغيل مكائن صناعية إنتاجية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه - لديه مؤهل ثانوية عامة وشهادت

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Traditional clothes in Shabwa



A mawrada and shabaka from Shabwa.

By: Nasser Abdulla Nasser Salah For the Yemen Times

In Yemen, some traditions have disappeared with time. For example, in old times, Yemenis used to blindly follow some superstitions probably dating back to pre-Islamic times. People believed that some holy men had supernatural powers and would hurt them if they spoke badly of them. Others used to stab themselves with jambiyas near graves. People believed in magical forces that could influence events in a good or evil way.

Other traditions live on strong. Clothes, for example, are a testimony to traditions transmitted down through generations. As-Said, in the Shabwa governorate, has specific traditional clothes, some white known as kar (كرا) and some black called kisa al-neel (كيساء النيل). Al-neel was the name of the natural dye obtained from a local plant called al-haweer (الحوير) in which white cloth was soaked to be dyed black.

Ali Al-Hanakiyya, an old man who has worked with such cloth, explained the

process.

"After being soaked in al-neel and dried, the cloth was soaked into another imported fine black canned powder known as shem (شم), then dried, and taken to be beaten on a long heavy white stone which called saree (صريع) with the help of a heavy piece of wood called mak-dama (مكدة). The former served as an ironing board and the latter as an iron."

"Finally, the cloth was taken to a place with a large smooth black piece of wood called maraca (مراكة) on which it was smoothed out with another medium-sized fine one until it was shiny and bright."

Abdulla, 85, a Bedouin, enthusiastically explained that it used to be customary for him to wear a black costume, with a band with some threads on the sides on the head as a turban called sheela (شيلة). Sometimes the leather cover of the rifle was worn instead.

Men wore a long shawl around the shoulders with its two sides flicked backwards. A cloth called maqtab (مقطب) was worn like a sarong around the waist and as short as above the knees. Local slippers called rumash (رمش) are still worn today.

"Our usual clothes used to be white or black dyed clothes," said Abubakr Al-Bani, 90. "We wore a small turban with loose threads at two sides called sheela if dyed black, or qutara (قطرة) if otherwise, with basil called shoqer (شوقر) for decoration. We wore a long shawl with loose threads around the shoulders, with its two sides thrown backwards. We wore a futa [sarong] long below the knees."

"Our long hair had to be tied up with a long twisted leather tie, of which one side was decorated with little red china and lead beads," he continued. "Not only this, but we also wore a leather ring on our heads from time to time."

A woman's outfit was similar. "A woman used to put black or white clothes on," Baraka, a local elderly woman, "a dress called thawb (ثوب) and a head-dress called sheela (شيلة) with some ornamental knotted threads at its sides."

According to locals, clothes gradually improved to satisfy all tastes and follow the fashion from outside the town. The 1950s was a turning point in the town's sense of fashion, as from then on markets were thronged with all sorts of new

clothes from outside.

However, unaffected by the new stylish products in the markets, some traditional fashion, such as the ma'waz (معوز), is still worn. This piece of cloth worn by men like a sarong appeared in Lahj around the 1960s, and was known at that time as the sa'idoni (سعيدوني) and later as the itihadi (إتحادي). Ma'waz weaving gradually flourished to become a widespread and demanded handicraft all over Yemen.

Besides the small turban on the head, sometimes worn with basil at the back, the elegant hibiyya (حبيبة) was worn by men.

Shams, another local woman, said that by 1962 women used to wear a kind of dress known as marowda (مرودا) in addition to a headdress called shabaka (شبكة).

She said, "The marowda is an embroidered dress that is a uniform piece of cloth decorated with colorful shapes with ornamental shiny zigzag stripes."

"The shabaka is a net that was once a headdress. It was a handicraft for women, half of whom used to sit on the ground rolling colorful threads around their legs, exactly above the knee, winding the

thread around a stick known as fakhoor (فخور) to knit a beautiful net in their leisure time."

The marowda and shabaka are still worn, but not as much as before due to the availability of alternative. As a result, such things are only worn by the bride nowadays together with silver jewelry for her wedding.

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Shaw and women



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Shaw's concept of women is different from that of Marlowe and Shakespeare. In Marlowe's play *Edward II* Gaveston, the male partner of Edward II has been portrayed with a greater force and intensity than Isabella. Shakespeare endowed one female character with the qualities of head and heart. But the spirit of self-renderer is a typical feature of Shakespeare's female characters. Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* and Miranda in *The Tempest* are such characters. A.C Ward has remarked:

In Shakespeare's plays the woman always takes the initiative. In his problem plays and his popular plays alike the love interest is the internet of seeing the woman hunt the man down. She may do it by charming him, like Rosalind, or by stratagem, like Mariana... she is the pursuer and contriver, he the pursued and disposed of.

Shaw analysed the fascination of women as an illusion of which the reality is the future mother's search of a husband for her child. Though Shaw was influenced by Ibsen, his women do not resemble the heroines of the great Norwegian dramatist Ibsen. They lack mystery, grace, divinity, allurements and charm, and all he can fill them with is his pre-occupation with the Life Force. In the opinion of Shaw, women are unscrupulous and they do not, in fact pursue men as such, but pursue the fulfillment of their own power of creation. The inevitable clash between the feminine and the masculine mind is, after all, merely the symbol of race preservation. A woman's desire is simply to secure a mate who will be the father of the 'Su-

perman.' A woman is entirely dependent on man for maintenance and for the rearing of children, who, although he may not be biologically attractive, is economically competent to provide her with nutrition.

Shaw believes that a woman when she falls in love, pursues her man till she overtakes him. Even her shyness and reticence are weapons which she handles to capture her man. In all love affairs, the woman is the active agent and the man merely a passive one. It is true that women command the magic power to attract men, but all the wooing is to be done by the stronger sex. The initiative in love comes from the woman to whom the man falls a prey.

Raina, well-known as a dream girl in Shaw's play *Arms and the Man*, cannot be so yielding (fitting) as Portia. There is no denying the fact that she (Raina) has developed fascination for Sergius and adores his portrait but she has to experience a series of shocks when she receives Bluntschli in her bed chamber and saves him and calls him a 'chocolate cream soldier.' Bluntschli makes her aware of the real values of life.

Continued on page 3

Bioequivalence



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Knowledge of the analytical chemical construction of substances and how to deal with them is a basic concern of pharmacy education. Actually students must be familiar with these substances and the percentage of each part in the whole concentration because any error may cause a damage to a certain organs of the body. Therefore it is important to educate students how to be careful in preparing any substance in addition to the knowledge of the anatomy of the body in order to be a successful pharmacologist

What is Bioequivalence

Bioequivalence is the name given to the process of determining whether the trade-name drug is bioequivalent to the original drug—that is, whether the generic version releases its active ingredient (the drug) into the bloodstream at virtually the same speed and in virtually the same amounts as the original drug. Bioequivalence studies only have to show that the generic version produces virtually the same levels of drug in the blood over time and thus require only a relatively small number (24 to 36) of healthy volunteers.

