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Over half a million students set to ministerial exams

SANA'A, June 18—515,691 male and female students in the primary and secondary stages started their final examinations of the school year 2004-2005 on Saturday, distributed to 4072 centers all over Yemen.

Dr. Abdussalam al-Jawfi Minister of Education confirmed in a statement to September 26 weekly that his ministry has finalized all the procedures related to the formation of the supervising committees, the distribution of student's seat numbers, and supplying the examination centers with invigilators.

According to the Ministry of Education, processing rooms were made in the Yemeni governorates and other main processing rooms at the Ministry to follow up and monitor the exam proceedings in both primary and secondary stages.

Dr. al-Jawfi added that all the viola-



Students at Khawla bint Al-Azwar school doing their ministerial exam.

YT PHOTO BY AMEEN AL-SAGGAF

tions that took place in the previous years have been tackled to provide examinees with convenient atmospheres according to a statement circulated by the ministry to teachers and students that sanctions will be taken against violators.

The Minister of Education pointed out the questions are prepared in harmony with the syllabus and the Ministry took into consideration the secondary school students when preparing questions since a new syllabus was intro-

duced this year. Over 70 thousand recruits are responsible for administering the exams and are distributed to the Supreme Examination Committee and other sub-committees and the supervising ones, and there are over 40 thousand invigilators in all the examination centers.

The secondary school examinees number up to 204,896, of which 133,099 are scientific section students while 271,079 are literary section stu-

dents and all are distributed to 1056 centers.

Al-Jawfi mentioned that his ministry dismissed 188 educational officials this year due to violations committed by them the previous year.

It is worth noting that a large number of examinees complain of some difficulties facing them in understanding the contents of the new syllabus, in addition to the lack of teachers in some remote areas.

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In abuse to Human Rights, and International Law, America and some Western countries detain 12 thousand Muslims under pretext of

War on terrorism

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A meeting was held on Friday, June 17 in Taj Saba'a, Sana'a. A number of lawyers and Human rights activists, from America, Britain, Qatar Bahrain and Yemen have attended. The meeting discussed the case of Guantanamo, and other detention centers, in addition to other cases of concern to the Regional and International Human Rights Organizations.

The meeting was organized by the Yemeni Human Rights Organization (Hood). An outcome of the meeting was issued after the press conference on the 18th of June. They called for pressure on the governments to close the illegal detention centers, which spread all over the world. The Sana'a committee has called the Gulf Governments to assure that all detainees are not subjected to torture



on the pretext of "war on terror" including those who are transferred from Guantanamo to other detention centers in Cuba. They are to be treated in accordance with the International Human Rights standards

Participants in committee meeting, which convened on Sunday said, "there are hundreds of persons facing the danger of falling into a "dark hole" if they are deported from Guantanamo to their countries

They called on Gulf countries to guarantee not to subject any detainee to torture, and to grant them a right of legal procedures, which meet the international human rights standards.

They also said that it is time to put an end to the illegal detentions of hundreds of people at the Guantanamo detention camp, and asked the USA government to disclose the conditions in other detention centers which are under its control. In a related issue Mr. Clive Stafford Smith, a lawyer representing several Gulf nationals held in Guantanamo, said "These developments constitute a step towards establishing the rule of law for hundreds of non-US nationals in military custody in Guantanamo. A number of lawyers, Human rights activists, from Yemen and a number of Arab countries, criticized the human rights violations that the detainees in Guantanamo and (Bagram air base) are subjected to.

Reports indicate that the victims of the 9/11 are more than twelve thousand detainees in the worlds' prisons,

whereas detainees in Guantanamo reached (520) detainees from Yemen and other Arab and Islamic countries, among them are ten children who are less than fifteen. All those who are not Arabs or Muslims have been released

Hundreds of detainees remain held in incommunicado detention on secret locations while being denied judicial access, and at a risk of torture or ill-treatment. those detainees should be released unless they are charged with recognizably criminal offences, and brought to trial in full accordance with international standards, and without resort to death penalty. Participants reminded USA and other countries, where people are detained in the context of "war against terror" of their responsibility to halt the forcible return of foreign nationals to countries where they would face serious human rights violations. All people in detention are entitled to protection, including access to lawyers, medical assistance and access to their families. they said. Further more, all states must ensure strict compliance with human rights standards in any security cooperation between states, and all security training programs.

