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Monday, 6 June 2005 • Issue No. 848 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Supreme court discusses appeal against sales tax

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Supreme Court (the highest judicial authority in the country) held a sitting Saturday June 6 at the Ministry of Justice and discussed the appeal filed against some articles of the sales tax law No. 19 for the year 2001. The capital's Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) represented by Dr. Hassan Mujalli, its lawyer, filed an appeal against President of the Republic, Speaker of the Parliament, Prime Minister, Minister of Legal Affairs, Minister of Finance and President of the Tax Authority. At the session, attended by a number of the Supreme Court members, the CTI's lawyer and some businessmen, the CTI's lawyer read out the appeal filed by Yemeni traders claiming the tax sales law is unconstitutional.



Supreme Court members during discussing appeal filed against sales tax law. YT PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

The appeal was presented in a book of 160 pages containing articles Dr. Mujalli confirmed are against the constitution and the Islamic Sharia, according to which the law should be cancelled. The sales tax law is scheduled to be put into practice by the beginning of

July. The appeal covered several legal justifications, one of which is that the sales tax law was drafted to devastate fixed legal relations that bind the main laws together. "The sales tax law is a flagrant violation against the constitutional texts No.

52 and 53 that include basic rights for the Yemeni citizen", the appeal said. The fourth justification contained in the appeal confirmed that putting the law into practice by the court will make traders and citizens suffer huge material losses. *Continued on page 3*

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Al-Nahar newspaper stands trial

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a South West Court held its first session on Wednesday the first of June, 2005 to look into the three suits filed against Al-nahar Newspaper. One of the suits was filed by Shaikh Mohamed Mansour from Al-Ja'ashin. The other two law suits were filed by Althawra General Hospital - Sana'a.

It is clear that there was an intention to tease and confuse Al-nahar by holding three sessions on the same day. The case began when the newspaper published three articles on the practices of Shaikh Mansour against the people in his area.

The sheikh considered the articles a personal slander, and presented the case to the attorney General. "We presented documents which we consid-

ered to be material evidence for what we have published, but the attorney ignored it all and proceeded with the case", Sheikh Mansour said. In a press release, Shihab Alahdal Chief Editor of Al-nahar newspaper said, "We appreciate Sheikh Mansour's resorting to the judiciary, but we are sure of the case we adopted. We published only a very small portion of the sufferings experienced by the people in al-Ja'ashin area. Our articles were based on complaints, dialogues and interviews with locals from al-Ja'ashin. "The fairness of our



Al-Nahar Chief Editor (second from right) with judge of the court during trial of his newspaper

case could partly be justified by the fact that we were not the only newspaper that revealed the aggression locals of the area are subjected to, and we are the only paper that stands trial", Shihab al-Ahdal pointed out.

For his offence against journalists Prosecution orders imprisonment of al-Bilad Chief Editor

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In its session held Sunday June 5 for investigating al-Bilad Editor-in-Chief over the defaming article published in the zero issue of his newspaper against journalists Hafid al-Bukari and Rahma Hujairah, the Press and Publications



Western activists supporting Rahma Hujairah at Press and Publication Prosecution's 1st investigative session. YT PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

Prosecution ordered the imprisonment of al-Bilad Chief Editor Abdulmalik al-Faishani for seven days. Abdulmalik al-Faishani, who refused to answer questions filed by the prosecution and to uncover the identity of the article writer, asked for postponing the investigation, but the prosecution rejected his plea. Ten journalists and international activists interested in human rights and freedoms stood by Ms Hujairah and her husband and attended the session during which al-Bilad Chief Editor was investigated.

Syndicate (YJS) and his wife Rahma Hujaira, Head of the Yemeni Female Media Forum (YFMF) appointed three lawyers to defend them at the court, and the YFMF filed a suit against al-Bilad Newspaper.

The defaming article published by al-Bilad Newspaper in its zero issue against journalist Rahma Hujairah and her husband Hafid al-Bukari was locally and internationally denounced. A large number of journalists expressed solidarity with the two spouses, held a sit-in at the YJS and released numerous statements denouncing defamation of Journalists Hujairah and al-Bukari.

The defaming article published by al-Bilad Newspaper in its zero issue against journalist Rahma Hujairah and her husband Hafid al-Bukari was locally and internationally denounced.

A number of non-government organizations and political parties, as well as international organizations, including the International Journalists Union (IJU) and the Arab Journalists Union (AJU), expressed their strong denunciation of such indecent practices against Yemeni journalists.

The prosecution rejected the request of lawyers who demanded the judiciary to prevent al-Bilad Editor-in-Chief from traveling abroad. Journalist Hafid al-Bukari General Secretary of the Yemeni Journalists

Continued on page 3

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Russian specialists will enjoy certain privileges in Yemen

MOSCOW, May 31 (Itar-Tass) — The relations between Russia and Yemen "have a vast potential", Yemeni Ambassador to Russia Abdulwahab Mohammed al-Rawhani believes. "Our political dialogue is developing very dynamically and at top level. It rests on profound mutual understanding and coordination of bilateral cooperation efforts, as well as of activities on the international arena," the diplomat told Itar-Tass.

"The government of Yemen is paying much attention to the problem of drawing Russian investments and companies into the economy of our country, is exerting every possible effort to promote Russia's presence in such sectors of our economy as oil

and gas extraction and processing, military technology, tourism, urban development, science and education," he stated. "Russian specialists will enjoy certain privileges in our country," the ambassador promised.

He recalled that Yemen would mark two important events on June 2: the 15th anniversary of the end of the bloody civil war and unification of the Yemen Republic, and also the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sanaa and Moscow. "We shall never forget Russia's assistance and backing in the most critical periods of our history, for instance, in the effort to unite the Republic in 1990," al-Rawhani stressed.

Yemeni ambassador summoned to Iranian foreign ministry

Tehran, 2 June: Yemen's ambassador to Tehran was summoned to the foreign ministry on Wednesday [1 June] to receive Iran's protest and dissatisfaction over false statements of a Yemeni court concerning Iran.

According to the foreign ministry media department report, Director General of Persian Gulf Department in IRI Foreign Ministry referring to last weeks visit of Yemen's Foreign Minister Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi and his negotiations with Iranian officials called the unfounded accusations in the Yemeni court verdict contradictory to the aims of the al-Qirbi visit.

Referring to the latest events in Yemen, the Iranian official called them an internal affairs and notified

that such issues should be settled in the framework of the country's unity and democracy.

The Yemeni ambassador referring to brotherhood ties between the two countries expressed his country's officials intention to consolidate and expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ambassador said, "He would convey Iran's protest and will follow the case".

A Yemeni Shite clergy was found guilty for conspiring against Yemen's national security on Sunday, accused of spying for the Islamic Republic of Iran, and condemned to death.

His two accomplices were sentenced to eight-year imprisonment terms.

10th International Family Year marked

Under the patronage of Mr. Abdulkareem al-Arhabi, the minister of social affairs and labor-the deputy of the Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood, the technical department of the Higher Council for motherhood & Childhood organized on Wednesday 25th May a celebration on the occasion of wrapping up the activities of the 10th International family year as well as to honor the preliminary committee of Family.

Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, the deputy of the ministry of social affairs and labor, along with Dr. Nafessa AL-Jaefi, the general-secretary of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, inaugurated the ceremony.

Dr. Nafesa in her opening speech stressed on the importance of the family in the individual life as it is the oldest institution in the society. For the family's crucial role, it has had the attention of the international and Arabic world for the last decades as it is the core of any society. To create educated generations who know their duties and rights and how to deal with all the things around them, family should be aware about the firm principles, changes, and be informative with what is necessary for building healthy citizens. So we take this opportunity to let the family know its role in development and how to participate in preparing the programs, plans and

strategies that protect it and enhance its role in building societies.

She talked about the international year of family and its goals in raising awareness about family issues among the governments and decision-makers and showing its essential functions and role and the difficulties that affect it.

Mr. Saleh Abdullah also pointed out to the importance of mutual cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental institutions in evolving the family issues either regionally or internationally.

At the end of the celebration the preparatory committee members were handed certificates.

Civic society role in promoting Development Millennium Goals

With cooperation of UNDP, the Yemeni Woman Union along with working groups civil society organizations held a workshop on Sunday 29 May entitled "The role of the civic society in enhancing the development goals of millennium".

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, the minister of Planning and international cooperation, attended the opening ceremony and addressed the civic society "There is a need for the partnership of the civic society organizations, the active and hard-working ones that should cooperate with the government to meet the eight development millennium goals by 2015".

The minister in his speech also asked the donors to keep their promises and assist the Yemeni government achieving the development goals.

Dr. Muthar AL-Abassi, the deputy

minister of planning and international cooperation, presented a paper entitled "The importance of involving the millennium development goals in developmental plans" in which he displayed the development indicators that Yemen has tried in achieving development. The indicators showed that Yemen is likely to achieve just two goals; in the health and education field.

Ms. Ramzia AL-Eryani, the head of the Yemeni Women Union, explained, "through this workshop a number of papers were prepared with the working group Civil Society Organizations attempting to take part in identifying the needs for preparing the third and fifth plan and the poverty alleviation strategy to achieve the millennium goals".

Ms. AL-Eryani added, "There are 4888 civic organizations. So the working group civic society

organizations was established and supported by Oxfam in September 2002 within the follow-up mechanism to implement poverty alleviation strategy. The Working group civic society organizations contains 21 organizations working in 19 governorates and representing various civic society."

AL-Eryani stressed on the importance of actual partnership between the government and the civic society organizations to meet the development millennium goals by 2015.

The participants discussed many themes such as the nature of the real civic work, and identifying its needs, challenges face the civic work and building the institutional capacities of the organization work in this field as well as the role of donors in promoting Yemen in achieving the millennium goals.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Will the application of the sales tax law benefit the government to exploit it in profitable projects?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

last edition's question:

do you think Yemen would be able to utilize its oil resources better now than in the past?

- Yes, there is attention to this important sector now 45%
- No, this is just a passing phase 36%
- Never 19%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Yemen, UNESCO discuss Socatra joining to INHL

Water and Environment Minister Mohammad bin Lutf al-Eryani discussed with the general director of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization Koichiro Matsuura, the project of joining Socatra Island to the International Natural Heritage List (INHL). They also discussed aspects of cooperation between the Ministry of Water and UNESCO under the world water program.

The meeting reviewed the results of a workshop organized by the water ministry in cooperation with UNESCO last April in Aden city on water scarcity and renewable energy.

AL-Eryani confirmed Yemen's support for the nomination of Koichiro Matsuura to head UNESCO for a second term.



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Dialogue with opposition continues with women, halts with men

SANA'A June 01 (al-Wahdawi) — Political dialogue between the ruling General Peoples for Congress (GPC) and the opposition parties called for by President Ali Abdullah Saleh is still suspended but continues between female leaders from both sides. Sources said the suspension of the dialogue "is ascribed back to the demands set by the opposition parties before any dialogue." Meanwhile, women leaders at the GPC, Yemen's Islamist Congregation for Reform (Islah), Yemen's Socialist Party (YSP) and Nasserites Unionist Party continue their own dialogue. GPC Women Administration Chairman Amat al-Razaq Hamd said "we have made a lot progress in our dialogue and we've reached many points of agreements more than points of disagreements."

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Continued from page 1

Supreme court discusses appeal against sales tax

The appeal urged the court to issue a decision to halt application of the law till issuing a verdict on the issue by the judiciary. Dr. Mujalli stressed some articles of the law appear to violate the constitution and the Islamic sharia, particularly the article that endorses controlling all the capitals of individuals and families for the sales tax to be paid. According to the article, nobody is allowed to compete with the Tax Authority in terms of gains, and there is another article that prevents individuals from traveling inside and outside the country unless they pay the tax. The law, which caused uproar and tension among people, levies a 10% tax on traders whose annual sales reach the tune of YR50 million in terms of commodities and YR40

million in terms of services. The sales tax law No. 19 for the year 2001 due to be applied in July caused a crisis between the government and the opposition, and then streams of Yemenis took to the streets in several main cities protesting against the law. The demonstrations were accompanied by chaos and shootings of fire leading to many death cases of citizens and government troops. Over the last few months of the crisis, the government blamed the opposition for exploiting the sales tax to foment violence and chaos and shake the national security. Objectors to the sales tax attributed the acts of violence that accompanied the demonstration to the wrong economic policies and the rampant corruption practiced in the govern-

ment facilities. According to them, the sales tax will have its negative impact upon citizens before traders. Traders emphasized that levying the sales tax is a catastrophe and it will not help them to achieve successful achievements. The government, on the other hand, holds the view that the majority of traders tend to evade the tax to serve their personal interests. Observers and economists ascribed the fierce objection to the sales tax to failure of government media to publish enough information to all the Yemeni citizens and convince them of the aims of the sales tax. It is worth noting the Supreme Court is due to held a sitting on Tuesday June 7 to closely look into appeals filed against the sales tax law.

Prosecution orders imprisonment of al-Bilad Chief Editor

Several observers interested in journalism issues hold the view that only accelerating the case-related procedures fairly can ensure protection for freedoms of expression. Al-Bilad Newspaper issued its second issue last Saturday, two weeks after its first issue that contained the defaming article against journalists Hujairah and al-Bukari. This fact aroused curiosity among media personnel as the Ministry of Information have not suspended issuance of al-Bilad Newspaper for its illegal practices. In addition, a number of pressmen from different media means collected signatures and demanded Information Minister to show resignation for being indifferent to journalists and rules controlling issuances as well as giving permissions to undisciplined newspapers.

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Indian worker kidnapped in Sana'a

SANA'A- June 4- Two persons asked an Indian named Rais Ahmad to speak to one of them. He left the shop where he works and two persons abducted him and went away. The Indian has been working at a sewing shop and as he went out of the shop two unidentified persons abducted him.