When a company develops a generic version of a trade-name drug, the company's experts in drug formulation must figure out how to make it. It is not enough for them to simply reproduce the trade-name drug's chemical structure or to buy the active ingredient from a chemical manufacturer. Although 250 mg of a trade-name chemical is identical to 250 mg of the same generic chemical, a 250-mg generic pill containing that chemical may or may not have the same effect in the body as a 250-mg trade-name

pill. That is because everything that is used in a particular product formulation affects how it is absorbed into the bloodstream. Inactive ingredients such as coatings, stabilizers, fillers, binders, flavorings, diluents, and others are necessary to turn a chemical into a usable drug product. These ingredients may be used to provide bulk so that a tablet is large enough to handle, to keep a tablet from crumbling between the time it is manufactured and the time it is used, to help a tablet dissolve in the stomach or intestine, or to provide a pleasant taste and color. Inactive ingredients are usually harmless substances that do not affect the body. However, because inactive ingredients can cause unusual and sometimes severe allergic reactions in a few people, one version, or brand, of a drug may be preferable to another. For example, chemicals called bisulfites (such as sodium metabisulfite), which are used as preservatives in many products, cause asthmatic allergic reactions in many people. Consequently, drug products containing bisulfites are prominently labeled as such.

Continued on page 3

I. What to Say

Crime words in English (III)

Legal language is characterized by sharpness of focus, precision and poignancy.

Notifiable offense: Offense deemed serious enough to be recorded by the police. Includes most indictable and triable-either-way offenses.

Offender: Someone who has been convicted of a crime.

Police Recorded Crime: A method of compiling crime statistics based upon a number, but not all crimes are reported to the police. Recorded crime figures tend to be significantly lower than actual crime rates.

Prosecution: A case brought against a person; the lawyer(s) responsible for putting forward the case against a defendant.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct grammatical or idiomatic errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. He was unlucky to fall sick near the examination and thus to waste a whole year.
2. I'm not feeling active this morning, I slept rather late last night.
3. Papa, please mend my pencil while I finish this exercise.
4. When I asked him to accompany me to a picture yesterday, he said that he must go to the college to meet the Dean.
5. In my job I haven't to do a thing the whole afternoon.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. We are going to **replace** all the old books in our library by new ones.
Note: We substitute new things for old ones but *replace* the old books by new
2. I stopped a villager and asked: "Which is the nearest **road** to the village?"
Note: A *street* is within a town or a village, not a way leading to one.
3. I have no doubt left in me now that her failure is **due** to her own carelessness.
4. Be reasonable; with new age mobiles so common these days, who will buy your old mobile phone set **at** such a price?
Note: Use 'for' only when a specific amount has been mentioned
5. Even at this age my mother has apparently inexhaustible energy; she is eighty **years old**.

III. Increase your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Deep or violent sorrow
2. Real or imagined cause for complaint
3. Causing grief or suffering
4. Smile broadly so as to show the teeth
5. Take and keep a firm hold of

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. Given, obtained, or done, without payment: **gratuitous** (adj)

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2. Move or be attracted towards: **gravitate** (vi)
3. Force which attracts objects towards the earth: **gravity** (n)
4. Juice which comes from meat while it is cooking: **gravy** (n)
5. Living in groups or societies: **gregarious** (adj)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. initiate, begin
2. decent, descent, dissent
3. floors, stories (storeys)
4. gratified, grateful
5. instil, inspire

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **seek** (vt) (to look for, to try to find, get or achieve something): "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." (Tennyson)
We tried to seek shelter from the rain
2. **sick** (adj) (unwell): I feel sick today.
3. **annual** (n, pl.) (story of events year by year): The Unification Day is a glorious event in the annals of Yemen's history.
4. **anneal** (vt) (cool metals, glass, etc. very slowly after heating, in order to toughen and temper): The goldsmith annealed the gold before making ornaments.
5. **annul** (vt) (put an end to an agreement, a law, etc.): The contract was annulled by both the parties.
3. **remnant** (n) (small part that remains): Cleaners are cleaning remnants of the dinner.
4. **residue** (n) (that which remains after a part is taken or used): After the chemical experiment, the residue was disposed of.
4. **greenery** (n) (the green leaves of a plant or a tree): The greenery of the woods in spring presents a lovely sight.
4. **greenish** (adj) (somewhat green): The greenish-yellow new dress suits her very much.
5. **comptroller** (n) (controller of expenditure): The Comptroller General has announced the annual audited accounts.
5. **controller** (n) (person who controls or directs a department): We met the Controller of Examinations of the university.

(ii) Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given in bold in the following sentences

1. The police is **blamed** for the incident.
a. sympathized b. acclaimed
c. flattered d. honored
2. You should be **frugal** in your spending.
a. extravagant b. generous
c. expensive d. liberal
3. He is disliked for his **haughty** manners.
a. hospitable b. pitiable
c. humble d. cowardly
4. Please don't **intrude** into my privacies.
a. withhold b. accept
c. surrender d. withdraw
5. My friend is a **glib** talker.
a. halting b. modest
c. dumb d. unwilling

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one in bold in the following sentences

1. The old building was unsafe, so it was **abandoned**.
a. vacated b. foiled
c. lost d. gained

2. The king **abdicated** the throne in favor of his son.
a. gave up b. held up
c. agreed d. disagreed

3. The news is **authentic**.
a. strive b. serve
c. genuine d. spurious

4. The Manager punished him for his **arrogance**.
a. haughtiness b. modesty
c. sincerity d. honesty

5. He is an **astute** politician.
a. arrogant b. able
c. shrewd d. hostile

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Word | Synonym |
| 1. squarely | directly |
| 2. feats | goals |
| 3. foresee | visualize |
| 4. necessitated | warranted |
| 5. source | origin |

(ii) Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given in bold in the following sentences

1. The police is **blamed** for the incident.
a. sympathized b. acclaimed
c. flattered d. honored
2. You should be **frugal** in your spending.
a. extravagant b. generous
c. expensive d. liberal
3. He is disliked for his **haughty** manners.
a. hospitable b. pitiable
c. humble d. cowardly
4. Please don't **intrude** into my privacies.
a. withhold b. accept
c. surrender d. withdraw
5. My friend is a **glib** talker.
a. halting b. modest
c. dumb d. unwilling

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Word | Antonym |
| 1. auxiliary | primary |
| 2. nomenclature | misnomer |
| 3. promptitude | tardiness |
| 4. high time | evil hour |
| 5. mutation | fixity |
| 6. substitution | interchange |

(D) Spelling

In the following questions a group of four words is given. One word in each group is misspelt. Choose this misspelt word and give the correct spelling.