Families of the detainees asked to be kept fully aware of their relatives' health and psychological welfare, and be able to send and receive letters from them. They also asked to be provided with adequate support and assistance including the granting of legal aid.

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Solidarity Association sets up its budget

YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

The meeting of the General Secretariat of Solidarity and Social Care Association was held at Al-Sa'eed Cultural Forum's Hall. The meeting was devoted to reviewing the Association's activities during 2004 and setting up the general budget.

Dr. Ali al-Shaibani, Association's President, submitted the report on the Association's activities over the past eight years in terms of training course.

The number of training beneficiaries between 1998 to 2004 reached 1476. Six courses were organized by DIA, IDAS and the Social Fund for Development from 2002-2004. The number of participants was 77 focusing on handicrafts, makeup and making gowns. The number of the benefited families in 2004 reached 433, while the eight year total is 1597 with a total amount of expenditure to the tune of YR 13 million.

About 8675 cases benefited from these aids. Concerning shows, the Association held four shows in 2004. The total number of shows since 1999 reached 19. Regarding loans, about YR 1,579,385 were spent on 27 families since the introduction of the loan service into the Association in at the end of 2004. It is an independent department under the title "Credit and Saving Department".

Supported by the World Bank, the Association constructed a housing city with 240 units located in Ba'rarah area, Taiz. The city is almost completed and the beneficiaries will move to it this month as scheduled by the WB. The city will be needing other facilities such as a mosque, police station, school, and handcraft training center which should be provided by the State.

Concerning the Association's new projects, there is a project focusing on street children which is supervised by Taiz Governor Ahmed Abdullah al-Hajri and Mohammed al-Haj, Local Council's Secretary General. The Governor thanked the Solidarity and Social Care Association for its efforts.

Child kills young girl

Yemen Times Staff

The village of Kharab in Khadir district, Taiz, saw the death of Sarah Naji, aged 10, who was killed by 14-year-old Abdul-Fatah Ghaleb. The killer is reported to have pointed his automatic gun to the victim and fired one bullet that left her dead. The security authorities detained the killer and are investigating with him to know the motives behind the murder.

Enhancing women's legal status

BY: FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

Nowadays most of countries tend to review their laws and regulations and modify them to meet with the international conventions related to women. Yemen is among these countries that have modified some discriminative laws against woman to get together with the international conventions the Yemen has ratified.

In this regard, under patronage of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein AL-Ahmer, speaker of parliament, coordinating with the rights and freedoms committee of parliament, the Women National Committee (WNC) along with UNFPA held on Tuesday 14 June a workshop entitled "Enhancing the Women's Legal Status".

The aim of the workshop was to display the National Strategy of Woman Development (Gender) for 2006-2015 as well as present some laws that should be modified.

Sheikh Al-Ahmar, who headed the discussion, said "Woman have the right to be the partner with man in all fields as she is the mother, wife, sister and daughter. It is not acceptable to marginalize and shun her or ignore her key participation in the social life. Our constitution allows the woman to take part in all the activities of society and encourages her to present and work."

AL-Ahmer further said "We are with



any modification that women claim but it should be within the Islamic Sharee'a (laws and regulations). The woman existence is very essential in all fields and the educated woman is better than the illiterate one for a better generation and future."

Ms. Rashida AL-Hamadani, the head of WNC started "This workshop is gathering the parliament and the Women National Committee with the aim to have agreements on crucial issues in enhancing the woman role in development. The WNC has started reviewing the constitutions laws since 2002 by forming a team to assess 58 regulations and they have found that 20 law in nationality, prisons, civic states, and civic records need modification. However, only 5 medications were approved. Then for the second time

we have found other 12 laws which need to be modified besides the previous 15. So today we will let the modification projects between your hands to discuss them and you will figure out that they are basic needs for Yemeni woman to ensure fair and justice rights to enable her to strongly take part in the society."

Ms. Houria Mashhor, the deputy of WNC, displayed the National Strategy of Woman Development and shed light on the six goals of the strategy that represent in provide the basic education for all by 2015 to reduce the illiteracy among woman. Besides, expanding the job opportunities for women to get all the necessary health care. In addition reduce the rate of poor women into a half and try to empower her economically as well as raise the level of woman participation

quality and quantity in all decision-making to represent women issues. Furthermore facilitate the ways for woman to practice her rights within the international and national conventions. Finally expanding and enhancing the woman participation and role in media and technology and communication field to promote the women concerns.