It is worth mentioning that no Indian national has ever been abducted in Yemen for a long time. Some of his colleagues came to the Yemen Times appealing the parties concerned to help them secure his release.

Erratum

It was mistakenly published last issue No (847) that Mr. Naji Khaleel is the head of USAID while he is the head of ADRA organization. Whereas, Mr. Abdulmalik Al-Sanani, is the health coordinator/BHE in AL-Jawf and belong to ADRA. Our apologies.

Qatar Airways hosted a Travel Agents workshop

Qatar Airways has been growing rapidly in the past few years and was awarded as the only three five star airlines in the world by Skytrax. On the 30 May '05 Qatar Airways hosted a travel agents workshop in Taj Sheba hotel, launching its 63rd destination to Mashad in Iran on the 01 Jun '05, 64th destination to Alexandria in Greece on 09 Jun '05 and 65th destination to Athens in Greece on the 15 Jun '05. Qatar Airways has also added Tunis and Algiers on international route network on 02 May '05 and shared its beneficial insights. Qatar Airways rescheduled its operations from Sana'a effective 04 Jun '05 in order to minimize connection time in Doha to European destinations. Being one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, ensures that it always has news to tell and continually increasing fleet and route network, but it also makes sure that Qatar Airways will take all its passengers more personally.



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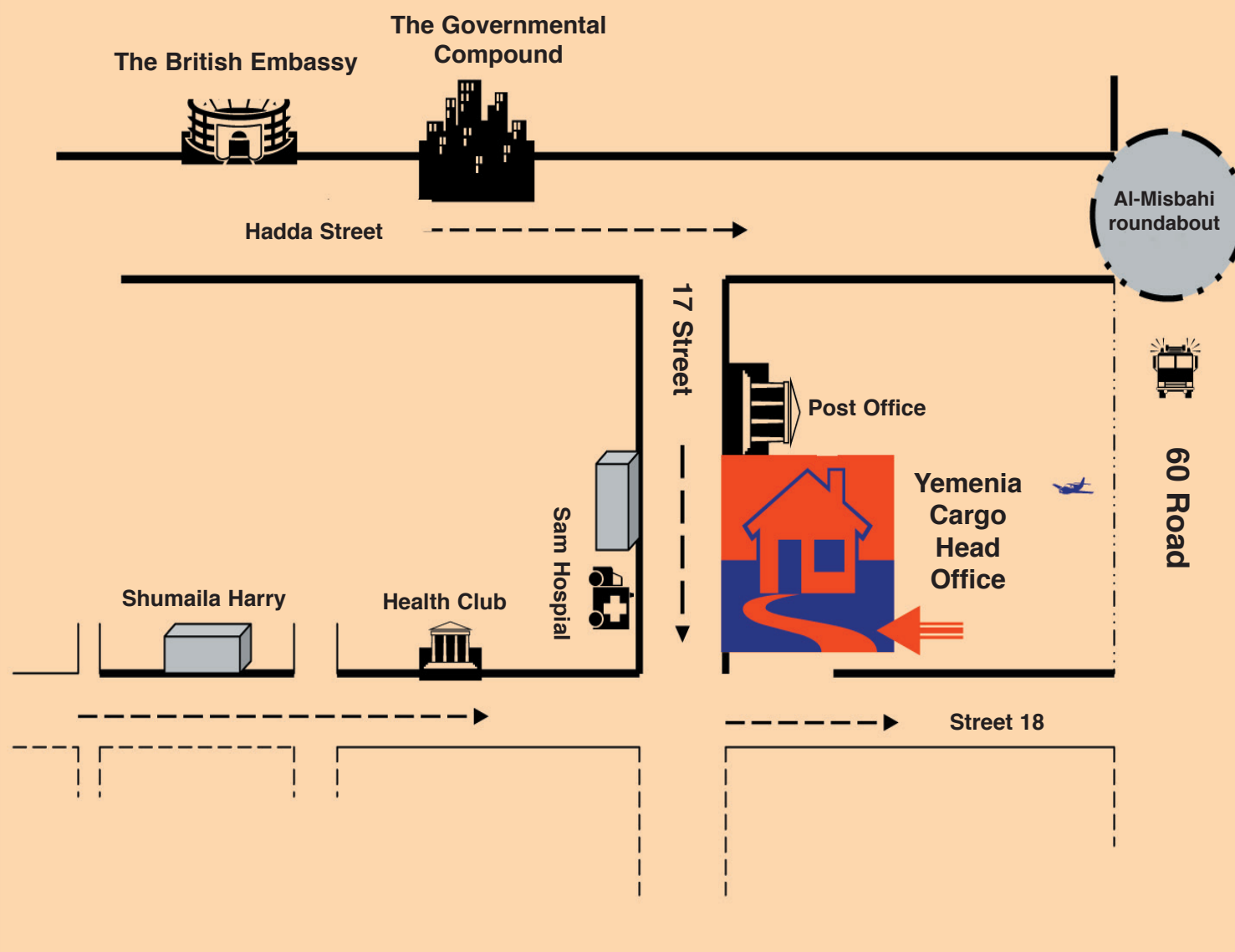
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Extension of SabaFon GSM Network



Under the patronage of the German Ambassador in Yemen, SabaFon held a signing ceremony for the extension of its GSM network under the German Government Export Guarantee Scheme

SabaFon, the first, the largest, and the leading GSM mobile operator in Yemen, announced today in a press conference held at the German Embassy, the signing of its most recent GSM infrastructure expansion deals. The deal includes the deployment of the second EDGE network in the Middle East supplied by Siemens Communications. Finances of the deal were facilitated through HSBC Amanah, the Islamic banking division of HSBC and governed by Euler Hermes, the firm appointed by the German government to manage these promotion schemes for German

companies abroad.

"We are extremely proud to be part of this deal as it is happening for the first time in Yemen. As such, SabaFon welcomes HSBC and Hermes financial institution in entering into the Yemeni market which will further enhance our mutual relationship and in turn create opportunities to enhance the Yemeni economy," says Sheikh Hameed Al Ahmar, Chairman of SabaFon.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to stress the strong Yemeni - European relationship that we value. SabaFon, has ambitious plans for the future and we look forward to working with Hermes, HSBC, and Siemens in the future," he adds.

Up to last year, the cover facilities for German export transactions to Yemen were very restricted. Transactions with longer repayment terms were

eligible for cover only on a case by case basis and if the projects generated foreign exchange. During the process of examining whether the SabaFon transaction was eligible for cover, the Federal Government came to the conclusion that many companies in Yemen are to be evaluated very positively. This led to the abandonment of bank securities for future transactions with Yemen and, as consequence, to a more open cover policy towards the country.

"I would like to wish SabaFon every success in the further development of their mobile phone network. In my opinion, there are very good chances for the future. I would also like to welcome a successful outcome to negotiations between Siemens, HSBC, and SabaFon on further transactions," said Volker Knauth, Head of Underwriting Middle



East and Africa, Euler Hermes Kreditversicherungs-AG.

HSBC Amanah, the facilitator of the arrangement of this extremely important Shariah-compliant financing for Siemens and SabaFon. The importance of this transaction is that it is the first Islamic ECA-supported facility for a Yemeni company.

"It is evident to the people in this room that this groundbreaking deal was achieved due to the excellent relationship enjoyed between the parties before the deal and the strengthening of this relationship as a result of the deal," said Asad Zafar, Managing Director, Asset Finance Advisory Group, HSBC Amanah.

"Siemens Communications works side by side with its partners to improve services for consumers. As such, we are delighted to contribute to SabaFon's continued success in Yemen. SabaFon's leadership position will be sustained and enhanced by our joint vision to drive forward the telecommunications infrastructure in Yemen and move rapidly towards 3G," said Kai Uebach, Senior Vice President EMEA, Siemens Communications Mobile Networks.

"In turn, Siemens Communications acknowledges SabaFon to be a fundamental pillar of our own success in the Middle East. We highly value SabaFon's entrustment to Siemens on strategic decisions and we look forward to a continued, mutually beneficial partnership. The Siemens Communications Mobile Networks Group has been awarded a contract to upgrade, expand and modernize SabaFon's GSM services," he added.

About SabaFon
SabaFon launched its

commercial services in February 14, 2001. It is the first, the largest, and the leading GSM mobile operator in Yemen. SabaFon works on providing the highest quality and innovative mobile services and delivers value to all Yemeni customers and committed to building a state-of-the-art GSM telecommunications network that will facilitate long-term economic growth in Yemen. SabaFon provides products aimed at the personal, corporate, and special sector communities within Yemen. SabaFon's product offerings are developed in close consultation with the customer. Superior value coupled with service innovation places SabaFon in a leadership position in the marketplace.

About Hermes

The German government supports the activities of German companies abroad by means of its foreign trade and investment promotion scheme and in doing so maintains their competitiveness, contributes to job security and promotes exports thus acting as an important growth factor. A consortium of Euler Hermes Kreditversicherungs-AG and PwC Deutsche Revision AG was appointed by the German government to manage these promotion schemes.

About HSBC Amanah

HSBC Amanah is the Islamic financial services division of HSBC Group. Headquartered in Dubai and with regional representations in Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the UAE, the UK, and the US, HSBC Amanah is uniquely positioned to understand, structure and deliver financial solutions that are compatible with the requirements of the Shariah (Islamic law).

About Siemens Communications

Siemens Communications is one of the largest players in the global telecommunications industry. Siemens is the only provider in the market that offers its customers a full range portfolio, from devices for end users to complex network infrastructures for enterprises and carriers as well as related services. Siemens Communications is the world's innovation leader in convergent technologies, products and services for wireless, fixed, and enterprise networks. It is the largest group within Siemens and operates in more than 160 countries around the world. In fiscal 2003 (year-end September 30), its 60,000-strong workforce posted sales of about 17 billion euros.

About the Deal

As part of the project, Siemens Communications will deploy its General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) platform and upgrade SabaFon's infrastructure to a Packet Switching and High Speed Data Rate network which will prepare SabaFon's Switching Network for 3G. Siemens will also implement its leading EDGE and charge@once technologies, and expand its capacity by 200,000 subscribers. It incorporates as well professional services such as installation and commissioning, system integration, a customized concept for spares inventory, training and enabling network operations.

When the project is completed, both SabaFon's prepaid and postpaid GSM users will potentially enjoy a wealth of Siemens E-GPRS based VAS such as MMS, Internet Access, Video Streaming, PoC, IM, and LBS.



Dr. Masdos to the Yemen Times

“I was against the war because I realized it would be a catastrophe on the unity”

Dr. M o h a m m a d Haidrah Ali Masdos was born in 1944 and is a father of eight children. He is a member at the political office as well as a member at the General Secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Meeting with Mohammad, the Yemen Times forwarded to him the following questions about the situation of Yemeni southerners after complaints have been persistent and being denied political representations and rights of citizenship and ownership:

Q. How do you assess the past 15 years following Yemen's Re-unification?

A. The unity of the country was announced more than 15 years ago and at that time the unity was inaugurated and this does not necessarily mean it was established. A transitional period was specified for establishing the unity from the practical viewpoint and by virtue of which the two parts of Yemen mingled into one.

The transitional period has its seven distinctive objectives at which the establishment of the unity poses in reality and in spirits.

The seven objectives are as follows:

Objective one: canceling all the nationalization laws in the south and compensating beneficiaries since such laws were not existing in North Yemen. It's illogic for part of a country to be nationalized while the other part remains free from nationalization when both belong to a single country.

Objective two: restoring the form of the national economy in South Yemen, that is from the public sector to the private one to be in favor of citizens since their wealth was converted by the former regime to the possession of the state. It sounds odd that citizens in one part of the county enjoy the rights of ownership whereas citizens in the other parts cannot possess anything.

Objective three: putting an end to disputes in the social structure between people of the two parts by giving permission to a private sector and proprietors in South Yemen to be socially in harmony with the north. It is unreasonable for the social structure to include rich and poor people in the north while the society in the south is prevailed by the poor only.

Objective four: converting the two forms of currency, riyal in the north and dinar in the south, into a unified currency "dirham" under the unity agreement since it is impossible for two currencies to be available in one country, and maintaining one currency but canceling the other will embody one part of the country at the expense of the other and frustrate the achievement of the national unity.

Objective five: mingling the governmental institutions and apparatuses in the two parts since it's illogical for them to operate according to totally two different systems.

Objective six: exterminating the difference between the civil culture in South Yemen and the tribal culture in North Yemen to be in favor of the culture followed up in the south but not the reverse.

Objective seven: canceling the mechanisms of power in the two parts of the country and making available a new unified mechanism, as it is unreasonable for two mechanisms to operate one country or for one mechanism to be followed at the expense of the other.

The seven objectives were set in the transitional period since it is impossible for a unity to be achieved without implementing them.

Since no tasks were achieved during the transitional period, the country experienced two powers, two cabinets, two armies, two securities and



Dr. Mohammad Haidrah Ali Masdos

two judiciaries as well as two currencies and two cultures. There were two different school syllabuses in the two parts of Yemen.

A political crisis emerged and officials in the two parts acknowledged there was a crisis and there were methods for solving it on documents of the agreement.

The other party of the agreement chose the army as a solution for the crisis and terminated legitimacy of the unity agreements, replacing the constitution, previously agreed upon, by another one and maintaining what is related to North Yemen at the expense of South Yemen. If the transitional period achieved all its tasks, there would not be any crisis.

Consequently, failure of the transitional period to achieve the assigned tasks, in addition to the war and its consequences, equals failure of the unity itself. This information were included in the President's talk with the military units in Abyan after the war when he said:

"We were two states until the seventh of July 1994, and my assessment of the postwar period can be embraced under four themes:

The first theme: there was an unjust policy that oppressed all civilians in the south of Yemen including those who opposed the Yemeni Socialist party and others who remained in the State's civic and military apparatuses, owing to the war and its tragic consequences that negatively affected the national unity and resulted in an inequality between people. For instance, sheikhs in South Yemen were treated like their counterparts in the north and the same was in case of revolutionaries, employees, investors and even patients.