1. a. affidavit b. altegeory
c. aesthetics d. alibi
2. a. allergy b. ascetic
c. athiest d. ameliorate
3. a. obituary b. misogynist
c. insomnia d. effeminate
4. a. capacity b. abdicait
c. abandon d. quit
5. a. scornful b. frosty
c. serene d. tranquile

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. announce 2. annoyance
3. annul 4. anomalous
5. anonymous

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following in sentences of your own

1. take (something) with a pinch of salt
2. rattle (someone's) cage
3. show one's paces
4. put new heart into (someone/something)
5. as dead as a dodo

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **not to know (someone) from Adam** (not to recognize someone, not know who someone is): That man greeted me but I don't know him from Adam.
2. **stand in (someone's) way** (to obstruct someone or something): If you want to go abroad for higher studies, I won't stand in your way.
3. **reach the parting of the ways** (to end a relationship or association): Fuad and Mohammed have been great friends for many years, but they have recently reached the parting of the ways.
4. **look like two peas in a pod** (to look very much alike): The twins look like two peas in a pod.
5. **under the weather** (unwell): I'm a bit under the weather - maybe the effect of the cold wave.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Make sentences of your own using the following prompts to show what you generally prefer and what you prefer on a specific occasion. For example:

tea / coffee / have coffee now

I prefer drinking tea to drinking coffee but I'd rather have coffee now.

1. TV / Cinema / go to the cinema tonight
2. flying / driving / drive to Aden tomorrow
3. country / town / spend this weekend in town
4. a cold climate / a hot climate / have a holiday in the sun this year
5. meal / fish / have the fish this evening
6. large cars / small cars / buy a small car to start with
7. long hair / short hair / have short hair in the summer

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. The alarm started ringing immediately indicating that an accident had happened.
2. The shrill scream of a man in agony was audible in spite of the clang of the machinery.
3. The message reached the factory dispensary also at the same time.
4. The ambulance van reached the door even before the machines had fully stopped.
5. Ten minutes after the event everything was the same again.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

154: TRY TO CATCH THE STAR TO ARRIVE AT THE CLOUD

153: EAT AND DRINK MEASURELY, AND DEFY THE MEDICINERS

We should observe the principle of temperance in matters of food. We should avoid excess. The smaller we eat and drink, the cleaner the head, and the cooler the blood. A man who exercises good measure of self-control in food and drinks enjoys sound health which leads to a balanced mind. So he keeps the doctor away. On the other hand, gluttony, the habit of eating and drinking too much, leads to serious imbalance in physical, mental and emotional well being. We learn from the maxim the value of temperance. As Thomas Aquinas rightly emphasizes, "Temperance is simply a disposition of the mind which sets bounds to the passions." One who practices temperance in food and drinks, his head is clear, health is better, heart is lighter and his purse is heavier.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Be sure that Allah is your Protector - The Best to protect and the Best to help." S8: A40

VI. Words of Wisdom

All our dreams can come true; if we have the courage to pursue them. — Walt Disney

ELT Panorama

The ethos of the university

The new academic year 2009-2010 is in progress. The college freshmen are expected to have familiarized themselves with the new ethos of the university. They must have realized that during the school study, students used to have limited books to study, but in the university the students must refer to many resources and references in order to understand all the topics that their professors teach. Some teachers in the university make handouts for their students. I guess this is wrong because these handouts keep the students away from going to the library and fetching books to find about different authors and sources of information.



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The university environment is different from that of the school. The school environment is limited but the university environment is broad. Stu-

dents meet different faces; students, teachers, professors, from different environments and different places, so their knowledge becomes wider. University collects students from many places in the same governorate; not only that, but many students come from other governorates and other countries as well. We can say that, in some big universities, which receive a large number of students and academic staff from all over the world, the cultural differences are clearer than in the school society.

The university students are adults, so they behave differently from school students. The university students are more polite and respectful. They respect each other and their teachers.

They deal with each other well. They are more cooperative and helpful. They meet identical life styles because most of our university students in Yemen come from rural areas. That is why they have the same views to the university education.

Most of our students in Yemen nowadays, especially in the cities and in the secondary stages, have separate schools, i.e. Males and females don't study together, but they sit together in the same class during the university education. This situation helps both boys and girls try to appear with their best behavior and morals. The university students also try to appear in a good shape in front of their colleagues.

In terms of the academic atmosphere

the most important difference between school and university is that the university is a field for research. It is not only for attending classes and memorizing, but also for researching. People try to find and apply new ideas at the universities. It is not a place for only getting certificates that help people to hunt jobs in the government. Universities must be a fertile farm for all the scientific and human experiments. The problems of the society are supposed to be solved by the researchers of the university. The university prepares doctors, teachers, engineers, translators, vets, accountants, lawyers, lab. Technicians, pharmacists, radiographers, nurses, etc. These people will go out to participate in the develop-

ment of their country. If these people do not improve and update their information, their work will affect the society negatively. That is why universities hold workshops, short and long programmes from time to time according to the needs of the society and the emerging new technology.

So the university students are in a very important stage of their life. This stage will lead to the real life. If they don't invest this period of their life well, they will encounter many problems in future. So they should try to get rid of the idea of only passing and getting the certificate. This will not happen unless they sacrifice their time and money for the sake of education. I wish them all the best, and good luck.

To my best friend

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Once upon a time, son, I used to make friends. I tried my best to have friends as much as I could, expanding my heart wider and wider to maintain them. I lived with them even if they were physically absent. I made them part and parcel of my life.

Do you know, son, what they did to me? They made me understand the different facets of life. I was so happy sharing my life with them. In spite of the fact that some of them were betrayers, some were genuine friends; some kind, and some harsh, I loved them all.

One of them was so selfish that he tried to conquer all my heart. Three of them were the source of problems to my mind. I wondered why I made friends! Then my mind took me back

to the first day I was alone and dismissed from the school. At that time three teachers were angry with me and didn't like to see me in the class. I was sitting outside lonely when a small cat passed by me. I felt it was mocking at me, the weather was so cold I felt my hands were frozen. When a teacher came and told me that I have to bring my father who was working in another city, it was cloudy. I could hardly see in front of me. I heard some footsteps. I recognized it was a lady as she walked so slowly. She came to me and sat by me. I couldn't believe she was my classmate. She explained to me what I should do in order to come back to the class. We went together to a teacher and explained that my father wasn't able to come, so he replaced him and the teachers agreed to let me get in.

I went back to the class. Their eyes were filled with joy and surprise. They couldn't articulate a word. From their looks I knew how happy they were.

Then I realized that I should have friends. Later on, I widened my heart for more friends. I welcomed everyone till I felt jealous of them. Do you think I was jealous of them? Yes, son. I used to think about them more than I thought about myself.

Time passed by and I had to move to a new place with the same attitude towards friends. The situation was different. I got hundred new persons and ended up with only ten friends by the end of the year. Even the ten I got were not as good as the old ones. All were obsessed by what I was; not who I was. Therefore, many of them vanished if we were separated for some time. Furthermore, when I tried to ask about them or to get news about them, they calmly asked me "How can I help you" or "What do you want from me?" They removed my smile. I was compelled to have a funny behaviour.