On the other part, Ms. Fatihia Abdul Wasea, a lawyer, presented the most important modified laws.

Mr. Alexander Ellen, the UNFPA representative, commented on the workshop "I would like to underline that despite of situation with status of women is improving, more could be done during the forthcoming years of introduction of the new 5-year national development plan which strongly connected with poverty reduction strategy and the Millennium Development Project for which Yemen is selected as the only country of the region."

He further said "Thanks to the recent initiative of the parliament, the new legislative acts under the way. The law on emergency safe motherhood could make a dramatic change in the status of women in Yemen through improving reproductive health and easing access to the birth spacing techniques and health care. Directly and indirectly such improvements would lead to broadening women's access to education, social life and decision making.

More courses for policemen on human rights

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The third course for policemen on human rights was concluded last Wednesday at Mercure Aden Hotel in the city of Aden. It was organized by the Hurman Rights and Information Training Center (HRITC) jointly with the UNDP, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Human Rights and was funded by the British Embassy.

At the closing ceremony, Mr. Abdul-Karim Shaif, Local Council's Secretary General, delivered a speech underscoring the importance of the course. He hoped that participants would put into practice the instructions and information.

"We are looking forward to your observing and applying human rights standards as well as the rights of prisoners and detainees," said he.

Izzaddin al-Asbahi, HRITC

Director, stated that defending human rights require first of all the dissemination of awareness and belief in these values. "The issue of human rights is the concern of the whole society which should be undertaken by all people in governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the media," he added.

He called on the police participants to embody the values and concepts they gained.

The closing ceremony was attended by Ahmed al-Dhula'i, Assistant Deputy Governor, Brig. Abdullah Qairan, Aden Security Commander, and a number of officials and interested people.

The course had kicked off on June 13 involving some 40 policemen from Aden, Abyan, and Lahj provinces. This course is to be followed by 6 others in different places in the country aiming to train over 350 police officers.

Amidst opposition MPs' accusations

Parliament approves tariff law

BY MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - June 14- The Parliament approved last Tuesday the draft of the tariff law in its final form amidst accusations by the opposition MPs that Yahya al-Ra'ee, Vice Speaker of the Parliament, deprived them of discussing it.

Al-Ra'ee is accused of referring the law draft for vote without discussing its articles or listening to suggestions of other MPs. The MPs refused to exempt some of main commodities from custom fees and this went contrarily to the government's desires.

The Parliament approved a 5% tariff on flour and 10% on coffee, but on wood, dentistry equipment, kitchen tools and other articles the tariff rose to 10 percent after the Parliament's Financial Committee defined the tariff as 5%.

The MPs insisted on exempting the

main foodstuffs including wheat and rice from custom fees while a 5 % tariff was levied on cars.

The MPs denounced the violation committed by the Parliament Vice Speaker, pointing out that the vote on the law draft was illegal and there is an objection against some articles of the law.

They said the infant milk was supposed to be exempted from customs and what happened is a flagrant violation against the Parliament by-laws. They considered that as a blind support for the government desires at the expense of interests of the nation.

Some other MPs confirmed that the vote on the tariff law draft is wrong, saying: "the committee reconsidered levying 10% customs fees on non-essentials after it reduced the tariff on wood, dental equipment, kitchen tools and aluminum and clothes to 5%.

Regarding the tariff on cars, the MPs said it will operate according to what has been decided by the committee that is 5% on new cars that are only seven years old, and 10% on the older models.

The validity of the period for tariff on cars to be settled is 3 months and after it, any car more than 7 years olds will face a 100% tariff.

Marib man killed by Saudi nationals

Tensions run high over drug trafficking

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

MARIB- June 17- Tribal sources mentioned to the Yemen Times last Friday that Ahmad Bin Samrah, a tribesman from al-Damashiqah, Abeeda was killed by three Saudi nationals from Yam Tribe.

Some of the victim's relatives chased the murderers in the area of al-Rawbic, 60 km east of Marib and killed the Saudi national who has been living in the tribe for a long time while the other two perpetrators fled the scene.

A number of Abeeda sheikhs have intervened to calm down the tension and to avoid any wars or tribal revenges between the two parties.

The sources attributed the incidence to the fact that a group of al-Damashiqah tribesmen caught last week four people having around 50 kg of hashish.

The victim Bin Samrah cooperated

with the group in holding these elements who traffic drugs and led by a Saudi national.