Besides, thousands of innocent civilians and military personnel were fired from their work even though they were still young, possessing enough experience and competence in their careers, and those people were given jobs by the government of South Yemen and not by the government of Re-unification.

This means the State's apparatuses and institutions will be exclusively controlled by people from North Yemen. All the southern military and security institutions were eliminated and replaced by private sectors to the advantage of influential persons from North Yemen.

All the Yemeni people know well that the private sector in South Yemen was previously converted into a public sector owned by the state in return for being the responsible side for all the life affairs of citizens according to the norms and regulations of socialism, which was controlling the south parts of Yemen.

As there was no private sector in South Yemen before declaring the national unity, all civilians in the south had government jobs. But after

being eliminated following the 1994's war, they became jobless and were named the party of "Stay at home", in addition to a terrible increase in the rate of unemployment among youths.

Jobs in the southern parts of Yemen were given to people from North Yemen even at oil companies operating in the south because officials were all from the north parts of Yemen and the southerners were deprived of everything.

Even in the popular and civil community organizations that emerged in the south parts of Yemen, no southerners work for such organizations including women unions and journalist syndicates despite being well qualified and experienced.

Media means and political parties as well as military and police colleges and scholarships are all dominated by the northerners.

Despite that political leaderships of religious extremism came from the north, hunting activities and arbitrary procedures are practiced against people who are originally from the south parts of Yemen, and a clear-cut example is what happened to Abu Hassan al-Mihdar, al-Harithi and Hattat Group in Abyan and the Group of the US Destroyer Cole and others.

Poverty, fear and humiliation have been imposed upon locals in South Yemen since the end of 1994 war, and most of those employed at the government institutions tend to hide their southerner identity and their wealth since they feel themselves outside the political decision of the State. As the authority rejects them being representatives for the south part of Yemen, how will the situation of those in the opposition be.

The authority tends to practice terrorism upon them, and an intellectual terrorism is practiced against them by the opposition.

There are some southerners who pursue their personal interests away from politics, and for its part, the authority bets for the existence of such opportunist interested in serving their personal interests. This betting is out of place since it is not an issue of individuals that can be surpassed with the passage of time, and it is not the case of a particular party that can be solved by integrating the party in governance as viewed by the government and the opposition, rather it is an issue of a nation who has its own statehood and autonomy.

The issues of nations as known to everyone cannot end despite the passage of time but they go on renewing till an ultimate solution is reached. Dealing with southerners interested in serving their personal interests and betting against them is a loss and a waste of time since they themselves will convert into being supporters of rebellion since consequences of the war are still experienced.

The second theme concentrates on

eliminating history and identity of South Yemen, and since the end of war, there is an elimination of the identity and the glorious history of South Yemen including the October 14th Revolution that freed the country from the British occupation. This revolution is the culmination of national resistance that continued until the occupants were driven away and non extension of efforts behind September 26 Revolution as claimed by the State. Considering October 14 Revolution as an extension of September 26 Revolution is not only an elimination of the identity and history of South Yemen but also a denial of the struggle of southerners.

Preventing talk about the Re-unification and denying anything related to South Yemen is a clear-cut evidence of eliminating identity and history of Southerners. The day of declaring the unity was given the name of "The Day of the Republic of Yemen" to rather escape mentioning the Re-unification.

The government cancelled dinar (currency of South Yemen) and retained the riyal and this had gone against agreement of the unity. What belongs to the south is eliminated and what belongs to the north is retained, even the Aden Radio and Television Corporation was given a different name instead of taking pride on it for being the oldest in the region.

School syllabuses focus on the identity and history of North Yemen without containing anything related to the south, however after declaring the national unity two identities should be mingled into one and so is the case of the two histories.

When talking, for instance, about the rule of Imamate in the north we should at least have a glimpse of the dominance of sultans and invaders in the south. When talking about September 26 Revolution and its six achievements, we should not forget the October 14 Revolution and its five achievements embraced in the national pact, otherwise relation between North and South will be a kind of integration and not unity.

The third theme focuses on the monopoly of power. Since 1994's war, the political decision is taken from the north, rejecting any political representation for the southerners. This means the authority lost its unified impression making up a clear-cut evidence of two parts and breaking procession of the unity.

As the authority denies rights of southerners to be representatives of the south parts in the political arena, this compels them to be employees and partners in the national unity.

At the local level, there are the security committees in the governorates running the daily affairs of the most important issues. This includes the governor, his deputy, the security commander and general directors of the political security and investigation bureau...etc., all of them are from the north.

The fourth theme discusses monopoly of wealth. As power is monopolized by northerners, this helped them to practice monopoly of wealth and show dominance over agricultural lands in the south parts of Yemen as well as public institutions and facilities. Procedures associated with taking loans from housing and agricultural credit banks are facilitated for northerners but tend to be complicated on the part of southerners.

Aden, being a free zone and an economic capital under the unity agreements never happened after 15 years following the declaration of the National Unity in 1990.

What is of great concern is the system of ownership of lands in Aden and Hadramout that serves interests of Yemeni northerners, an advantage that is denied to be given to southerners in spite of being the original owners of such lands. Offices were

opened in Sana'a and other governorates for selling lands in the south to people from the north, however these lands are possessed by the State according the nationalization laws that operated previously in the southern parts of Yemen.

Q. How do you interpret your rotting to the national unity on May 22, 1990, and then your desire for cessation three years after?

A. Declaring the national unity on May 22 1990 is not rotting, rather it is a crowning of the works and tasks of the unity committees for over 20 years. We don't retreat from the unity after three years. It is the other party of the unity who retreated by rejecting to implement agreements of the unity during the transitional period, as well as not achieving the seven objectives of the period.

All the unity agreements were cancelled, its constitution was replaced by another one and any political representation of southerners were rejected. By this it has become clear who retreated from the unity, either us or the other party.

Q. What, in your opinion, are the possible means for reforming the national unity?

A. We said more than once that overcoming the bad consequences of war and reforming the national unity consist of five points, which we have been claiming for ten years without any response from the parties concerned.

These five points are:

1- Canceling the religious fatwa that justified the war and made the south parts an easy prey for plunderers, although this is not acceptable in the point of view of Islam and the constitution as well.

2- Restoring all the lands and the public and private properties that were plundered by force since they are the nation's wealth that had been transferred by the former regime to a possession of the state.

3- Refugees inside and outside the country should come back to their posts in the government and their properties should be restored since these are classified within rights of citizenship and ownership that are ensured by Islam and the Universal Declaration for Human Rights. In addition the war wounded should be treated like martyrs.

4- Canceling the verdicts and not the amnesty for the list of the 16 people as the amnesty confirmed the wrong charge but cancelled the penalties. Since the verdicts are political, they are wrong. What is of a crucial importance is that canceling the verdicts will be in favor of the unity legitimacy.

5- Establishing the unified State on the base of the unity agreements and constitution approved by the two parts of the country, or on the base of the pact document that was signed by both parties.

Q. What was your attitude toward the 1994's war?

A. I was against the war because I realized it would be a catastrophe on the unity, particularly as it was led by people who announced the national unity on behalf of the two parts. I attempted to reconcile between the two Alis (al-Beed and Saleh) but the currents of war inside and outside the country was stronger than our efforts. The officials shifted direction of the plane that was carrying me from Sana'a to Aden to set the idea of reconciliation for Ali Salim al-Beed after I did so with the President Saleh, who did not show any refusal.

Because of changing direction of the plane without my knowledge, I could not reach Mr. Al-Beed till the second day. Al-beed's brother had been killed before I arrived in Aden,

and the meeting was changed into condolence.

When the war broke out and the two sides used different kinds of weapons including Scud missiles, I called for a meeting in the political office and requested to know what the matter was and why scud missiles were fired against Sana'a. One of the northern officials (no need to mention his name since he was martyred, may Allah have mercy on him) interrupted by saying, "In war all kinds of weapons are used and nothing is prohibited or banned".

After the two sides insisted the use of heavy weapons including missiles, I released a statement to al-Hayah newspaper in which I said that I support using all kinds of weapons against the military units but I was against firing missiles at cities irrespective of any justifications.

Q. Can you give us an insight about restructuring the Socialist Party, and do you have a proposal that was approved by the majority of the party leaders, and why are you always in disputes with other leaders of the party?

A. Any party is a political tool for achieving certain political goals. Such goals may be national or categorical, and a political party is necessarily structured according to these political goals.

As the political goals of the Yemeni Socialist Party are national ones and related to the war and its consequences, that is ending the war and reforming the national unity, this stipulates restructuring and establishing the party on the base of partisan territories according to documents of pacts and agreement.

It is true that the majority of party leaders are still hesitant but there are many others who seem to support the restructuring of parties on the base of territories.

Q. Does the Socialist Party still maintain its popularity among people all around the country or not?

A. The base was contracted somehow because of leaving power and also because of the embargo imposed upon the party as well the departure of its leaders. The Yemeni people in the south parts of Yemen held the Socialist Party accountable for their sufferings and endurance since it accepted unity.

Q. Any last comments?

A. I advocate all the Yemeni people in the northern parts of Yemen who are deprived of the political representation and back the opposition to adhere to the national unity since they are all of the idea to melt the southern identity into the northern one, as well as to integrate south into the north at the expense of the political unity agreed by the two parts. These people seem to account on their military power and number, creating the legitimacy of cessation.

The Yemenis in the south parts of Yemen will not accept that their history be eliminated and their identity melted. So I call them to acknowledge the unity, considering it a political unity between two states and not a national unity combining the government with the opposition.

I advocate all the government officials and the opposition leaders not to practice monopoly on the political life exploiting their power and huge number as it is actually experienced since the end of 1994' war. Since then, we have never found anyone to say the right. The society is perceived to support the authority against us.

Some people currently claim the government to dialogue with al-Houthi but object to any dialogue with us, though our issue is a national one and al-Houthi's is a religious issue related to sects, racial thoughts and concepts.



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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

Six years after passing away, Dr. Al-Saqqaf still remembered
If only you were with us to see those days...

Last Thursday, June 2nd 2005, marked the sixth anniversary of the passing away of Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the founder of the Yemen Times, and the popular brave heart of Yemen. Even though it is extremely difficult for me, as his elder son, to reflect my feelings on this occasion in this limited space, perhaps a good thing to do in this memory is to ask: What if Dr. Al-Saqqaf was still among us today?

For instance, what if he had seen the elaborate spending on the 15th unification anniversary in Yemen? Or what if he had realized the degree of extreme poverty from which the country's most vulnerable sectors were being destined to suffer? In the international level, we may ask, what if he were to see the way Islam has been perceived in the West. What about the reasons behind the flourishing of extremism in Yemen and other Muslim countries?

Let us see how Dr. Al-Saqqaf reacted to earlier celebrations. At one point, he wrote an editorial in October 1997 describing the celebrations of the 26 September revolution's anniversary. "The parade marking the 35th anniversary of the 26th of September Revolution included an impressive show of military hardware. The state displayed its prowess. This is one way to impress people to revere the state. But it is only one way," he said.

But Dr. Al-Saqqaf noted that this does not necessarily bring the regime any respect, in fact it could be the contrary because portraying mere power may show that the regime perhaps lacks everything else. "One important way is to preserve a minimum level of integrity. Indeed, a system with integrity is one that commands the respect of others. The present system of the Republic of Yemen does not have the minimum level of integrity, and it is this fact that erodes its very legitimacy and prestige."

So he was clear in that military regimes may show off military might and fireworks to prove they are strong. But I personally believe that if he were here today, he would have realized that more people than ever are not buying this rubbish any more. People have felt betrayed by the authorities and their rhetoric and have become so concerned about the livelihood and means of making ends meet. A few have the guts, however, to publicly denounce the lavish spending of the government in such celebrations in a time its people are suffering from one of the most critical economic challenges of all times.

When it comes to poverty reduction, Dr. Al-Saqqaf said as the poor get poorer and more vulnerable, the corrupt and crooks in the country continue to abuse power and gain wealth illegally, and all happen under supervision by the regime.

"President Ali Abdullah Saleh tolerates the thieves and crooks because he has accepted that it is a price to be paid to appease strong power centers. Some of these power centers are actually his own creation. But at times, the monsters may have grown out of control. As a result, almost all sectors of public life, to one degree or another, are today under the control of crooked people."

But Dr. Al-Saqqaf also explained the consequences of such action, and that is what we are starting to see today. "Gradually, and as poverty begins to bite more savagely, an already tired populace gets out of control. There is already a growing consensus among the people of Yemen that an over-haul is required. However, it is in the hands of President Saleh to avert Yemen falling into chaos and lawlessness and to introduce real and deep changes," he said in a viewpoint published in September 1998 under the title "Thieves cannot build nations."

Yet all he received at the time was accusations of being unpatriotic and disloyalty to the ruler (Waliyyulamr), and sometimes he was even called a CIA agent.

Just as Dr. Al-Saqqaf himself suffered when he was kidnapped, taken in one of the underground cells and tortured following the breakout of the 1994 civil war in the country, today, history repeats itself with an unprecedented wave of attacks and humiliation to journalist, intellectuals, and think tanks that express their dissatisfaction with the way the country is run and operated.

Today, however, the Yemeni regime is portraying itself as a 'strategic US ally in the war on terror' to justify many of its actions. This is something that Dr. Al-Saqqaf didn't have to deal with. He did however explain that terrorism in general is mainly caused by governments, who are now allegedly fighting it. He clearly explained that frustration, which could be caused by government oppression, poverty, and other means, can always breed fundamentalism.

In a Viewpoint editorial published in August 1998, Dr. Al-Saqqaf said that this mood of pervasive frustration is dangerous. "It is like a powder box, waiting to blow off. The mood leads to extremism and fatalism, mostly, religion-based. Already one can see signals coming from various corners of the country."