At that time I remembered the cat. I knew why it was alone. It was because if you have something, the oth-

ers share with you, but when you don't have it, others forget or neglect you. So I started buying doors to close my heart. I bought the doors of hypocrisy, betrayal, lying, hatred, envy, selfishness, backbiting, and jealousy from the friends.

They welcomed to sell them because they thought I was a fool. Do you know why I chose only those doors, son? To take them out from my heart and let them enjoy their life full of love, faithfulness, honesty and truthfulness. That's the only thing I could do for them.

Now I am struggling with another group of new friends. I wish they will be as the old ones. But my heart has become stiff. It cannot receive any more. I suggest to remove some of them and let the new ones get in. I wish school atmosphere will come back again. Son, enjoy your school days and never waste them.

Are scores the ultimate objective?



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Once the aims are grand, the achievements will be indeed tremendous. The reverse is also true.

When the objectives are worthless, the accomplishments will be meaningless as well. Everyone in this life must pursue a course of action in order to arrive at his/her best position. Of course, it is essential to make endeavour to maximize one's potential. Students, for instance, have different goals in their lives. One wants to be a brilliant writer, and another desires to be a good teacher. The third hopes to be a celebrated actor; still another longs for being a successful physician and so forth. Clearly, there are different people with diverse ambitions.

It is normal to notice such a spectrum of objectives in keeping with the fact that variety is the spice of life. What

concerns us the most is the appropriate strategies for realizing our aims.

We, as students, exert our utmost in order to accomplish our objectives. But do we want to obtain our goals by hard work or by fraud? To make it more plain, is knowledge the ultimate objective or scores? In the present time, knowledge and marks sound to be equal according to some. Still worse, some deem the former as a subsidiary need, and the latter is looked upon as a fundamental one. It is totally wrong to put them on the same plane. There are some who pay serious attention towards scores and foolishly disregard the genuine value of constructive knowledge. Is it not insanity to worry only about marks and put aside knowledge? In the ultimate analysis, we should seek information for the purpose of improving ourselves in different domains, not for fulfilling the aim of gaining cardboard certificates accompanying false scores. We need to seriously reconsider this aspect since the standard of education is on the point of further deterioration.

To sum up, my aim in writing this article is to create an awareness in those who lack the proper appreciation of the value of knowledge. We can draw a comparison between education in Yemen and that, for instance, in any gulf country and see where we stand in terms of educational excellence vis-à-vis our counterparts in other neighboring countries.

Does education help you?

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Education should have an impact on people's lives. What distinguishes educated people from others is their skills which have been acquired by great efforts and devotion. People look up to the educated man, for they make use of him. He can do a lot of practical things as a result of his study. This is the exact meaning of being educated.

You may be an educated man, having vast knowledge, but you may not be able to put your knowledge into action. This is the tragic thing which most students encounter. Students

spend twelve years studying different branches of sciences such as chemistry, physics, biology and other subjects. Unfortunately, they do not practice what they learned. What we see is quite different. Practical issues are presented in a theoretical way. Students understand things written, not seen.

Being a student, I got frustrated by studying things which I cannot see or touch. I was so curious to apply what I learned, but there was no chance.

It is absolutely disappointing that students leave school without anything worthwhile in hand. Most students can not do even the basic things in their life.

"I studied biology, but I do not know

how to inject a patient," a student told me. "I study English also, yet I can not produce even four correct sentences," he added. So who is to blame? I personally think that we should rethink about our educational system. We should think of the quality, not the quantity of learning. I prefer to learn one fruitful lesson to four useless ones. The curriculum should be mostly practical and laboratories should be open for students. Teaching should be interesting for students to be involved. On the other hand, examinations should not be given a high priority.

"I want to study and in the exam get high marks," a student told me in reply to the question "Why do you study?" In fact, students become more concerned

with their scores in the exams than acquisition of knowledge. That is why we see many of them cheating. "I want to relax myself to forget the worries of exams," a student told me throwing his handout away. We see many books being thrown away after the exams as if they have been internalized, even though they should be kept as a reference. Finally, we as teachers, parents along with the Ministry of Education have a great responsibility in spreading the awareness among people of the importance of learning for the sake of its practical utility. Otherwise, we will not be self-sufficient and the period spent for learning will be only a waste of time.

The fishy net



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Many people around the world do use internet today. You cannot be an exception, I can say so, for it has become part and parcel of modern man's life. Twenty years ago, kids in school had never even heard of the internet. Now, I bet, you can't find a single person in your locality who hasn't at least heard of it. In fact, many of us use it on a regular basis and even have access to it from our homes!

The 'net' in internet really stands for network. A network is two or more computers connected together so that information can be shared, or sent from one computer to another. The internet is a vast resource for all types of information. You may enjoy using it to do research for a school project, download your favorite songs or communicate with friends and family. Information is

accessed through web pages that companies, organizations and individuals create and post. It's like a giant notice-board that the whole world uses! But since anyone can put anything on the internet, you also have to be careful and use your best judgment and a little common sense. Otherwise, you face a fishy route that may lead you to fishy results. There are instances of many people who have been victimized in this net while they were pursuing a case of lottery contest. You or your friends might have been dragged into such fraud and swindles.

Just because you read something on a piece of paper someone sticks on a bulletin board doesn't mean it's good information, or even correct, for that matter. So you have to be sure that whoever posted the information knows what they're talking about, especially if you're doing research! But what if you're just emailing people? You still have to be very careful. If you've never met the person that you're communicating with online, you could be on dangerous ground! You should never give out any personal information to someone you don't know, not even your name! And just like you can't believe the information on every website out there, you can't rely on what strangers you 'meet' on the internet tell you either. Just like you could make up things about yourself to tell someone, someone else could do the same to you! In one word internet is a two-edged weapon. Use it carefully!

What is personal development?

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There are many people in our society today that are very unhappy with their lives for one reason or another. Whatever reason they have for being unhappy, there is undoubtedly a way to change it. Sometimes it requires a change in career, or situation. At other times it is simply a change in the way that people think. Sometimes, it is both. This is what personal development is all about.

Personal development is a path that you take to better your family situation, career, spirituality, emotional health, and every other aspect of your life. Essentially, personal development is about making conscious decisions about everything that you do, the way that you think, and the way that you react to situations. Personal develop-

ment can help you obtain everything that you always dreamed of, and what is more, with the simple application of a few simple mind sets and tools.

One of the biggest steps toward personal development is a change of mind set. If you think that you can do better, you will. If you think that you are stuck in a dead end job, without family or friends to support you, and no prospects of a better future, you will ultimately be very unhappy. When you change your mindset to positive thinking, you will find that you put forth more effort into everything that you do, and you will have much better results.

Another one of the important steps toward personal development is to set attainable goals. This is not to say that your dream is not attainable. But if you constantly think about the goal of being a millionaire with a successful family, you will feel pretty hopeless

as that goal seems so far out of your reach. Setting attainable goals simply means that you set short-term goals that lead to the ultimate goal.