A group of Al-Awshan tribesmen in Abeeda seized during the final days of May three cars loaded with over 2000 kg of Hashish the smugglers have been planning to hide in a Marib house and then to traffic them into Saudi Arabia.

Ten people from Wailah Tribe were caught while being on board the two cars and a third car fled the scene when a tribesman deceived the group that has been chasing the traffickers by saying he is the person they ask about.

The tribesman told other individuals that he had hosted these people (traffickers) who surrendered themselves. Their cars were released and large quantity of hashish with an estimated value of YR50 million was burnt.

The traffickers offered the tribesmen one million Saudi riyals as a ransom for

their release, but the offer was rejected.

The process of burning the seized quantities of hashish took place in the presence of Marib Governor and the Police General Director.

In the same respect, the Specialist Penal Court, presided over by Judge Najib al-Qadri, issued last Sunday a verdict on the case No. 24 for the year 2004 "flagrant crimes".

Under the term "flagrant crimes", seven people were charged with smuggling drugs and distributing them in Yemen. Two of the suspects hold the Pakistani citizenship.

Under the verdict, the two Pakistani nationals Beirkhan and Abdurrahman Taawos were sentenced to death along with Saleh Sa'eed al-Hitam, a Yemeni fugitive, for being involved in drug trafficking and distribution.

Zeyad al-Nihari, Ahmad Saleh al-Mihlisi, and Mohamed al-Hitam, a fugitive, were all sentenced to five years in prison.

The court acquitted suspect No.7 Yasser Abu Shu'arah from the charges filed against him, burnt 14 kg of drugs and confiscated the transportation means that were used by the traffickers.

The security apparatuses arrested the five suspects who were tried by the courts of Sana'a, Aden and Hodeida on November 16 2003.

It is noteworthy that this verdict is the first of its kind in Yemen to sentence people involved in drug trafficking.

Yemen is considered to be a cross-point for drug trafficking coming from the Horn of Africa into the Gulf and other countries.

Over the last few days, drug smugglers tended to exploit tribesmen in trafficking hashish and drugs over the Yemeni borders into the neighboring countries.

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:

How do you assess the educational system in Yemen?

- It is good but needs some minor changes
- It is not that effective; the government has to renovate it
- We need a new educational system - badly

Last edition's question:

Do you expect the 77 Group Summit to change rich countries' attitude towards the Third World?

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| No | 76% |
| Yes | 16% |
| I don't know | 8% |

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Lecture on World Criminal Court and Darfur Issue in Taiz

Yemen Times Staff

The Sister Arabs Forum organized jointly with al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture a lecture titled "World Criminal Court and Darfur Issue. The lecture was delivered by Amal al-Basha, SAF Director - World Court Court's Middle East and North Africa Coordinator. She indicated the role of the WCC and its fields of interest. She also discussed WCC conditions on its performing tasks as well as the hurdles.

Al-Basha shed light on the Darfur issue in Sudan reviewing its legal and political dimensions and the WCC's relation to this issue.

She indicated that a number of Arab states and the US have not ratified the WCC Law. However, there is an article in the World Security Council's Law that provides for taking measures to try war criminals.

The event was enriched with many interventions and comments to which Amal al-Basha responded. The lecture was run by Faisal Sa'eed al-Madhaji, General Manager of Al-Sa'eed Foundation. He delivered a speech saying that Darfur issue should be tackled so that to look for solutions to it and overcome its consequences.

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Yahia Al-Hothi to Yemen Times:

“We want no clashes with the authorities, or to enter into any quarrels with”

The crisis between the Government and the Believing Youth, which is lead by Al-Hothi, is still continuing, in spite of the relatively calm situation. The Government has proposed eight terms to end the crisis, while the Hothists have six. Among these terms are:

- Declaration of amnesty
- The release of hundreds of the detainees of the believing youths and to give them their jobs back.

Yahia Al-Hothi, member of parliament and a member of PGC, the son of cleric Badredeen Al-Hothi, who is now in Sweden, tried to shed light on some of the parts of the crisis, and how to resolve it through an interview via the internet. Mohamed Bin Salaam of the Yemen Times carried out the interview, here are the details

Q: What about the eight conditions that were set by the Authorities as a way out of this crisis ?