Dr. Al-Saqqaf also pointed at the failure of the Yemeni governments to reform and hence raises the quality of life of its citizens. This apparent failure has resulted in a high price paid by the people in the form of a higher unemployment rate, poor basic services, higher poverty, etc. All of this resembles a time bomb that can explode any minute.

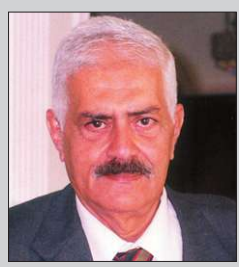
Today, we feel deprived of the wisdom and courage of Dr. Al-Saqqaf, who passed away tragically in a traffic accident, whose specifications are still unclear until today, near his office in Sanaa. However, one of his greatest legacies still remains. And that is the Yemen Times, which continues to report freely, independently, and professionally today. For that reason, I feel he should be proud...

Yes indeed, you should feel proud dad that you have achieved greatly in your lifetime and left the world with dignity and honor. You should be proud for having said the truth regardless of consequences, and hence you motivated many to do the same. You should be proud that whatever you said turned out to be right, and all your critics turned out to be wrong. That is something for which history will always keep you credit...

Walid Al-Saqqaf

Arab Reform: When, how, and why? (1/2)

Democracy and its application in the Arab World have become the major concern. Many invitations for the same thing: pressing need for reform in individual Arab states and in their mutual enterprises. The USA has involved itself in the calling for quick achievement of this "noble end" cunningly adding Israel into the so-called Great Middle East.



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

Suddenly, the calls and claims for the fashion of age (reform) have come into vogue. Leaders swam with the current and called for reform in order to escape forward from inevitable entitlements. Basically, we should hail such a development for which we waited for half a century during which we experienced dictatorship, totalitarianism, corruption, wars, conflicts and human rights violations. We should soothe ourselves with the hope for a future sans oppression, sans terrorism and sans marginalization of peoples. But first of all we have to question hidden intentions and plans

then forward logical questions regarding the desired reform, its size, its scale and its methodology in the same way as the journalistic question: how, when, where and why?

First of all, according to psychiatric typical advice, we must first of all admit to the presence of a defect. Then, we should accept the idea of resorting to medicine even if it is bitter. After that, we come to the discussion of the implementation mechanism and avoidance of its shortcomings taking into consideration globalization and its positive points or at least acclimatization to the new environment, making the utmost out of it, and reducing the losses that may take place when enforcing the long-term and multi-step reform.

Facing up to the presence of deficiency means primarily facing up the responsibility on every Arab's shoulder to protect the cultural identity and distinctive traits of our nation. We should learn from other nations and

strengthen ourselves and, after immunizing ourselves, indulge in a positive and objective dialogue to maintain both modernism and originality. We should take what benefits us and reject what harms us. After this admission, we should raise questions about the goals other than the paramount goal sought by people. There are people who raise the issue of reform to serve their own ends, and others raise it to escape from entitlements.

However, those who pursue reform honestly and have the belief that reform is an avoidable pressing need have to conform to the conditions and principles first of which is the desire, intention, resolution, determination and aptitude to contribute to this fundamental issue in the life of Arabs. It will determine their fate and future especially that Human Development Report, released a few months ago, forebode destruction if reform is not to be achieved.

These principles are essential to the success of reform which has many factors that must be taken into consideration and seriously dealt with on the local and external levels.

The Unity: Guarantee of Continuation

By the lapse of fifteen years of the establishment of The Republic of Yemen, no one can deny the advantages the people have achieved. One of these is freedom; the freedom of movement of people and capital and above all the perishment of the iron grip that used to terrorize the people, both in the north and the South. Added to that is the return of those who escaped from the south in the period between 1967-1990

The greatest achievement that came along with the unity, was the democratic policy, that enabled the underground political parties to appear overtly, besides those new ones which appeared after the unity. Several independent and party newspapers also appeared. The period also witnessed the rise of civic and none governmental societies

There was an overwhelming feeling of happiness at the first year in the south, due to the easy reunification of families, the availability of commodities. The key official figures, (general managers and above) have enjoyed extra merits and allowances. They also received new cars and others, the thing that contributed to the feeling of satisfaction at the outset of the unity.

However things changed in the two years that followed, as we explained in our previous essays, and things became grimmer following the 1994 war.

People of the south paid dearly, whereas the leadership turned a deaf ear. The majority of the leaders became war lords. The tragedy of the 94's war to most of them was a means of gain, and the south was a booty, commercially, business wise, in official positions, real estates and others.

The misery and suffering which people experienced is no longer confined to the south, it also crept North and the whole country is now suffering the main factors of this suffering being, starvation, in addition to deterioration of security and the high rate of corruption.

The May 1990 Unity is not only facing one danger, but it is really threatened by all the above motioned factors. It would be futile now to keep on talking about southern opposition, while addressing a growing opposition in the north is far more useful. It is true that there is a special characteristic for the south, but it is not the previous political south. It is the eminent geographical south, and the same is true for the north.

I believe that the unity issue necessitates a high degree of prudence and cooperation from both sides, the authority and the opposition to spare the country the disasters of division



By Ibrahim Hussein Mohammed

and separation. In my view, the most important guarantees for the continuation of unity of May 22nd national unity at large lies in the following:

1. The respect of the constitution by all sides
2. A just and strong judiciary system whose decisions are respected and executed

3. The military and security activities are to be within the law and constitution

4. To disarm all Yemeni people with guarantees not to use the formal arm against them outside the law

5. To tackle the corruption through serious legal procedures, and stop the plunder of public wealth. I believe these are the simple real guarantees apart from the complicated political addressing, that the ordinary individual could hardly understand None should be above the law whoever he might be, a president, an MP, a sheikh, a military leader or an opposition member

6. I believe that this is not an easy task, but there should be a real political and public will, and we should agree on a specific time limit of three years for instance But the most important thing is that we should start today..... without any further delay.

Letters to the Editors

The dialogue between religions

There are good Christians, and there are bad Christians. There are good Jews, and there are bad Jews. There are good Muslims, and there are bad Muslims. Can we agree on that much, so far?

When we, in the U.S., hear about Islam, all too frequently, what we hear about is the religion in relation to the World Trade Center. We hear about the beheading of Care workers, at the hands of Islamic "insurgents". We hear about school children, killed by Moslem "terrorists".

When Moslems hear about Westerners - whether Christian or Jew - you frequently hear about votes in the U.S. Government, seeming to link Governmental actions to support for Israel, to the detriment of Moslems. You hear about the invasion of Iraq, linked to oil. And you hear about the desecration of the Holy Koran, by U.S. soldiers.

We are all influenced by our own beliefs, the media and the teachers who instruct or preach to us. And the teachers are the product of their own beliefs, and what they see and hear around them. What is the truth? Is the truth black and white, or is there a great deal of gray, in every issue?

Newsweek, Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi states in his Opinion piece is last week's Yemen Times, backs away, but did not fully retract claims about the Koran. There are good media sources, and there are bad media sources. Many times, a news organization

will not fully retract its story because, in their eyes, to do so would be to have us, the readers, question anything else the magazine may report, in the future.

There are good decisions made by good media sources, and there are bad decisions made by good media sources, and so forth.

What Mr. Al-Haifi did not report, is the contention that the U.S. military had issued orders to Guantanamo guards on how the Holy Koran was to be handled:

Only by Moslem guards and Chaplains, and only then while wearing gloves. The Holy Koran was, according to the reported orders, to be treated with extreme reverence and care.

On that same topic, it is not above suspicion that the entire story was false. The U.S. is not the only source of propaganda. The Middle East is rife with rubbish, false accusations and lies.

It would be good for all to take a breath and look carefully into this story. On the surface, it appears that the initial report was untrue. We do not yet know, for certain. But...there are good guards, and there are bad guards.

In that same issue, Mr. Hamood Al-Hashimi writes that only Islam supports women, in the question of spousal abuse. It is uncertain where Mr. Al-Hashimi obtains his information, but there is no Western Christian or Jewish ethic that would support wife beating.

Could it be that his view of Christian tolerance of such beating is more locally cultural, than religious? This writer knows of a Moslem wife who was

beaten by her Moslem husband, and had a terrible time convincing her religious leaders about her suffering; it was only because of her status as an attorney that she appeared to have won the battle to obtain a divorce. Were reports of this incident to be generalized, one would be led to believe that Islam is incredibly tolerant of wife beating. Yet Mr. Al-Hashimi states that this is not the case.

The contention here may be that there are good husbands, and there are bad husbands. There are clerics that are tolerant, and there are clerics that fully, completely support any spouse who suffers at the hands of his or her abuser. And, yes: there are good wives, and there are bad wives.

Mr. Al-Haifi also states that Yahoo! has deleted references to the Yemen Times, in his view, due to a conspiracy on the part of Zionists. Perhaps he is correct. Or, perhaps the decision is made, as he also notes, because of the racist attitudes of the Yahoo staff. Or perhaps it is because, as he points out, that Yahoo does not like the politics of some of the Yemen Times writers. Perhaps; but perhaps there is another reason: It may be that the implied and overt violence that some of the Yemen Times Letters encourage, is particularly repugnant to Yahoo!

There are good Letters, and there are bad Letters...

The danger is generalizing too much. Assuming too much. And acting violently, on such sad information.

Don Barrick
Email: balto_db@yahoo.com

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

When the people are deemed to be the enemy

A ny Government that seems to be locked in perpetual conflict with its citizens, inside and outside of the country must start to ask why is all this criticism and hostility being directed against the authorities of the land? Yet, unfortunately, our government tends to view all criticism or opposition to its policies as an act of treason, thus negating all its claims of adhering to democratic values and respect for human and civil rights. In such an aura, it really becomes difficult to understand just what it is that the government wants from its people? The government insists that this is a democratic state, but it tells its people there is no room for honest free expression of opinion! It insists that we have political plurality in the land, but sends out thugs and elements of its many-faced security apparatus to occupy the party headquarters of those parties that thought that the government really was serious about adopting political pluralism. The Government says it accepts opposing opinions. But, when it decides to go to war against some of its citizens for no apparent logical reason that would serve the national or public interest, and some public leaders, some elements of the more outspoken opposition to this senseless war are thrown in jail and subjected to the worst kind of treatment and disrespect, not withstanding their standing in the community and the high respect and broad trust they enjoy at the grass roots level. Not only that, they are subject to legally very questionable proceedings and put on mock trials. For their public conscientious behavior they are judged as traitors and even sentenced to death for telling the government have a heart; spare your people the bloodshed, destruction and madness, for the sake of serving the interests of a few political opportunists and warlords. This is not what our understanding of democracy entails nor is it commensurate with the visions of a state that institutes law with equity and respect for human rights. Yes, you have the right of free opinion they say, but do not cross the "red lines". These red lines are of course left for them to draw or put in place at their own whims. These red lines, have absolutely nothing to do with national interests or the interest of the public at large. For a year now, the government has been waging a war against a large segment of the population, causing large casualties among our armed forces and the citizenry, but those who sought to bring some sense back into the mind of the government are put in chains and subjected to the worst kind of humiliation, while the government wastes badly needed scarce resources to fill the pockets of the bloodsuckers of the land, who find in war a profitable enterprise.

The government says it is fighting a war against terror, but the terrorists are at large enjoying all the freedom they need, while those who stood against extremism and propagated religious moderation become the victims of this misdirected war against terror.

What is the sense of telling the world that there is a democracy in Yemen, when the state exercises all kinds of repression against those who sincerely believe they are trying to bring back some logical reasoning to government functions? Who would continue to believe a government that lives by dead rhetoric of great achievements, when half the population is living under the poverty line, while the other half hardly manages to get by with their earnings that are hard to protect or direct towards meaningful investments that will help generate economic growth? How can we claim to have achieved great strides in development, when the output of our educational system are unable to find jobs and are forced to turn to illicit means to be able to sustain themselves amidst the absence of jobs to enable them to earn honest livings? How can we claim there is equal opportunity for all, when the gap between the very few wealthy and the vast majority of the population approaching perpetual poverty seems to grow wider day by day? How can one wish to avoid social unrest, when the corrupt and the embezzlers of our society are building their luxurious residential complexes in clear view of everyone, without any sign that they are to be subjected to accountability for the illicit means by which they acquired their vast wealth? But the people of the country who really care about the welfare and safety of the people are awarded death sentences and extensive prison terms, while they have never earned a dishonest Riyal in their entire lives! What paradoxes must we contend with indeed when the patriotic citizens of the land are treated as criminals and the bleeders of the government coffers and the resources of the land are awarded diplomatic passports to enable them to travel overseas to arrange their investments in foreign lands and offshore bank accounts?

How long can this mockery of statecraft continue, before a serious social explosion flares out that will engulf the rich and the poor in a violent torrent of contempt and anger for the fumbling of government. There is bound to be an ugly revenge for uncalled for deprivation and inexcusable poverty, just so a few of the favored icons of the regime and its cheerleaders can have a passage card for endless plunder that knows no deterrent.

We have come to a stage when the idea of dreaming or aspiring for a bountiful future for the nation has become a national crime that has its own courts to mitigate out sentences left and right to anyone who shows concern about the sorry plight of the majority of the people of the land. Daily, we can see how a significant portion of the population try to fulfill their nutritional requirements by picking out of garbage bins to pick out of the vast waste that the affluent throw away from their extravagant banquets they throw, as the latter race to outdo each other on the degree of wasteful affluence they can display.

There is no escape from the realities of life, notwithstanding how much decorating and polishing that a strong public media machine tries to fill the air waves with and the vast public information machinery the government has created. The latter itself has become a bleeder of public coffers for all the hypocrites and hired pens that project a misleading image of the government and glorify the icons of the regime and turn its misdeeds into great accomplishments.