It is really about taking steps. When you decide that you need food in your refrigerator, it does not automatically appear. You must make a grocery list, go to the grocery store, shop for items, purchase them, bring them home, and put them in the fridge. Attaining a large goal is much the same way. You will not get there overnight. It takes going through a series of steps, or smaller goals, to find your way.

Smaller goals also help you to see the bigger picture. Instead of thinking that you are never going to reach your final goal, you will see the progress that you are making as you complete each smaller, more attainable goal. This will give you a sense of accomplishment, as well as help you to change your thinking to a more posi-

tive mind set.

For some, personal development is also a matter of moving beyond past failures and misfortune to see what is possible in the future. Often the negative comments made by friends and family can be difficult to overcome. Past failures, or just the feeling that one is a failure, are another major obstacle. There are ways to move beyond these obstacles.

Personal development is really about making changes. Finding resources to make changes, move past obstacles, set goals, and find happiness is not always easy. But with all of the personal development books, articles, websites, and other resources available, personal development and happiness can be attained. For those who need additional help moving past obstacles and making those changes, a counselor or personal development coach can also be of great help.

Devious ways to deserve a grade



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“If you would like to achieve excellence in your study, you’ve to strive to make the teachers know your name well.” One of my friends told me this when I was in the second level. He added, “You’ve to have good relation with your professors and try to keep in touch with them, especially during the exam days.”

At the beginning, I considered such talk as one of those rumors the dull students always try to make to get an excuse for their negligence and failure. What made me initially sneer at such talk is that I personally do believe in the student’s hard work and the honesty of the teaching staff who will never be unfair but will give every student what s/he really deserves. Not less, not more.

As a University student, I do know all my classmates and we do test each other’s skills during our study. We know who is clever and who is not. But when the results of the first semester exam of the last year were declared, most of the students were shocked at how some of those students who are known as unintelligent ones got high marks in certain courses while they hardly passed the others and sometimes failed! The students conclude that getting high marks is due to their good relation with their professors!

The exam results remind me of my friend’s statement mentioned above. As a matter of fact, I myself got less marks in one of those courses whose teacher depended more on the familiarity with students than the quality of their answers. I convinced myself that it is unfair to accuse others of dishonesty unless you have enough evidence to that effect.

Actually, I contradicted my classmates and upheld my teacher’s fairness. As a challenge to my friends, I studied another course given by that

teacher in the second semester very hard to attain an excellent grade which would prove his fairness to all my friends. I was going to die of anxiety before the announcement of the results. But, as it was expected by my friends, I was shocked for the second time to see my mark lesser than that of the previous semester awarded by that doctor!

What added insult to injury is that all students memorized the answers of questions and reproduced them in the exam paper because our dear professor had given us a copy of the test three weeks before we sat for the exam!

Therefore, I decided to know the secret behind all what happened even if I don’t care about marks much. What was sad enough was the Prof’s answer when I asked him: “Sir, I wonder why you gave me less marks when I answered all the questions satisfactorily.” His answer was: “Oh! You got full marks in Mid-term exam, but in the final exam I gave you less marks as they told me in the dean’s office that they’ll re-correct my copies if I gave more excellent grades. Your classmate (who is very close to him.) I want not to mention his name –didn’t tell me about you. You were supposed to call me before, not complain now.”

Clearly, majority of students who get poor marks are victims of this system which depends on the extent of student’s closeness with the teacher, whatever may be the quality of the answer. This treatment makes you experience virtually death-in-life. And now I’ve to say “sorry” to all my classmates I contradicted. And for my friend who advised me earlier, I’ll say: “I’m awfully sorry for ignoring your valuable advice, my dear.”

In fact, it’s really a grievance. I feel a lot of agony and mental suffering to be dealt like this.

So, my submission is: “Try not to be foolish. It is a pity that even the University education is not free from corruption. Pay more attention to the youth who are considered the backbone and the corner stone of any nation. Take our grievance into account and let it not go with the wind. Please fear God and discharge the responsibilities vested in you honestly. Try to get rid of those who try to sabotage the real education.”

I hope all my teachers would forgive me for such views. You are our role models. Special and warm thanks go to my dear professors who enlightened our academic life by their honesty, fairness, knowledge and equality of treatment.

Colors and psychoanalysis

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Colors are one of the basic elements that enable the humans to deal with the elements of life. By colors you can distinguish between areas and differentiate between the similarities of things in nature. And you can express your feelings by means of a creative painting, for instance.

The modern medicine tries to discover the relationship between diseases and the patient’s psychology through different shades of colors.

Colors have an active effect on human’s life. In the past, people knew colors and their effect through day and night and dark and light. When the sun sets and the night befalls, the sky is covered by dark blue color, so the biological activities decrease resulting in silence and laziness till the person sleeps and gets rest to renew his strength and become ready to do the activities of the coming day. And when the day begins with the sun rise, the earth wears the dress of bright yellow light so the biological activities increase and the person becomes more active.

As such, the person organizes his life largely according to these two colors of nature. There are certain other basic colors that are shown up clearly in the environment. The blue color is clearly shown up in the clear sky and also in

the sea and the ocean because of the reflection of the sky on the sea and the ocean. The green color is clearly shown up in the fields and woods in which plants and trees are green. The yellow color is found in the desert, fields and woods in Autumn. And the white color like snow is found in the countries in which the winter is harsh. It is also the color of the clouds in the dome of the blue sky. But the red is not manifested clearly in a huge surface around humans; however, we all know that we all have red blood in our arteries.

The reflection of colors affects a person’s character and the qualities. Painters are the teachers of expression through the light and colors that show clearly their environment, tempers, and their characters. The Dutch painter Ran Prandik uses dim colors. If there are

yellow spots he surrounds them with big areas of black or dark colors. So his character is strict and he likes loneliness. But the French painter Rnwar is funny, and generous and he likes to be involved in society. So his pictures are bright and he usually uses yellow, red, blue and white colors.

The Spanish painter Fransisko has two moods - one is a dim and depressed mood and the other is a cheerful mood. In the dim and depressed mood, his pictures are dim which the critics call the dark period and in the cheerful mood, his pictures are bright and he uses red, yellow, green, and blue colors. This is not only with painters, but also with ordinary people. Through the color choice you can know the character, mood, nature of people and also their environment,

Special department for special needs

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The Yemeni government three years ago started a new department called Basic Education.

Taiz university, Faculty of Education is the first university in Yemen that had the honor of implementing this new stream of education. It is concerned with the preparation of highly qualified teachers to deal with the critical stage of learning which is called the primary school.

The basic idea inherent in it marks a very important turning point towards more efficient teaching and learning. This is actually a brave decision and shows big determination on the part

of the government to put an end to the phenomenon of lack of proficiency in English wide spread in Yemen. This problem can be successfully addressed as long as the government has a strong political will and prepares a special strategy to translate that into action.