A: In dealing with the Authorities we don't need any conditions, let the Authorities set the conditions they want, as long as they are for our good and for the good of the people, and if they are compatible with our constitutional rights, though I noticed the incredibility of the Authorities. During our eager efforts to resolve the crisis, we found that we were used as a trap for our people. They used to be ambushed and killed, as it was the case of the helicopter incident, which we were taking to Maran mountain. At that time my brother Hussien Althoithi agreed to a cease fire. He gave his orders that the helicopter should not be fired at, as it was carrying the expanded mediation committee, sent by the President. They were, clerics, Mohamed Al-Mansour, Ahmed Al-Shami besides the Sheikhs and brigadier generals. We were at Haidan, when, to our surprise, we saw three military helicopters shelling the defenders in Jabal Alhakami. Eight men were killed. There are also other incidents. However we are with any true initiative, local or international

Q: One of the conditions states that “If you have the desire to form a political party you should declare



Yahia Al-Hothi

that, with a pledge to observe the constitution, law and order, or you can join a party you choose... what do you think?

A: We know we can make a party as the constitution guarantees. We had the experience of forming a party before, together with, cultural and social societies, but the authorities had made plots against us, and on all the societies we declared, however small, peaceful and transparent they were. I believe you remember the security problems we had faced, starting from 1992 up to 1995. They used to release convicted murderers on condition that they should fight against us. Military campaigns used to patrol our area in Hamdan, Kholan Amir, and Razih. Many innocent people were imprisoned, because they were members of Al-Hag party. We were forced to abandon the party. Now we have no desire to make a party. We want no clashes with the authorities, or to enter into any quarrels with.

Q: In your opinion, who instigates against you and your kins? In short, who is interested in prohibiting the existence of your missionary activity?

A: First I think the authority was in need of a scape goat, as Sheikh

Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, the Speaker of the parliament told us. It found that we were the least expensive. Secondly, There are others who benefit from the wars, and trade on them, on the expense of the people. Those are inside the military and security forces. They exploit the blood shed and the miseries of the people to build their palaces

Thirdly, There are the fanatic expiatory groups, who seek to adopt Taliban barbaric, backward methods of rule. They have their effect on the authority's mentality. It adopted their expiatory methods, as it is noticed in their press, although these fanatical groups are seeking to spread terrorism, not only in Yemen, but in the neighboring countries, like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt and others. I think you saw the ugly disaster they inflicted within the communities, even here in Europe, as those of the passenger train in Spain. They fear the Easterners here, and consider them as savages. We didn't practice any hostility against them. Those who lived with us know it, and it is the evidence of history.

Q: What is your visions to end the war, that is going on in Sa'ada for some months?

A: The Authority should treat us as citizens with the full rights that are granted to us by the constitution, The Sharia law and the Humanitarian charters. It should also abide by the reconciliation that it committed itself to, and which we carried out, while it chose to go war. I see also the soundness of the suggestion of Mohamed Almaqaleh in Al-Shoura newspaper, issue number 506, in which he said: “The Authority should stop the war right away and seeks seriously to contain its aftermath or else the international community will inevitably intervene.

Q: It is rumored that, the Islah party's leadership has asked the

President during a meeting with him, a few days ago, to give them a free hand in Sa'ada and Hajah Governorates, to refigure them culturally according to the (Wahabi) creed, as a part of a political deal. What do you say to that ?

A: We don't find any problem in the presence of any movement whatever their orientation is. The Islah do not need permission from the authorities. They are already in Sa'ada for a long time now, and they are coordinating with the authorities. We welcome them in Sa'ada, but what we really blame the government for, is its double standard treatment. The Islah Party receives subsidies from the government. The government open our mosques for them, though it knows very well that they are our ancestors' endowments. An example of this is Al-Iman University site, which was granted to them by the President. This site is a legacy endowment from our grandfather Al-Motahar. We don't want to exchange swear-words, or use the expiatory expressions, which they often use against us. They do that, encouraged by the government, in order to do us harm.

Q 6 – Did you request asylum in Sweden? What countries, so far, has offered to grant you asylum?

A: The State here respects individuals. They are sympathizing with us As for the asylum, if I ask it, it is sure to be welcomed. Some countries are ready to help us.

Q7- Have you got any relation with the opposition outside Yemen? If not, do you intend to join any in the future?

A: We are ready to cooperate with all the political movements, whether they are in the Government or in the opposition. As long as this is for the good of the county and the peace and the liberty of our people

Q: What is the outcome of your contacts with the Great Powers?

A: We made a good progress. Many of the International organizations and the International courts that we have contacted understood the immensity of our case. They are now showing concern, and I think you saw the Amnesty International 2005 report.