Jane Novak not docile

I am responding to the Yemen Times article entitled "Jane Novak a docile student of a monkey monk." I find the author's derogatory tone toward his fellow Yemenis shocking. I have never seen such blatantly insulting statements expressed so publicly and with such assurance. He says: They are like chameleons, ungrateful like cats and sinister like vipers. I've never seen such words printed even about Americans. I am frankly astounded by this childish phrase to describe another Yemeni, a mentally retarded monkey. What? A what? This kind of abusive name calling about fellow citizens does not enhance pluralism and tolerance as the base of society. While calling for the unity of Yemen, the author denies its underlying principal, the equality of all Yemenis. He says the Houthis are racists and backward. I wonder who is the racist here.

Each article I write has at least twenty footnotes for the editors supporting the facts presented. And this author does not repudiate the concept that there is a slaughter in Sa'ada. Rather he tries to demean me for caring about it. He breaks the shocking news that the Houthis have chanted "Death to America." I have been aware of this all along. Millions of people in the Middle East hate Americans. I do not hate them back.

Because the Houthis are anti-American, should I find it acceptable to

bomb the women and children? No. Go arrest a whole village when none of them are fighting? No. Arrest any relative they can find of the guys who are fighting? No. Arrest anyone in Yemen who talks out about the violence? No.

Furthermore the author has not done his research. The articles about Sa'ada are only the latest in a series of articles I have been writing over the last year for the Western audience about the Yemeni people's shortage of rights. The first eight related to reform and press freedom. The next two dealt with civil rights. The last two focus on religious pluralism. The last version of the article, the one circulating so widely in the US, also references political and civil repression in society.

The last articles focus on the repression, arrests, discrimination, and deaths of one group, but the authors charge that I am biased toward a particular social stratum is incorrect. The targeting by the state seems to come in waves: by group, identity, profession, social position, or political inclination. In highlighting a certain pattern, I am not supporting one group to the exclusion of others. But a coherent expose on all the people who are currently denied their full civil, political or human rights in Yemen would be quite lengthy.

My last article contains quotations from a girl in Sa'ada saying the tank targeted her school and a mother saying she can't go to get food for her kids. I'm grateful I had the opportunity in

my life to give that girl and that woman a voice. As an American, I have many rights and protections. I was honored to use them to let that little girl with no rights and no protections speak to millions in the West in her own words.

The charge that I am against a unified Yemen is absurd. That's the only thing I am for, the only thing any outsider can be for. It's up to the Yemeni people, finally given their proper rights of self-determination, to determine the political landscape. I support only the equal empowerment of all Yemenis, equal rights, equal opportunity, and equal respect. For years, I have publicly applauded Yemen as one Arab country with the good potential to develop a vibrant democracy solely through the efforts of its tremendous reformers. Without any external pressure, there is plenty of pressure coming from the Yemeni people themselves for real reform. I find the Yemeni people quite heroic in this regard.

A reforming regime is in the process of transferring power from an authority figure to the people and their representatives. I do not see the Yemeni people as being increasingly in control the structures of government and the functions of the state. What I do see from my vantage point in the West is a wall of propaganda: that Yemen is a functioning democracy and a reforming state. Also there is the perception that the Yemeni government is a partner in the War on Terror. The question for me is whose partner.

SKETCHED OPINION

Opposition in the Arab world



By Samer A.

Finally, I was quite amused by the attempt at defaming me. Honestly I laughed for several days straight. The tactic of personal attack does not work in the US or on Americans, especially the phrase, a docile student of a monkey monk. I still cannot type this without laughing. The author said, it is only natural that there are other women who are for predators. There are also other women who are quite against predators.

Jane Novak (jane.novak@gmail.com) is an American journalist and political analyst.



By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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SILVER LINING

The Need for Media Code of Ethics

The latest scandalous article published by al-Bilad newspaper targeting our colleagues Hafiz al-Bukari and his wife Rahma Hujairah has really shown some of the serious problems the media community in Yemen is going through; the lack of a code of ethics that all journalists of their different political affiliation respect and abide by.

The profession of journalism should be protected from the harsh attack it is undergoing. Part of protecting media and its freedom is developing professionalism of journalists. If we do all work in a professional way, respecting the ethics of our job, then we can develop and flourish.

I feel after all this hustle and bustle with regards to the attack on Hafiz and Rahma that the situation of the media sector, both at the freedom and professional levels, should be reviewed and reconsidered. The profession is really in danger.

It was okay for us to see that the authorities are hassling journalists and trying to gag them by itself and in its own way which we all know and familiar with. But, using journalists and creating trash papers for the purpose of defaming or slandering this or that journalists as if nothing is happening but newspapers or journalists are fighting each other is really very dangerous and heralds grave consequences on the profession of journalism at large.

It is really disgusting to see journalists are hired to attack their colleagues. It is also disgusting to see the other parts who are considered to be the target fight back with the same language. I have been disappointed to see that some of the journalists or writers defending Rahma and Hafiz using similar language in painting and describing the writers of al-Bilad. This would definitely affect the credibility of the media which the government truly aims at.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) as an organization that represents all journalists should wake up and live up to its responsibility in protecting the profession from this new virus hitting all of us. It should start serious work on a code of ethics which all journalists should abide by.

We all acknowledge that media can play an important role in the development process of any society. It can lead the torch of change. In fact, there is a considerable mutual consistency between democracy and media. That is, the role of media particularly in the democratizing countries is relatively significant.

This can not take place unless there is a high level of responsibility and professionalism. A first step to do that is to set up the code of ethics. This would constitute an ethically binding document towards it all journalists are committed. Once the journalists work within the ethics of the profession, media will become more credible and more influential in the society.

Policy Line

by Fatima Fouad
fatima@yementimes.com

Sleeping Satellite

I was up north in a village called Bani Sad in Mahweet visiting some projects. Around night time, I went with a friend to have dinner in a local Yemeni restaurant in the middle of the souq. The restaurant was small and crowded, it had plastic chairs, stone age spoons but there was a brand new 27 inch TV screen on the table with Al Jazeera Channel on.

People were drawn to Al Jazeera like they were listening to a Khatib on a Friday prayer. We must have passed 4 or 5 restaurants that displayed the same channel. During the commercial breaks, you can see tribesmen and villagers indulging in assertive political dialogues; criticizing President Bush's policies, damning the silence of their Arab governments towards various acts of suppression in the region and condemning the death of civilians in Iraq. There was also intensive talk about the voting process in Palestine and its credibility.

Channels like Al Arabia and Al Jazeera are not just limited to Mahweet, they are all over the country, they are evident in any local shop near you that has a TV set and a satellite dish.

Media is an indispensable part of our lives, TV in particular is the most powerful tool that can reach illiterate groups and various segments of this society. However, the local media is losing its audience to a competitive regional market. A market that understands the needs of the people and focuses on behavior change.

Regional media has been strategic and focused, it interacts with the audiences and provides simple democratic forums for the public to voice their opinions. These sorts of programs have won the hearts and minds of the people in Yemen. It has also built up their capacity in understanding political issues.

Regional media presents the local media with a challenge that questions its effectiveness. Local media is

struggling to reach Yemeni citizens and keep them informed; however, the local media's focus on a one way flow of information is building a communication gap which can weaken the democratization process. In addition, the weak journalistic quality and the lack of antagonism undermines the credibility of the local media programs all together.

The issue of using the Media as a strategic communication tool is alive in the Government and various International donor agencies. However, the influence from regional channels is hardly tackled. There is nothing that abides the Yemeni citizen to switch on to a local channel if there are better alternatives. It is difficult for a humbly resourced Yemeni Media to satisfy the needs of the people as long as there is fierce regional competition that continues to provide a refined level of news analysis, attractive presentation styles and a comprehensive policy debate.

The demolishing influence of the local media is not something that we should ignore; the increasing interest of the citizens in regional media might distract them from engaging in core political and social issues. It can provide a smokescreen on the local reality and deter the Yemenis from engaging in the development of their country. It is alarming when the Yemeni citizen is more knowledgeable about the voting process in Iraq but possesses little information on the upcoming elections in Yemen.

Local Media is currently asleep and inattentive to the real needs of the society. If Yemen is going to deliver good standards of democracy and governance then it is crucial to develop institutional capacities and open up respectful dialogues with the audiences. It is equally important to recognize the competitions in the region and reach the citizens with voice that can build up mutual accountability and contribute in the building up of democracy in this country.

Continuation from page 11

Yesterday Aziza Died It could have been your child

Some people came to me and asked me to file a complaint against the headmistress but I refused their offer, as I knew that they had personal purposes and all they wanted to hurt the headmistress and school but actually the school should not be held accountable for the accident, as it was fate. All I ask for is a bridge in this channel to avoid any other tragedy and to remove all the constructions that are in front of the school as well as closing the street in front of the school or organizing the traffic movement. Besides there are workshops and a pump next to school and it is too noisy for the students in their classes. There are wedding halls near the school and that is not suitable in educational environment.

Aziza's mother who is still in state of shock and who could hardly and sadly tell us "We have passed in a hard time as we didn't find the body of Aziza earlier. All of us, her sisters and brothers couldn't eat or sleep and they were taken to the hospital. We were scared. We could not bear all the rumors and gossip about our girl. Everyday they were telling us a lie while my daughter was lying in a deep hole. I was with them until we found Aziza's body. I was terrified. However, we thank Allah for everything."

Safa' Abdul salam, Aziza's sister, who used to go with her late sister Aziza, said about that day "We were together at that day and we were near the channel when my sister asked me to go with her but we couldn't stay together because of the crowd. I thought that my sister went home and teacher Samia took us in a bus with some students to home. When I arrived home I found out she hadn't arrived yet. So, my mother along with my brother went to search about Aziza and asked a lot but they didn't find her. Some people said that Aziza was kidnapped and other said she was in a hospital and we searched in every hospital in vain.

Ms. Amat AL-Sallam AL-Kholi, the school headmistress, said about the accident and the accusations and threats she has received, "The death of the student was fatal. The rain came from Allah and in a sudden way. But unfortunately people who are ill mannered spread the rumors about the school and particularly about the headmistress of school and they should, instead of relieve the situation and the disaster, stand behind the school. So we claim that there should

punishment for those troublemakers as they have no conscience and don't fear God. We are Muslims so when we talk we have to speak the truth with evidence and when we speak, we should speak with good things. Sorrowfully, those people exploited the God houses and misshaped the holiness of these places by compiling lies and wrong accusation against the school without any proofs or facts. Those ill-moral people have personal or political purposes. We have received the threat of death, kidnap and prison. But all I can say that my school is one of the typical schools in Sana'a city which is known for its good reputation and its qualified care."

Ms. AL-Kholi, also strongly stressed, "The accident here has revealed that the teacher's law is very weak and there are no enough protection for the teachers. Teachers can be easily bitten or abused."

Ms. Asma AL-Hakeem, a teacher, commented, "The school has done its duty and the big evidence is that the little students didn't hurt and the victim was 16 years old. So if the school was careless, we would see more victims especially among the little students who study here from the first grade till the eight grade."

She added, "The big blame can be directed to the company that started working in that channel without completing its work or put any cautions to protect the people in similar cases. The role of the state is absent too as bridges should be built though which students could safely cross to other side."

All the people we met stressed on the necessity of building the bridges in the channel to save the people lives and to have a civilized view.

As any one can remarkably see that the Ekhwan Thabit School along with AL-Shami school is on the highway street where many different vehicles are driven in high speed. Many calls have been sent to the Traffic authorities to organize the traffic movement in front of the schools or at least to put some guide signs for the drivers. However, everyone turns a blind eye for this essential issue that concerns thousands lives of innocent students and tragically the number of accidents continues.

If all these sides and authorities don't cooperate to change the current situation in front of Ekhwan Thabit School and other schools, a number of innocent students like Aziza would have the same fate. Only time will tell us.



YEMEN TIMES
Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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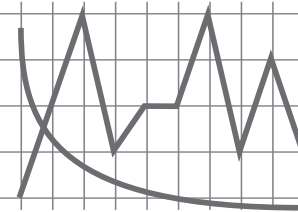
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YT Business



In spite of the obstacles They Face, Expatriate's Transfers contribute

To enhancing the small Investment Projects

By NABIL ALUSIDY

It is well known that the expatriates' capital has greatly contributed to enhancing the small establishments in Yemen. A number of those emigrants have made those projects in the Secretariat and the other major and smaller cities in this country.

These projects concentrated on smaller industries, converting industries, communications, barter and wholesale trade-services, parks, recreation parks, restaurants, bakeries and other sectors that attract the migrants capital.

According to the latest field survey, there are about 31740 small industrial establishments which represent 95% of

the total industrial convertible industry and 48% of total workers in the industrial sector.

The survey added that the secretariat tops the list in the number of smaller establishments with a number of 4273, with Ibb in second position with 4060 and Taiz in third with 2805 establishments.

The results revealed that most owners of these smaller establishments don't receive any facilities or loans. They mainly depend on their own resources in financing these projects as it is the case with the expatriates. They also depend on borrowing from friends, relations or mortgage their assets.

The obstacles are not limited to lack of facilities and loans. However there

are others, such as legislative, executive, technical and environmental obstacles....

Expatriates say that even one of these obstacles could lead to the halt of major projects, let alone the smaller establishments, in absence of the help of specialized formal sectors. They suggest that an authority should care for smaller projects, solve their problem and coordinate with concerned governmental and non governmental sectors. It should play a role in all the activities and find a mechanism for developing, financing and building an infrastructure necessary for smaller establishments.

Other factors that stand in the face of development of smaller establishments

in Yemen are the lack of skilled labor and marketing. Economists in Yemeni universities owe unskilled labor mainly to the inconsistent educational system as general and to vocational and technical education in particular which is supposed to cater for the needs of these smaller projects. This leads to widening the gap between the outputs of the vocational education and the needs of these establishments.

The civic societies' role is absent in the field of technical and vocational training.

Economists believe that the skilled labor prefer to work with bigger industries with higher wages and allowances.