This strategy didn’t come overnight. It is an outcome of long research. It aims at finding a solution to the current stagnant situation of EFL in Yemen. In recognition for the effective role of science and technology in developing the country in the 21st century, the government is going to integrate English course for Yemen into the curriculum of basic education. The integration will start from 4th grade of this stage as a first step and then it will move on to the next higher stages according to a well thought out plan.

The government intends to open this stream not only to qualify specialized teachers who can cope successfully with the integration, but also as a unique solution to avoid the rising problems of the general education. Education graduates are good and they are able to teach well, but they are not qualified enough to cope with this primary phase of learning.

We, the students of level four, are the first batch of this new department. Our syllabus equips us with knowledge and awareness regarding how children grow up and what are the skills we have to acquire to deal with each level, how to deal with them patiently, tactfully and wisely, what is the methodology to cater to their needs, desires, level and their background which may lead to a good command of the

language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as what is the proper way a teacher should adopt to teach them English.

Opening this department is a practical and positive step on the part of the government towards reforming and developing basic education in particular and education system in general. Students in the primary level of the basic education are still in a formative stage where you can shape them so that they will acquire English more easily. As the adage goes “Catch them young.”

Mastering English is the matter of age and stage of beginning its learning. The earlier you begin, the earlier they master the language. We hope that this venture will be followed by further serious steps to spread it to all Yemeni universities.

How do we develop our English?

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English is a foreign language for Yemeni learners who think it very difficult to learn, but in fact, it is just the reverse. It is very easy to acquire if they are well motivated. Gaining proficiency in English is not a matter of merely

memorizing vocabulary and reciting them. If a learner memorizes the words in a dictionary but is not able to put them in sentences, it’s useless. One may be unable to make correct sentences if one lacks the knowledge of English syntax. In English as much as in learning any other foreign language, practice is a very important factor as it helps the learner to improve his grasp of the language system gradually.

First and foremost, one must listen to English spoken by native speakers.

One may tune on to BBC, watch English films, T.V serials and cassettes etc. and try to communicate with native speakers of English, read as many English books and newspapers as one can as well as study books on grammar, conversation and comprehension.

Many students in Taiz university keep asking me “How do we develop our English?”

My answer is: ‘Read and speak English as much as you can.’ In fact, reading is the only means of

developing English for Yemeni students and the English newspapers are the cheapest available resource to improve one’s skills. I repeatedly advise my classmates to follow the saying “Reading makes a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man.”

To sum up, practicing reading and listening to English from original sources will certainly help improve English at all levels. Above all, motivation is an important factor to achieve proficiency in English.

Continued from page 1

Shaw and women

Louka is a typical Shavian character. She is quite sure of the fact that if she yields to the biological needs of Sergius without making him chase her, he will not realize her importance. She gives a material shape to her desire by celebrating her marriage with him.

It is Ibsen and Shaw who have highlighted the importance of women in the family and society. In *A Doll’s House* Ibsen has created a new woman with a new urge ignoring the Victorian morality and challenging the restriction imposed upon the woman by the man-made society.

Shaw was profoundly influenced by Ibsen and as such

his women who represent the views of their creators are intelligent. Louka, Candida and Ann are such characters as they can take initiative or decision. They need not turn to their lovers or husbands for any thing.

It is obvious that Shaw’s first notable innovation in art is the creation of unwomanly heroines. Shaw once said that good women are all manly, good men are equally all womanly. In his struggle against the romantic love of popular fiction and drama, Shaw shows that women are at once lower and higher than the fragile heroines of Dickens. They stand at the lower plane simply because they lose their temper like

Blanche of *The Widower House*. They are also lower because their love is bodily:

They stand face to face quite close to me... half inviting him to advance in a flesh of undisguised animal excitement.

Eric Bentley suggests that “*Shavian heroines are also higher than Dickensian heroines... in their naturalness and in their grandeur.*”

It is patent that Shaw’s female characters are not subservient to the will and pleasure of their husbands. Every husband like Morel in *Candida* thinks that he offers

all things for the comfort and luxury of his wife. Shaw says that the wife is the real creditor, for it is she who builds a castle of comfort and love for him and stands a sentinel to keep out the vulgar cares. So the role of women in family and society is very significant.

A study of Shaw’s women in relation to love and sex proves very fruitful. Love in Shaw is at least theoretically devoid of romance. It is neither mysterious nor divine. It does not afford any basis for a worship of woman by man. Hector in *Man and Superman* says:

We think in America that

a woman’s moral number is higher than man’s and that the purer nature of a woman lifts a man right out of himself, and makes him better than he was.

Shaw visualizes a woman in love as a spider, when he remarks:

It is assumed that the woman must wait, motionless, until she is wooed. Nay, she often does wait motionless. That is how the spider waits for the fly.

Shaw in this play has given a new concept of women. This concept runs counter to the tra-

ditional view of women. It is the time-honored view that the man is the hunter and the woman is the subject of hunt but Shaw has something different to say. He points out that a woman is a *boa constrictor* out to catch man unawares. She is the huntress who pursues men till they are caught in her trap. She is like a spider and men are like flies.

Like a scientist, Shaw believes in the improvement of the human race that the female must select only that male for mating who can give the best seed possible. The purpose of the Life Force is to produce better and better persons ultimately resulting in the birth of a superman.

Bioequivalence

Although people generally think of oral dosage forms, such as tablets, capsules, liquids, when they think about generic prescription drugs, generic versions of other drug dosage forms, such as injections, patches, inhalers, and others, must also meet a bioequivalence standard. The FDA sets bioequivalence standards for different drug dosage forms.

The manufacturer of the trade-name drug also must prove bioequivalence before a new form of an approved drug can be sold. New forms include new dosage forms or strengths of an existing trade-name drug product and any other modified form that is developed, as well as new generic drugs. Sometimes the form that was originally tested is modified for commercial reasons. For example, tablets may need to be made sturdier, flavoring or coloring may be added or changed, or inactive ingredients may be

changed to increase consumer acceptance.

Evaluation and Approval Procedures

The FDA evaluates every generic version of a drug. The FDA approves a generic drug if studies indicate that the original trade-name drug and the generic version are essentially bioequivalent. The FDA also makes sure that a new generic drug contains the appropriate amount of the active (drug) ingredient, that it is manufactured according to federal standards (Good Manufacturing Practices), and that the generic version differs from its trade-name counterpart in size, color, and shape—a legal requirement.

Interchangeability and Substitution

Theoretically, any generic drug that is bioequivalent to its trade-name counterpart may be interchanged with it. For drugs that

are off-patent, the generic drug may be the only form available. To limit costs, many doctors write prescriptions for generic drugs whenever possible. Even if the doctor has prescribed a trade-name drug, the pharmacist may dispense a generic drug unless the doctor wrote on the prescription that no substitution can be made. Also, insurance plans and managed care organizations may require that generic drugs be prescribed and dispensed whenever possible to save money. Some plans may allow a consumer to select a more expensive trade-name product prescribed by the doctor as long as the consumer pays the difference in cost. However, in some state-run programs, the consumer has no say. If the doctor prescribes a generic drug, the pharmacist must dispense a generic drug. In most states, the consumer may insist on a trade-name drug even if the doctor and pharmacist recom-

mend a generic drug.