Besides, all smaller establishments are not formerly registered, with the

absence of legislations that oblige them to abide by the limit of minimum wages, that are prevailing in formal sectors. They also don't abide by social insurance in installments for their personnel.

The problem of marketing makes smaller industrial establishments owners fall victims to wholesale and barter traders. This is due to the lack of marketing facilities that acquaint them with the consumers. The exploitation of whole sale traders and barterers leave them with only a narrow margin of profits that is acceptable in comparison with their efforts, and couldn't lead to boosting their products and services.

The studies point out that there

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	192.3300	192.6500
Sterling Pound	348.6300	349.2100
Euro	235.0800	235.4800
Saudi Rial	51.2900	51.3700
Kuwaiti Dinar	658.6600	659.7600
UAE Dirhem	52.3600	52.4500
Egyptian Pound	33.1900	33.2400
Bahraini Dinar	510.1500	511.0000
Qatari Rial	52.8600	52.9500
Jordanian Dinar	271.5200	271.9700
Omani Rial	499.5800	500.4100
Swiss Franc	153.3500	153.6100
Swedish Crown	25.6900	25.7400
Japanese Yen	1.7731	1.7761

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

should be concentration on the vocational technical and training education and to develop the curriculums to upgrade the scientific and practical skills of its outputs to meet the needs of internal of external markets. The study also concentrates on the importance of the availability of product facilities, and the enlargement of domestic markets competing ability, in addition to developing marketing awareness of smaller producers and craftsmen.

Marketing Nationalism in China

By LIU XIAOBAO
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Explanations abound for the fevered anti-Japanese protests that broke out across China last month. From the Chinese perspective, of course, the blame falls on the Japanese government for its reluctance to apologize for the crimes Japan committed in WW II. But the Chinese media also played an ignominious role, publishing slanted articles on Japan that helped to fan the fire.

Nationalism has been a prominent element in Chinese media in recent years. Strident articles critical of the United States, Japan, and Taiwan appear with increasing frequency and receive ever more prominent placement. Many see the government's hand behind this trend, but focusing on official influence risks overlooking how market pressures have

pushed China's media in this direction.

Before China began opening its economy in 1978, all newspapers and magazines were "Party newspapers" and "Party magazines." Media bosses were appointed and controlled by the government. Journalists and editors were, in effect, government officials.

Needless to say, all operating costs were born by the Communist Party and the state, and nobody was much concerned about making money. The main concern was not attracting readers, listeners, and viewers, but avoiding political mistakes.

For newspapers and magazines, circulation was guaranteed by the government, which urged people to "study the Party newspapers" and forced work units to buy them. Radio and TV enjoyed the same built-in audience. In the 30 years following the establishment of the People's Republic of China, no media outlet ran even a single commercial

advertisement.

As Deng Xiaoping's reforms evolved, and especially after Deng's "tour of the South" in 1992, when he signaled permission for high-speed marketization of the economy, China's media changed beyond recognition.

Whereas in 1978 there were only 186 newspapers and a handful of magazines and broadcast outlets, today China has roughly 2,200 newspapers, 9,000 magazines, 1,000 radio stations, and 420 TV stations, plus a growing proliferation of cable TV outlets. Most of these outlets no longer receive full financial support from the government and must rely on advertising revenue to survive and grow.

What topics do consumers most care about? One is government corruption. As economic inequities and social conflict in China have grown more acute, ordinary people have become increasingly angry. In these circumstances, many on the business side of the Chinese media

regard critical reports on crime and official corruption as a powerful weapon in the fight for greater market share and profitability.

Owing to great sensitivity about stories that cast China's leadership in a bad light, these popular reports are frequently banned, editors are fired, and media outlets that publish or broadcast them are often punished. In some cases, they are shut down.

Prevented from criticizing the country's leaders and reporting fully and objectively on domestic affairs, China's media often finds it expedient to turn its critical gaze outwards. This is politically safe, since, in one sense, to criticize the outside world, especially countries such as Japan and the US, is to praise China's government.

It is also profitable. Even as China's position in the world continues to rise and its people become more self-confident, China's history of weakness before

the Western powers and Japan sustains a "victim culture" that leaves most Chinese sensitive to any foreign challenge. Publishing jingoistic, anti-foreign articles plays to national sensitivities that always simmer, and thus can easily be brought to a boil, with obvious benefits for the bottom line.

A personal anecdote serves to illustrate how the market, as much as government censorship by the Department of Propaganda and the Press and Publications Administration, is often responsible for this type of editorial decision.

A few years ago, the editors of a Beijing-based weekly with which I am acquainted were deadlocked over which article to put on their front page. The choice was between a minor story critical of Taiwan and a larger piece about a domestic issue of potentially historic significance. Unable to get his staff to reach a consensus, the chief executive decided

to ask the newspaper's distributor for his opinion. The distributor had not graduated from high school, but he knew readers' tastes well. "Condemn Taiwan, of course," he said. The chief executive issued his order accordingly.

While reports that cater to the sometimes virulent nationalist sentiments of readers, viewers, and listeners can succeed in garnering a larger market share - as in any other capitalist country - they can also mislead. The media may make money, but as the recent anti-Japan protests suggests, an excess of such market-driven jingoism can damage a nation's interests and international standing. As the old Chinese expression goes, *qihu, nanxia*: "Once one gets on the back of a tiger, it is hard to get off."

Liu Xiaobao is a Visiting Scholar at the Graduate School of Journalism, University of California at Berkeley.
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Yesterday Aziza Died

It could have been your child

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

It was raining cats and dogs in Sana'a city. The students of second shift in most of schools were in their classes. The rain increased and the sound of the thunder filled the atmosphere. In one school particularly Ekhwan Thabit School, students were asked to stay silently in their classes till it stopped raining.

A lightning hit the yard of school strongly and the students were praying and reading Holy Qura'an. The parents were very worried about their young children when they saw the heaviness of the rain. So, most of them came to take their children. They were stopped in front of the school door but they fought the guard and they took their students and caused chaos.

Some students whose their parents didn't come started to leave the school while the water was unusually full in the street in front of the school, besides there was a big new-built channel that was about more than 9km in depth. There were some drivers and taxis who were offering help to the young students besides the assistance of the school-teachers. Suddenly, some students fell in that channel and were struggling to survive when some men jumped and saved them but they could not save Aziza.

That was the name of the student that the strong waters dragged away and drowned in that day. Her parents were in panic and started to look for her body and kept searching for her until 2 o'clock after midnight but it was in vain. After two days, they found her body buried with the mud far from her school and the place she used to play with her friends.

However, a rage of anger was aroused among the citizens in that area by hearing rumors that school was responsible for the death of that student. People started gossiping that school should let the students go earlier before the heavy rain as some schools did. Some ignorant people started to claim that the head-

mistress should be accounted for that accident. Moreover, the chitchat increased and everyone had his own story so that they reported different numbers for the victims of that gloomy day. Some said they were 18 victims. Some ill-mannered people started to accuse the teachers of being careless as if they could prevent that accident and change that fate. As a result, panic and fear spread among the parents and some of them decided not let their daughters to go to any school any more. What exactly happened there? Who aroused the anger among the people and for what? Was the school really responsible for the fatal accident that happened to the student? Many questions pose themselves and waiting answers.

Many local newspapers discussed that accident but they didn't reveal the truth about that day. As one who lives and works in that area and who knows much about the ambiguities of that accident and as a reporter I would like here to divulge to the readers the truth as it is.

We met with the concerned people and who has related to that accident.

Mr. Abdualaziz Mahdi AL-Kumaim, the head of the teachers union in Sana'a, "Actually, one of the school's duties in this case was to call the parents if possible and second was to provide any means to carry the girls from school to their homes. The investigations showed that the school administration did take the girls to their homes and connect the parents. What happened was that the school was keeping the students in their classes till the rain stopped. However, the parents came, jumped off the wall of the school and fought the guard and took their girls. They made an unusual disorder in school and they didn't give the school a chance to make any kind of communication either by the phones or providing transportations. In spite of all that the school did take most of the students to their houses and gave the others a chance to call their parents. The problem was in the ignorant parents who came and broke into school by force as if there was a big catastrophe in a way that didn't give the school the opportuni-



ty to take the appropriate procedures. The school duty is merely educational and stops when the student leaves the door of the school and after that the school is not responsible. In fact we didn't blame the school administration as the parents entered the school randomly and savagely. The little sister of the victim reached home safely with one of the teachers. But Aziza's fate was to die that day. Witnesses said that Aziza was offered the help and asked a number of times to ride but she refused. Then, the school administration capabilities and facilities are limited. There are no special buses for school but the school hardly provided buses at that time. We blame the local councils, which were supposed to find out solutions for the channel that anyone, not only students, could fall in. The local councils are responsible for that accident as they were supposed to suggest building even Steal Bridge, as there are three schools in the same place. Nowadays we have been claiming the ministry of public works and the head of AL-Sabeen Area to hastily establish a bridge or two bridges in this channel as we are going to have much rain in coming months to avoid similar accident. We have nothing in our hands but to contact the ones who have the solutions.

On the other hand, some religious scholars dealt with that case negatively

and they accused the school administration represented in Ms. Amat AL-Sallam AL-Kholi. For instance, Al-Naser Mosque was one of these mosques. So we called Mr. Abdualah Thabit, Preacher, and investigated why he negatively preached to the people about what happened in school and asked the people to change the administration, holding the school and the headmistress responsible for what happened. But he confessed of being guilty. So he singed and promised not to preach negatively about anyone in the future. Also we asked him to apologize for the school in his next preach and clarify the truth from the same place he abused to the school.

Mr. Abdualsalam kaseem AL-Jabroti, Aziza's father, complained strongly "The state officials didn't help us in our mishap except some individual such as Mr. Aydh AL-Shamiri, the manager of constructions office, Mr. Ahmed AL-Siwari, the head cleanliness project, Mr. Ahmed Ali, who stayed with us till 1 o'clock after midnight and took part in searching, and Mr. Khalid AL-Shami who was with us from the beginning until we found the body. He called different departments for help but no response. While there was a similar accident in AL-Ramah School but all the state assistance was in the site because that school contains children of wealthy people and officials. But Ekhwan Thabit School contains students belong to simple, and poor people. Ironically, when we called a highly-ranking official telling him about the drown girls he said "it is just a girl" and a police officer was asking us for a death certificate and we were still searching for the body. We stood with bare hands without facilities or devices.

I don't hold the school and its headmistress the responsibility of the accident. My daughter used to walk through the channel way as she hated to pass through the Qat market avoiding harassment. It was her fate and the school is not responsible for her death. But we would like to avoid such accident in future.

Continuation on page 9



بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى

المهندس / خيرالدين محمد يوسف النسور

لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

والده / محمد يوسف النسور

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ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان «وإنا لله وإليه راجعون»

الأسيفون:

الأستاذة/ نادية عبد العزيز السقاف،

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والشركة اليمنية الأردنية للإستثمار

Literary
Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The Bible, the Qur'an
and Science (3/3)

"Say, Oh people of the Scriptures! Do elevate yourself to a unanimous statement between us and between you: That we should not worship save for Allah and that we do not allow other deities beside Him, nor should we assume each other lords in place of Allah. If they then turn away, then say, "Bear witness then that we are Moslems" (The Holy Qur'an III/64)

In this part of the review of the above book, we will see how the author looks at the Qur'an as a revelation, just like the Torah, the Old Testament and the New Testament (Gospels). However, what is amazing, is that the author qualifies his assessment of the Quran as profoundly far more elaborate and conforming to logical as well as scientific sense. He dismisses the attitude of the West towards Islam: "In the West moreover, when science and religion are discussed, people are quite willing to mention Judaism and Christianity among the religions referred to, but they hardly think about Islam". Then Baucaille sets out to give an outline "of a religion that is so little known in the West". He blames the attitude of Westerners to Islam as the "result of ignorance, and sometimes of systematic denigration. He attempts to correct the misconceptions that are in defiance of facts and not just related to opinions. For example, he wonders how a great scholar refers to the Qur'an as an "autobiography that God miraculously dictated to the Prophet" (Volume 6 of the Encyclopedia Universalis). He points out that this comes from a professor at Jesuit Faculty of Theology, in Leon, France. The Qur'an is nowhere near that description.

Then he highlights developments in the Vatican towards a more objective outlook on Islam and a rejection of some of the misconceptions and stereotypes on Moslems that have instilled themselves on the minds of misinformed Christians. Even the name of Allah is clarified as the exact same nomenclature as God, by asserting that Christian Arabs indeed call God Allah as well.

The author then delves into the attitude of Islam towards science, which was in contrast to the negative attitude that the Church exercised against the development of scientific theory as manifested by the injustice to Galileo, which only recently has been corrected. While pointing out the general positive attitude of Islam towards science over the ages, almost from its very beginning, the author states, "another crucial fact is that the Qur'an while inviting us to cultivate science, itself contains many observations on natural phenomena and includes explanatory details which are seen to be in total agreement with modern scientific data. There is no equal to this in the Judeo-Christian Revelation."

In comparison with the other Scriptures, the author finds greater strength in the authenticity of the Qur'an, with the Quran having a "unique place" among the Revelations. While noting the later calendar of the Quran as an attribute to its greater authenticity, Maurice Baucaille regards this as an "excuse" for the alterations made in the Judeo-Christian texts over the centuries. The process by which the Qur'an was able to maintain its authenticity over the ages is described briefly by the author, referring to a number of Moslem scholars and historians, as well as modern translators of the Quran to other languages.

Then, the author gets into the gist of his argument about the strength of the Qur'an in its conformity to scientific knowledge, with respect to the phenomena that were mentioned in the Bible as well as the Qur'an. The two important phenomenon that are worthy of analyses are the Creation and the Flood.