Sometimes generic substitution may not be appropriate. For example, some available generic versions may not be bioequivalent to the trade-name drug. Such generic drugs may still be used, but they may not be substituted for the trade-name product. In cases in which small differences in the amount of drug in the bloodstream can make a very large difference in the drug’s effectiveness, generic drugs are often not substituted for trade-name drugs, although bioequivalent generic products are available.

Warfarin, an anticoagulant, and phenytoin, an anticonvulsant, are examples of such drugs. Finally, a generic product may not be appropriate if it contains an inactive ingredient that the person is allergic to. Thus, if a doctor specifies a trade-name drug on the prescription and the consumer wants an equivalent generic version, the

consumer or pharmacist should discuss the matter with the doctor.

Drugs that must be given in very precise amounts are less likely to be interchangeable, because the difference between an effective dose and a harmful or an ineffective dose (the margin of safety) is small.

Digoxin, used to treat people with heart failure, is an example. Switching from the trade-name product to a generic product may cause problems, because the two versions may not be sufficiently bioequivalent. However, some generic versions of digoxin have been certified as bioequivalent by the FDA. Pharmacists and doctors can answer questions about which generic drugs are interchangeable for their trade-name counterparts and which are not. A book published by the FDA each year and updated periodically also provides guidance about which drugs are inter-

changeable. This book, *Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations* (also known as “the orange book” because it has a bright orange cover), is available both in print and online to anyone but is intended for use by doctors and pharmacists

Evaluations:

The substitution of a generic drug can sometimes cause other problems for the consumer. A doctor may write a prescription for a trade-name product and discuss the trade-name product with the consumer. If a pharmacist dispenses an equivalent generic product and the label does not also list the reference (trade-name product), the consumer may not know how the generic product relates to the drug the doctor prescribed. To prevent this confusion, pharmacists should include the reference trade name on the label when a generic product is substituted.

Science Quizline

Fill in the blanks with correct answers

1. A ball falls from height ‘h’. After 1 second, another ball falls freely from a point 20m below the point from where the first ball falls. Both of them reach the ground at the same time. The value of ‘h’ is ----
2. A prism of angle 30° is silvered on one side. A ray of light incident at an angle 45° is reflected back. The refractive index is ----
3. Surface tension vanishes at ----
4. Diabetes is detected by testing urine of patient with ----
5. The plants of this group are adapted to live partly in water and partly above substratum and free from water. Name the plant of this group

Answers to the previous issue’s questions

1. Two waves of wavelength 1.00m and 1.01m produce 10 beats in 3 sec. The velocity of the wave is **336.6m/s**.
2. The number of turns in primary coil of a transformer is 20 and the number of turns in the secondary is 10. If the voltage across the primary is 220 acV, the voltage across the secondary is **110 acV**.
3. The amount of substance deposited by the passage of 1 amp of current for 1 second is equal to **Electrochemical equivalent**.
4. Bacteria protect themselves from viruses by fragmenting viral DNA upon entry with **Endonuclease**.
5. The technique of production of monoclonal antibodies was developed by **Milstein and Kohler**.

Hodeidah University Workshop on 'Quality of Academic Programs' organized by British Council

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From 1 - 3 March 2010, the British Council organized a 3-day training workshop on the 'Quality of Academic Programmes' for 36 academic leaders of Hodeidah University. It took place in Taj Awsan Hotel in Hodeidah.

This workshop was organized as part of the British Council Programme 'Excellence in Higher Education' which aims to contribute in developing the standards and quality of higher education in Yemen and the Gulf. Most of the Yemeni public universities and some private ones have already received similar training workshop over the last year.

The workshop aimed at refreshing the skills of the participants in developing relevant learning outcomes and evaluating them in the light of the students' needs and the strategic priorities. It also shed light on the quality of teaching and learning and the specifications and evaluation of the academic programme. Trainees were engaged in practical sessions in order to enable them to do it rather than know it only. The workshop was led by the international expert, Professor Abdullateef Al-Hakimi, who is currently an academic and educational consultant in Yemen and Ex-Dean of the Faculty of Education in the United Arab Emirates University. He has also been delivering training for higher education institutions in many countries in the Middle East and outside.

The 36 participants, who were selected in coordination with Hodeidah University, represented all the colleges of the University. They were mostly deans, vice deans, heads of centres and heads of departments who were



The workshop in progress.

in positions to apply the knowledge and effect decisions. They were also with different specializations and teaching theoretical as well as practical courses at the collegiate and tertiary level.

The sessions of the first day revolved round the following:

- A general overview on the quality of academic programs
- The components of the academic programs
- The outcomes of learning

On the second day, the trainer and the participants discussed the following:

- Preparing drafts/samples about the learning outcomes
- Implementations related to real-life learning
- Evaluation of the learning outcomes
- The good qualities of the academic programs

The focus of the last day was on:

- The good qualities of the academic curriculum
- Excellence of learning and teaching
- Evaluation of the academic programs.

The expert, prof. Lateef, followed the mode of lecturing, asking/answering questions and discussing throughout the sessions. The participants were involved in group-work and asked to do things, for example, preparing drafts/outlines of real-life programs taught at the collegiate level. They really enjoyed the time in which they worked together, getting comments, advice and suggestions from each other. On the last day, Dr. Mahyoub Abdul-Rahman, the acting president of HU, Prof. Lateef, the expert, and Mr. Edrees Al-Qadassi, Higher Education manager in the British Council, distributed certificates to the participants to end the workshop.

Hodeidah University and the participants profoundly thank the British Council for this workshop that is truly unique dealing with a very essential topic of concern of both developed and developing countries. Honestly, imparting vital knowledge and keeping teachers abreast of the latest is not novel for the British council as it always bridges the gaps, connects the old with the new and links what should be with what is real to create educational opportunities for ALL people worldwide.

Endless thanks should be for Mr. Edrees Al-Qadassi for this well-organized workshop, high-quality services offered and reaching-out communication.

Participants request the British Council to hold such workshops at regular intervals.



Participants engaged in deliberations of the workshop.



A view of one of the sessions.

POETRY CORNER

A Pilgrimage

When the jigsaw blackens deep
To dumb, mocking box,
Light eludes, escapes waiting windows ;
Eyes ossify, groping rays around ashes and embers.
Light within twinkles, wisdom retorts--
Go to "Sleep", don't try to peep....
The dark lanes dissolve in the nocturnal pool ,

Spectres and elves are on wings.
Better to sleep after days' toils,
Shake off angst, vagaries of day-dreams.
Prod and trud smokes, fire and flames,
Don't dread, it blazons dreary lanes,
Swallow lusts to purify worldly vain,
Fetch thee fresh candles to find the new Inn.