He points out that most Europeans suggest the strong similarity in the Biblical and Quranic renditions of, say the Creation. However the author states that the problem is more complex and deserves scrutiny. For exam-

ple, he points out that the Bible sets out the whole period for the Creation as six days and the seventh day was the day the Lord rested. In the Qur'an, however, day or days can be defined to mean periods of time different from the 24-hour day - from sunrise to sunrise. There is even a strong hint in the Qur'an that days for Allah can be quite different from the "days of men" (1 day: 1,000 years of human reckoning; 1 day: 50,000 years). The author notes the six main points that the Quran highlights about the Creation:

- 1) The existence of six periods (days) in general.
- 2) The stages of the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth are not sequential but rather interlock.
- 3) The Universe was created out of an initially unique mass forming a block that subsequently split up.
- 4) The plurality of the Heavens and the Earths.
- 5) An intermediary creation exists between the Heavens and the Earth.

The author delves into the modern scientific observations that these points are not at all in dispute with, or which modern science has indeed proven or suggests are very likely to be sound renditions of the real metamorphoses of the Creation of the Universe.

Baucaille then goes into an elaborate discussion of how modern science has pictured the formation of the Universe and after that seeks to compare these modern postulations with the revelations of the Qur'an about the Creation of the Universe. The author makes this important statement: "the existence of such an enormous difference between the Biblical description and the data in the Quran concerning the Creation is worth underlining once again on account of the totally gratuitous accusations leveled against Mohammed since the beginnings of Islam to the effect that he copied the Biblical descriptions". The author shuns all attempts that suggest that Mohammed took what he knew from Jewish rabbis or Christian monks or priests of his time.

By going to a detailed description of how modern science describes the universe and its behavior starting from the great fragmentary masses to the smallest satellites (moons), the author seeks to point out the remarkable lack of contradiction to what is found in the Qur'an regarding such phenomena. Even when looking at atmospheric interactions there is a remarkable simile to be seen in Quranic descriptions.

In discussing the Flood, the author points out that the Bible describes the Flood as a universal cataclysm, whereas the Qur'an seems to suggest that the catastrophe was a more local community event as those of Thamud, Aad, the Egyptians etc., who were subject to God's wrath for not following his Commandments or for rejecting his omnipotence over the universe.

After giving a brief discussion of the traditions of the Prophet (sayings and doings), the author could see areas where there could be a problem of authenticity (even Moslems dispute the propriety or accuracy of some traditions). But the authenticity of the Quran is indisputable. It is this authenticity, which gives the Quran a special place among the Scriptures and thus make the Qur'an worthy of recognition as bona-fide Revelation. This is already the attitude that the Catholic Church is leaning towards.

Perhaps, it is time that religious people all over the world, especially the followers of the Monotheistic faiths regard each other as the product of a religious culture that has been developing almost along the same course and thus much human misery could be averted and God's will may become closer to being established: peace, justice and the brotherhood of man.

¹ The Torah and the Old Testament as combined by the author

² The English version. The French version was first published in May 1976, with a Fourth Edition published in 1977. The book apparently aroused the interest of the Presidency of the Shari'ah Courts in Doha, Qatar, who contributed to the printing of the English translation.

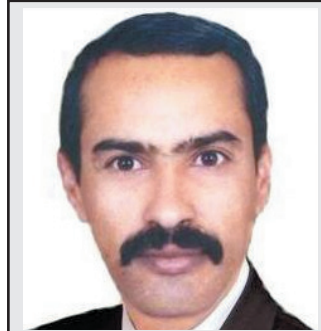
20,000 new cancer cases annually

Exotic pesticides destroy our life

TAIZ BUREAU

At the beginning of 2004, eight people died in Hajah because of the banned insecticides that had spread throughout Yemen. Reality shows that these insecticides kill tens of victims every day in addition to the damages on the human, soil and environment.

In an interview, Dr. Abdulrahman Thabet, lecturer of Poison and Environment in Sana'a University, said to YT that: 'If we look at the development of importing insecticides to Yemen during the last ten years, we will find out that 1996 occupies the top of the list in terms of the chemical substances imported illegally.'



Dr. Abdulrahman Thabet

what is applied is the very routine on which the licenses are based. Things go on according to the recommendations, and when the licenses are given and the letters are issued, they turn around and say that the applying procedures is not significant and the officers are a burden on the state," he added.

This haphazard way of the concerned authorities in dealing with the insecticides lead to smuggling banned insecticides that don't meet the requirements and cannot be analyzed though they are extremely dangerous.

in Yemen.

Eng. Mohammed Al-Haisam mentioned that 'D.D.T.' and 'Topaz' are of the most dangerous substances that are used in an unorganized way for qat, and fruits. They are transferred to human beings causing plenty of harm.

Eng. Saeed Al-Sharmi, from the Coffee Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, stated that the problem lies in spreading unbalanced doses of these insecticides without following the instructions and usage conditions.

Eng. Abdullah Al-Haj, from the Insecticides Department, confirmed that insecticides with limited usage are involved in the decree that limited their import in 2002 and included them in Rotterdam Agreement. Nevertheless, these substances are allowed to be imported and sold in stores without any auditing by the concerned authorities.

Adnan Abdulrahman, an Insecticides Seller in an Agricultural Office in Sana'a, explained that farmers accept to buy poisonous insecticides that cannot be decomposed such as D.D.T. and Topaz because they are cheaper. These farmers do not own the lowest standard of awareness of the insecticides and their usage.

Antaar, a Farmer from Amran, showed that he markets his products daily to Sana'a, yet some cucumber, vegetables, and tomatoes are not ripe. But using great quantities of insecticides changes the picture. There is not enough awareness about the dangers of these substances and the peaceful ways of its usage.

Dangers of pesticides

The danger of the pesticides is not confined to the environment, soil, plant, but it reaches even human beings threatening their health and safety.

Dr. Abdulrahman Thabet said, besides the fact that proves the increase in the insecticides' concentration, the use of the traditional pesticides of all kinds has also increased in recent years. This caused pollution in the Yemeni agricultural environment with the consequences of the chemical insecticides, resulting in an increase of chemical poison throughout the food

chains which made many disease and environmental catastrophes appear.

Dr. Thabet added that the pesticides have direct dangers on crops and they influence the production that is usually filled with these substances that cause death and some other unhealthy troubles. These pesticides cause paralysis of which may cause death. There are some insecticides which have high solubility in fats; they damage the life of fish and marine creatures, which are considered a main source of food for the human beings.

One of the unseen harms is that it causes some deformity in the nerve functions of the body, which may lead to the loss of the nerve balance, loss of the psychological balance, and increase of violence.

Some of the pesticides consequences

appear in food, and environment lead to impotency and some inherited to sons.

Where does cancer come from?

According to Dr. Thabet, international reports showed that the consequences of chemical pesticides that have high consistency in the environment may cause unbalance in hormones in the human body causing testicles' cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and deformities on the genetic level. It was scientifically proved that pesticides are responsible for the quitting the levels of immunity in the human body and this in turn causes the increase of many diseases that haven't been known yet in Yemen.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Siri, Physician, confirmed that the majority of cancer cases are caused by toxic insecticides used for qat, fruits, and vegetables pointing out that the official statistics showed that nearly 20,000 cancer cases appear in Yemen annually. As long as there are no specialized centers, these cases are taken abroad for treatment. The state paid US\$ 2 million for treating 1025 cases in 1995 in addition to YR 2.5 million for the tickets of the patients' companies.

Our food is toxic

Farmers hope to sell their crops and agricultural products trying to benefit and market their products, so they use various types of pesticides in order to make their products ripe. The result of that is putting killing poisons on our table.

Eng. Al-Scarab said that the key environmental dangers of insecticides are their being integrated in the food structure of the human beings throughout fruits,

vegetables and animal meat.

Abdullah Hammond, from the Insecticides Department, thought that the safety of any food material and its being valid depend on the soil, water, air, and any pollution caused by insecticides.

Victims of insecticides

Having a glance at dangers of insecticides, since most Yemenis are chewing qat, add to that the use of these substances in food. We could judge that more than half of the Yemeni population suffer from various diseases caused by insecticides. Head of Control and Inspection Department in the Public Department of Plant Protection pointed out to the absence of statistics of bad cases caused by the chemical compounds and loss of registers because of the mismatch among the concerned authorities in Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Health.

Where are those who buy and sell in the name the human safety and health?

Where are the:

-Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
-Ministry of Public Health
-Yemeni Authority for Qualities and Standards

-Consumer Protection Syndicate
-Human Rights NGOs
-Environment Protection Societies
-Environment Protection Association and Establishments
-Agricultural Societies

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How are insecticides imported?

Insecticides are imported with a license issued by the concerned authority, Public Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. These licenses are given to the people who import insecticides for the insects that damage plants. The law that organizes these affairs is Law No. (25) of 1999. There are some conditions that should be answered before releasing the imported substances such as: checking the documents presented by those who ask for the license or updating the license, as well as registering permitted substances. Each of the procedures have its own officials who are delegated these tasks. Registration in these cases shows the efficiency of substances that are imported and their effect on the human, animal, plant, and the environment.

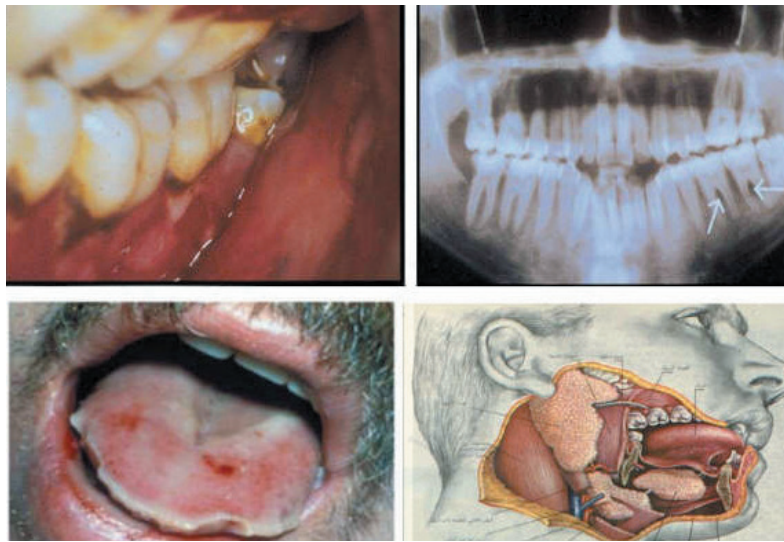
But, Eng. Abdullah Hamoud Al-Haj, from Insecticides Department and Head of the Control and Inspection Department, confirmed that all procedures are not implemented and there is a state of lack of care to apply them.

"Cooperation among specialized people is completely absent when taking any decree or extended procedure. Therefore

Eng. Al-Haj said that entering such substances into the Yemeni market took place when the Ministry of Health received grants and aids for fighting insects that transfer diseases and that always happens without coming back to concerned authorities. Otherwise they are imported from neighboring countries which want to get rid of them through mediations that have the ability to smuggle them to Yemeni lands one way or another.

What are the prohibited insecticides?

The prohibited insecticides are known internationally as the permanent organic substances that are not subject to decomposing in the soil within ten years. These insecticides are banned to be used in all countries but they are still used randomly



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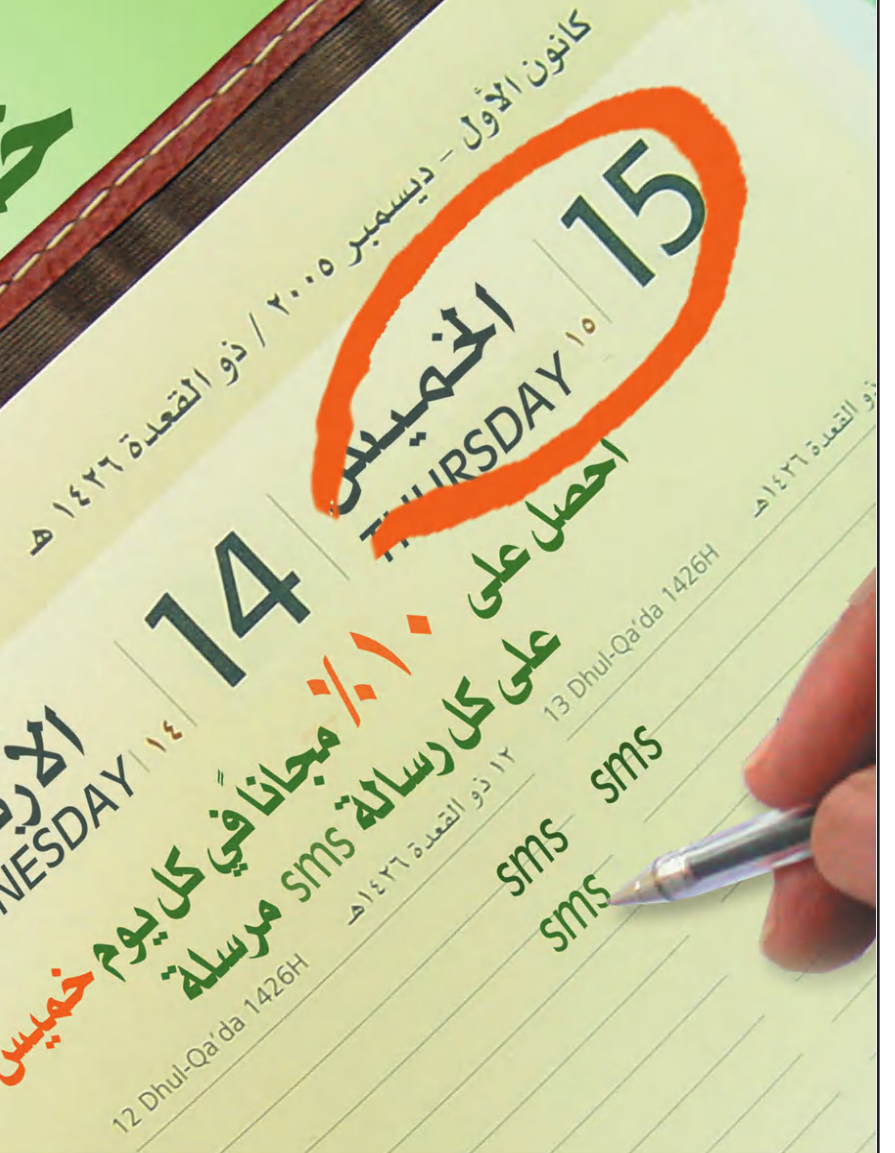
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Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University

Cultural events for students - 2005

As the consummation of its annual events, the Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University, Sana'a organized the final round of co-curricular activities-Debate, Elocution,



Dr. P.A. Abraham presenting his response on behalf of the panel of judges

Group Discussion, Extempore Speech, Essay Writing, Creative Writing and Quiz on 18 May 2005 (Wednesday). Students belonging to different levels of the Department participated in various events with enthusiasm and made the occasion a great success. At the outset Dr. A.K. Sharma, Prof. and Head of the Department of English, while welcoming the guests, officials of the faculty, students and members of the staff, highlighted the importance of such activities in students' future career and learning. He also appreciated the assistance and co-operation extended by the Dean, the Vice-Dean and others in organizing such events in the department.

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Tariq Al-Janabi, in his speech, lauded the organization of such activities by the



Prof. D. Thakur giving his benediction

Department of English and appreciated students' talent and worth. He assured all support of the Faculty for such activities in future and expressed his good wishes for the success of the events.

Prof. D. Thakur, Head of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University, Sana'a graced the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the students and applauded their excellent performance in various events. He wished Yemeni students to excel in the art of oratory at international forums to earn a good name for their country.

At the end of the event, Dr. M. A.



Dr. Shamsheer, Vice Dean, Dr. Janabi, Dean, and Dr. Sharma, Head at the prize award ceremony

Shamsheer, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Languages, presented vote of thanks. He thanked the guests, the members of the faculty and others who attended the function and made it a great success with their assistance. He congratulated the winners and expressed all his good

Event-wise list of winners and the number of participants :

Essay Writing:

Level (IV)
First: Fawaz Ahmed Sharaf
Second: Shaima Moh'd Al-Ra'iy
Third: Waleed Ahmed al-Naqib

Level III

First: Asrar Salim Saeed B-Mataraf
Second: Ebtihaj Ahmed Ahmed al-Akwa
Third: Alia Tareh Qahtan
No. of Participants: 13

Creative Writing:

First: Shaima Mohammed Al-Ra'iy (IV-C)
Second: Hend Zamil Al-Jaboori (IV-B)
Third: Mohammed Saleh Al-Najri (IV-B)
No. of Participants: 15

Elocution:

First: Nisreen Mohammed Ali Al-Zindani (IV-B)
Second: Radhiya Hussein Ali Khairan (III-A)
Third: Zainab Mohammed Ahmed Zaber (III-B)

No. of participants: 18

Extempore Speech:

First: Emad Mahfood Ba-Mataraf (III-C)
Second: Safy Mohy Al-Deen (II-C)
Third: Abdul Aziz Ali Al-Khowalani (III-B)
No of Participants: 22

Debate:

First: Hanan Yahya Al-Shadadi (IV-A)
Second: Shaima Al-Ra'iy (IV-C)
Third: Emad Mahfood Ba-Mataraf (III-C)
Ahmed Ba-Mataraf(III-A)
No of Participants: 20

Group Discussion:

First: Mhammed Hassan Al-Shama (II-C)
Second: Emad Mahfood Bamataraf (III-C)
Third: Shaima Mohammed Al-Ra'iy (IV-C)
No of Participants: 14

Quiz:

Four teams each comprising four students participated in the event.

Team A-Excellent, Team D-Very Good,
Team B-Good and Team C-Satisfactory



A participant presenting her performance as Dr. A.K. Sharma looks on



Rapporteurs—Dr. Jodi, Dr. Shashi, Dr. Mahto, Dr. Mishra, Dr. Arvind

wishes for those who participated in various activities and made the function a festive occasion.

Dr. Janabi, Dean, Dr. Shamsheer,

Vice-Dean, and Dr. Sharma, Head, Dept. of English, gave away the prizes and certificates to the winners and participants.



Group discussion in progress

Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
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College of Education,
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Mobile: 73889013
P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a

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I. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Do you enjoy to go to the zoo?
2. I went to the store for getting some toothpaste.
3. Did you go to shopping yesterday?
4. I usually go to the cafeteria for to get a cup of coffee in the morning.
5. I cut the rope by a knife.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. She asked me **whether** I wanted to go to the music festival.
2. Bassim **told** me that he was hungry.
3. Adel asked me **where I lived**.
4. Ahmed **requested** me to open the window.
5. My friend **told** me that she understood my problem.

II. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. To cause to become very thin
2. To cause to feel ashamed or socially uncomfortable
3. To take and use for oneself in a wrong way money that is placed in one's care.
4. To make more beautiful, especially by adding ornaments.
5. To fill with painful or bitter feelings.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. To make the mind or morals better higher, or more educated: **elevate** (vt)
2. The best or most important people in a social group: **elite** (n)
3. To explain or make clear a mystery or difficulty: **elucidate** (vt)
4. Set free from legal, political or moral restraint: **emancipate** (vt)
5. Order that forbids the movement of ships or trade: **embargo** (n)

(B) Words commonly confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. raise, rise
2. climatic, climactic
3. somewhere near, nearby
4. fairy, fairly
5. incite, excite

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **elemental** (adj) (of or being like a great force of nature): There was extensive damage to crops due to the elemental fury of the storm.
elementary (adj) (of or in the beginning stage): She is practicing some elementary exercises for the violin.
2. **elfin** (adj) (elf like, having a quality of magical charm): The scene depicting the fairies at their

elfin dances in the moonlight was enchanting.

elfish (adj) (mischievous): His elfish designs were exposed at the nick of moment.

3. **elide** (vt) (omit a letter or part of the word in pronunciation): "We elide the 'd' in 'Wednesday' when we're talking quickly."

elude (vt) (escape capture by means of a trick): He successfully eluded his enemies' grasp.

4. **ellipse** (n) (regular oval): The circle looked at sideways is called an ellipse.

eclipse (n) (total or partial cutting off of the light of the sun): Total solar eclipse gives rise to many interesting astronomical phenomena.

5. **replace** (vt) (take the place of): Nothing can replace a mother's love and care.

substitute (vt) (to put something or someone in place of another): The waiter substituted a blank dish for a spiced one.

(C) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. a false start
2. in the soup
3. sink one's differences
4. to take to one's heels
5. to learn the hard way

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **pour oil on troubled waters** (to try to calm and soothe a person or situation): He tried his best to pour oil on troubled waters by trying to calm his agitated friend.
2. **get one's fingers burnt** (to suffer as a result of action which one has taken): He involved himself in the immoral act and eventually got his fingers burnt.
3. **call the shots** (to be in control): In this office, the Manager's deputy is the person who calls the shots.
4. **like the wind** (very quickly): The kidnappers ran like the wind into the forest.
5. **take one's mind off** (something) (to turn someone's attention away from something): He was brooding over his failure, but I invited him to the party to take his mind off the depression.

III. Grammar

Complete the sentences with one of the phrasal verbs below

get on, get on with, get off, give up, give in, take in

1. I'm very close to my brother and we — each other very well.
2. It's nearly three months since I — smoking, but I still miss it quite a lot.
3. Abdul Kareem rang me up and pretended to be a police man, but I wasn't — by him. I

recognized his voice at once.

4. He caught the right train, but he — at the wrong station and had to take a taxi.

5. The terrorists argued with the police for hours, but in the end they finally — and threw down their guns.

6. When the old lady — the bus I offered her my seat.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Ashwag was in the bath when there was a knock at the door.

Ashwag was **just taking her bath** when there was a knock at the door.

2. Ann had been on the point of ringing the bell. She noticed that the door was slightly open.

Ann was **just about ringing the bell** when she noticed that the door was slightly open.

3. Ann closed the door. Then she dropped her handbag.

Ann **had just closed the door** when she dropped her handbag.

4. Arwa finished her bath. She heard a noise.

Arwa **had just finished her bath** when she heard a noise.

5. Ann picked up her handbag and at the same time she knocked over a chair.

Ann was **just picking up her handbag** when she knocked over a chair.

6. Bassam decided to phone the police. He heard another noise.

Bassam **had just decided to phone the police** when he heard another noise.

7. Mohammed shouted for Jamal. He noticed Jamal standing by the phone.

Mohammed **had just shouted for Jamal** when he noticed Jamal standing by the phone.

8. Bushra dialed 999, and at the same time she heard a familiar voice shouting her name.

Bushra **had just dialed 999** when she heard a familiar voice shouting her name.

9. She put down the phone. Then she saw her friend Fatina standing in the door way.

She **had just put down the phone** when she saw her friend Fatina standing in the door way.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

It is He Who created the heavens and the earth with truth ...
S6:A73

VI. Food for Thought

"Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm"
—Winston Churchill

Poetry Corner

Remember

Remember that when you are gone
People remember you
Not for the words you have spoken
But for the actions you have performed;

Not for the promises you have made

But for those you kept;
Not for the powers that you had
But for the powers you used
For the service of others.

Words at times may be hollow
Promises may appear to be grand
Powers are always terrifying,
But actions performed are sweet
Promises fulfilled bring hope,
And powers are always to be used
For the down-trodden,

misrepresented and disowned.

Life is an unending chain of comings and goings
People come and go
But there are only few
Who remain in our memories
Never and never to go



A.K. SINHA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH
HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

English speech contest in Hodeidah University

A.K. Sinha

The Department of English, Faculty of Education, Hodeidah University organized an English speech Contest spread over a period of four days – 2nd,4th,10th and 17th May, 2005 in the conference hall.

The following students were adjudged the three best speakers in each class.

IVth Year

1. Ibraheem Jabreal
2. Arwa Abdullah Mohsen
3. Khalid Zaid Mohammed

III Year

1. Mohammed Ali Ahmed
2. Murad Abdo Saeed
3. Sara Manae Mohd Hagar

II Year

1. Hamza Ali Hassan Khayrat
2. Afrah Al-Mamari
3. Nazeem Mohd Al Maqbooly

I Year

1. Naseem Hassan Al-Harazi
2. Abdu Qahtan Saif
3. Bassam Hamied Mohammed

The best speakers were given individual prizes and all the participants were awarded certificates of recognition.

Readers' Forum

Dear Dr. Sahu,

I do not know how to thank you for encouraging us to write and also for giving us the opportunity to have our writings published in your esteemed paper (Yemen Times).

I am sure that with your generous help, we, inshaa Allah, will have a better chance to improve our abilities to write for the public.

Looking forward to seeing you
With my best regards,

Abdul-Hameed Al-Namshah
University of Science and
Technology, Sana'a

Dear Mr. Abdulhameed

Thanks for your remarks. We welcome original contributions from scholars like you as well as reports on important academic events at national and international levels for wider coverage through this column.

—Dr. Sahu

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Overfishing: a threat to marine biodiversity

Despite its crucial importance for the survival of humanity, marine biodiversity is in ever-greater danger, with the depletion of fisheries among biggest concerns.

Fishing is central to the livelihood and food security of 200 million people, especially in the developing world, while one of five people on this planet depends on fish as the primary source of protein. According to UN agencies, aquaculture - the farming and stocking of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants - is growing more rapidly than all other animal food producing sectors. But amid facts and figures about aquaculture's soaring worldwide production rates, other, more sobering, statistics reveal that global main marine fish stocks are in jeopardy, increasingly pressured by overfishing and environmental degradation.

"Overfishing cannot continue," warned Nitin Desai, Secretary General of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, which took place in Johannesburg. "The depletion of fisheries poses a major threat to the food supply of millions of people." The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calls for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which many experts believe may hold the key to conserving and boosting fish stocks. Yet, according to the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in Cambridge, UK, less than one per cent of the world's oceans and seas are currently in MPAs.

The magnitude of the problem of overfishing is often overlooked, given the competing claims of deforestation,

desertification, energy resource exploitation and other biodiversity depletion dilemmas. The rapid growth in demand for fish and fish products is leading to fish prices increasing faster than prices of meat. As a result, fisheries investments have become more attractive to both entrepreneurs and governments, much to the detriment of small-scale fishing and fishing communities all over the world. In the last decade, in the north Atlantic region, commercial fish populations of cod, hake, haddock and flounder have fallen by as much as 95%, prompting calls for urgent measures. Some are even recommending zero catches to allow for regeneration of stocks, much to the ire of the fishing industry.



According to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimate, over 70% of the world's fish species are either fully exploited or depleted. The dramatic increase of destructive fishing techniques worldwide destroys marine mammals and entire ecosystems. FAO reports that illegal, unreported and

"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

The editor

unregulated fishing worldwide appears to be increasing as fishermen seek to avoid stricter rules in many places in response to shrinking catches and declining fish stocks. Few, if any, devel-

opment and the European Commission have adopted the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land based Activities, oceans are cleared at twice the rate of forests.

The Johannesburg forum stressed the importance of restoring depleted fisheries and acknowledged that sustainable fishing requires partnerships by and between governments, fishermen, communities and industry. It urged countries to ratify the Convention on the Law of the Sea and other instruments that promote maritime safety and protect the environment from marine pollution and environmental damage by ships. Only a multilateral approach can counterbalance the rate of depletion of the world's fisheries which has increased more than four times in the past 40 years.

For further information: Mr. Nick Nuttall, Head of Media Services, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 254 20 623084, Mobile 254 (0) 733 632755, Fax 254 2 623692, E-mail nick.nuttall@unep.org

oping countries and only a limited number of developed ones are on track to put into effect by this year the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Despite that fact that each region has its Regional Sea Conventions, and some 108 govern-

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