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YOUTH FORUM

Knowledge is nurtured by love

Love is accompanied by joy. It is either strong or weak according to the degree of love. Whenever the desire for the cherished one is stronger, there is perfect pleasure. Love and yearning follow knowing Allah and appreciating His greatness. Whenever our knowledge of Allah is perfect, we will love Him more intensely. Therefore, the perfection of blessing and pleasure in the hereafter can be traced back to knowledge and love. Whoever believes in Allah, His names and at-

tributes, and knows them well, would love Him a great deal, and his feeling of divine joy is a token of being close to Him. Looking at His face and hearing His words would be complete when meeting Him on the Day of Judgment. Every pleasure, blessing, joy and delight would be like a drop of water compared to the sea. So how is it that an intelligent person can prefer weak and short-lived pleasure that is mixed with pain, to great, complete and eternal pleasure? The perfection of man

is based on these two abilities: knowledge and love. And the best knowledge is the knowledge about Allah, and the highest love is love for His Sake. Surely, it is Allah's help that should be sought heart and soul.

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An Ideal Student

The purpose of education is to produce ideal persons to face the responsibilities of the future, to produce helpful and active youth, and to make them able to serve the society. The aim of education is to produce an ideal student who is the wealth and future of this nation, hope of his/her family and pride of the society. This aim can be achieved only when the students are sincere and acquire education in the real sense.

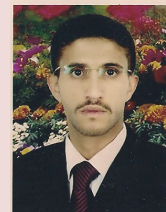
Unfortunately, nowadays students do not realize their duties. Their only purpose is to get good grades in the examination by hook or by crook. Thus, they limit their abilities and confine their skills. Some of them are diligent and hardworking. They have many talents and abilities, but what is their benefit without practicing them.

Getting the highest grade in the examination or be the top scorer in the class is not enough unless you utilize your knowledge to serve the society

in which case you can show that the aim of education was achieved and you are able to practice what you learned. The really brilliant student has to prove his worthiness on the play ground. An ideal student isn't proud, introverted, or apathetic. An ideal student is not a frog in a well but a person with great vision and ideals. An ideal student is not unsocial. He loves his fellow students and takes part with high enthusiasm in all the group activities. An ideal student is the glory and prosperity of his country.

So let's take one step forward. Lets become ideal students.

By: **Abdulnasser Haimed**
Level: 2
Faculty of Arts
Ibb University



The song of tenses

Once I saw present simple with his children
Always, sometimes, usually and often.

The past simple which I saw in the zoo
With yesterday, once, last and ago.

The present continuous WOW!
With at present, at the moment, look!, listen! and now.

The past continuous has twins
One is *while* and the other is *when*.

Present perfect which I met
With just, since, up till now, already, recently, for and yet.

The past perfect has no more
Only after and before.

The simple future as you know
Either will or going to.

Nogoud Ahmed Ali Al-Amarri
Level 1
College of Arts
Ibb University

Don't go away

If I need you
Don't leave me and go away
I can't live without you
So, can I ask you to stay?
Who will wipe my tears
If I start to cry?
Who will protect me
In hard winter?
So... please stay
To make me see
The sun rise in the sky
To make me see the light

Because you are my eyes
Don't go away
To save my soul
As you say
Please stay
Promise me just to try
And never ever
Say 'good bye'.

Nojod
Level 2
Yemenia University
Sana'a

Efficient learning of English: Problems and prospects

English is becoming now the most common language all over the world. It is not strange that one out of every four persons speaks English.

There are a large number of institutes newly established for the purpose of teaching English, but unfortunately they never teach as English should be taught. Some of those teachers speak and use English incorrectly.

Those teachers are the major reason behind students' hatred of this subject. They make English so complicated to

their students who pay high fees to join English courses. However, there are some teachers who are not experienced enough. Teachers must be certified by the Ministry of Education to refresh their minds, but the educational planners do not pay attention to such a vital issue.

Yemen needs to be in the same path as advanced countries, otherwise it will still continue to be as it was before the Revolution. It is very important for us to know that one of the main reasons that

made India a super power is that its people speak English. So we now should start thinking of English instead of sitting and looking at others what they are doing.

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Benefits of reciting the Holy Qur'an

There are various purposes of reciting the holy Qur'an. First and foremost, one recites the holy Qur'an as obedience to Allah, all extolment be to Him. In addition, the holy Qur'an bestows cure, mercy and serenity to all, for it is a good tiding to all believers.

If we come to point out the benefits or rather what one gains out of reciting the holy Qur'an, we wouldn't be able to cover all the rewards, but let us try to draw attention to some of them.

Initially, when reading the holy Qur'an, we learn Allah's names, and His fairness. Not only that, we also learn about the prophets and their tales, as well as about the previous nations in order to learn valuable lessons. The holy Qur'an has a lot of teachings, including religious, social, moral and even economic teachings to mention a few, and whenever faced by any obstacle or confusion, they refer to it for the exact clarification. Then, Allah enlightens the beholdings and visions of the reader and plucks off the grimness from his heart. When reading the holy Qur'an, Allah provides the reader loyalty, piety, certitude and fair trust in Him along with beneficial knowledge, thus helping the reader be among Allah's personal favorites.

When we recite the holy Qur'an, our hearts and outer layer softens by stating the words of Allah. The holy Qur'an guides us to the straight path of the favored ones and keeps us away from the path of the erring ones; as a result we wouldn't be lost in this vanishing world and wouldn't be deprived of the eternal existence hereafter.

Again, when we read the holy Qur'an, relief is sent down to us and mercy wraps us. And by that, our hearts will be relieved, while Allah all extolment be to Him, provides us His compassion. In addition, it purifies our hearts and souls. Further, when we recite the holy Qur'an, we tend to know what is permitted and what is prohibited, as well as knowing what is commanded and what is forbidden. Hence we make ourselves busy with right doings instead of making ourselves busy with wrong doings. Moreover, the recitation of the holy Qur'an leads to fighting oneself against the devil of prejudice. Plus, it washes off ones' despair and depression along with paying off ones' debt. Thus, one's heart wouldn't be like a ruined house full of wreckage. In addition, when we read the holy Qur'an, not only would it act as a wit-

ness in our favor and nor a witness against us, it would come in handy to be an entertainer in our graves, radiance in our pathway, a guide in our fading world and our driver towards paradise. Not only would it be our intercessor, it would also be an alibi for us instead of being against us.

Last but not least, when we read the holy Qur'an, Allah doubles our good deeds, draws us even nearer to Him and elevates our grades. On the Day of Judgment, a regular reader of the holy Qur'an would have a safe partition between him and the nonbelievers and will be promoted in the higher gardens. His parents will be adorned with a luminous crown.

Although there are extra benefits of reciting the holy Qur'an, this is what I was capable of presenting, and I am quite sure many have their own views and beliefs. Many may not be convinced of my opinions; however, I shall look forward to be honored by the opinions of those who hold opposing views.

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