Mineral and rock discoveries to be on view

The collection of minerals, rocks and fossils discovered in Yemen will be on view in the Earth Sciences Museum, to be established in Sana'a.

The museum will be set up along with three geological centers to resemble a reference with huge database that provides the results of all geological surveys carried out by all mineral explorers.

Illustrative maps of mineral locations and specimen-derived information are designed to be key parts of the collection.

The Geological Survey Authority, the patron of the project, says it aims at bringing benefit to the investors in mining industry.

The authority had in return signed an

agreement of cooperation in field of minerals and rocks discovery with the company of DMT, Duetches Sergio, and Applied Sciences University of Germany.

With the organization of artifacts and manuscripts, it had signed agreement to carry out joint field surveys for a new location of the historical mines.

In early August, a German expedition will begin studying the physical and chemical properties of construction materials and testing the capabilities of local geological labs and raising their efficiency.

Over the past five years, four foreign companies have excavated the potentials of a number of provinces.

Women Quota System is imposed on Yemen, and women involved in election magement

SANAA, June 14 (26-Sept) — Speaker of Parliament and Chairman of Yemen's Islamist Congregation for Reform (Islah) Sheik Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar Tuesday said “the parliament continues to have reservations on the implementation of the quota system for women and giving women certain quotas in the parliament, consultative council and the state organizations.”

He added “we still have reservations for many reasons regardless if the cabinet has approved the quota system,” stressing “the Yemeni woman has to compete in the work field until she obtains popularity if she wants to get

seats in the parliament and efficiency is the real standard in practical competition and women have to compete with men as candidates and the assembly reservations on the quota system is based on social considerations and because this system is imposed on the society.” The Speaker asked: “Why cannot the standard of efficiency be the judge on allowing women to have their constitutional and lawful rights?” adding “if we implement the quota system then the government is required to implement the quota system for the political parties.” He said women have the support of the leadership in Yemen and called on women to “benefit from that support and compete instead of demanding quotas.”

It is worth mentioning that the supreme council for elections also promised to involve women in the administrative committee of the coming elections. This was announced during an intellectual debate on Saturday at the Yemeni Women's Union which was attended by election authorities and pioneer women.

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U.S. lawyers in Yemen to help detainees

Seven U.S. lawyers held meetings in Yemen Saturday to discuss the fate of U.S. detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with their Arab families.

The lawyers were commissioned by Amnesty International to defend the Arab prisoners in Guantanamo.

They sat down with families from Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and discussed the prison conditions of their sons. The attorneys also discussed legal measures they said were

designed to pressure the U.S. administration to give detainees fair trials and release those who prove to be innocent of the charges of terrorism.

The head of the lawyers' team, Clive Smith, said after the meetings there are a number of Yemeni and Saudi prisoners younger than 15.

Smith urged Arab governments to cooperate with U.S. lawyers and Amnesty International in order to secure the release and repatriation of the prisoners.



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The Yemeni-Danish Partnership Programme, The Technical Advisory Office, is seeking a Secretary/Receptionist from 1 August 2005

Responsibilities:

- The Secretary/Receptionist shall serve the Office, the staff and the guests visiting the Office.
- Perform secretarial duties like writing and assist drafting letters, taking minutes and notes, draft invitations etc.
- The Receptionist/ Secretary is responsible for the smooth running of the photocopy machine and the fax machine and for answering and redirect all incoming and outgoing phone calls.

The Secretary/Receptionist is assigned to perform the following tasks:

- Serving the professional staff
- Assisting in preparation of Office documents, letters, notes etc. in English and Arabic
- Providing word processing and other secretarial/administrative services, as and when required.
- Prepare meetings and receptions.
- Assist during and after meetings: Taking minutes, sending follow up letters, collect data etc.
- Taking all in and outgoing phone calls and direct to appropriate person.
- Assisting in making contact and phone calls to the Offices stakeholders, e.g. the Ministries, the donor communities, NGO's, visitors from abroad etc.
- Keeping record of and update telephones and e-mail addresses.

Skills

- Solid computer skills and knowledge of MS Office, particularly Word.
- Fluency in English and Arabic, oral and in writing.

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Erratum

We would like to clarify that in the issue number 850 Yemen Times published an advertisement for British American Tobacco Company in which the company name was misspelled as BTA while the correct abbreviation of the company's name is B.A.T. Our apology.


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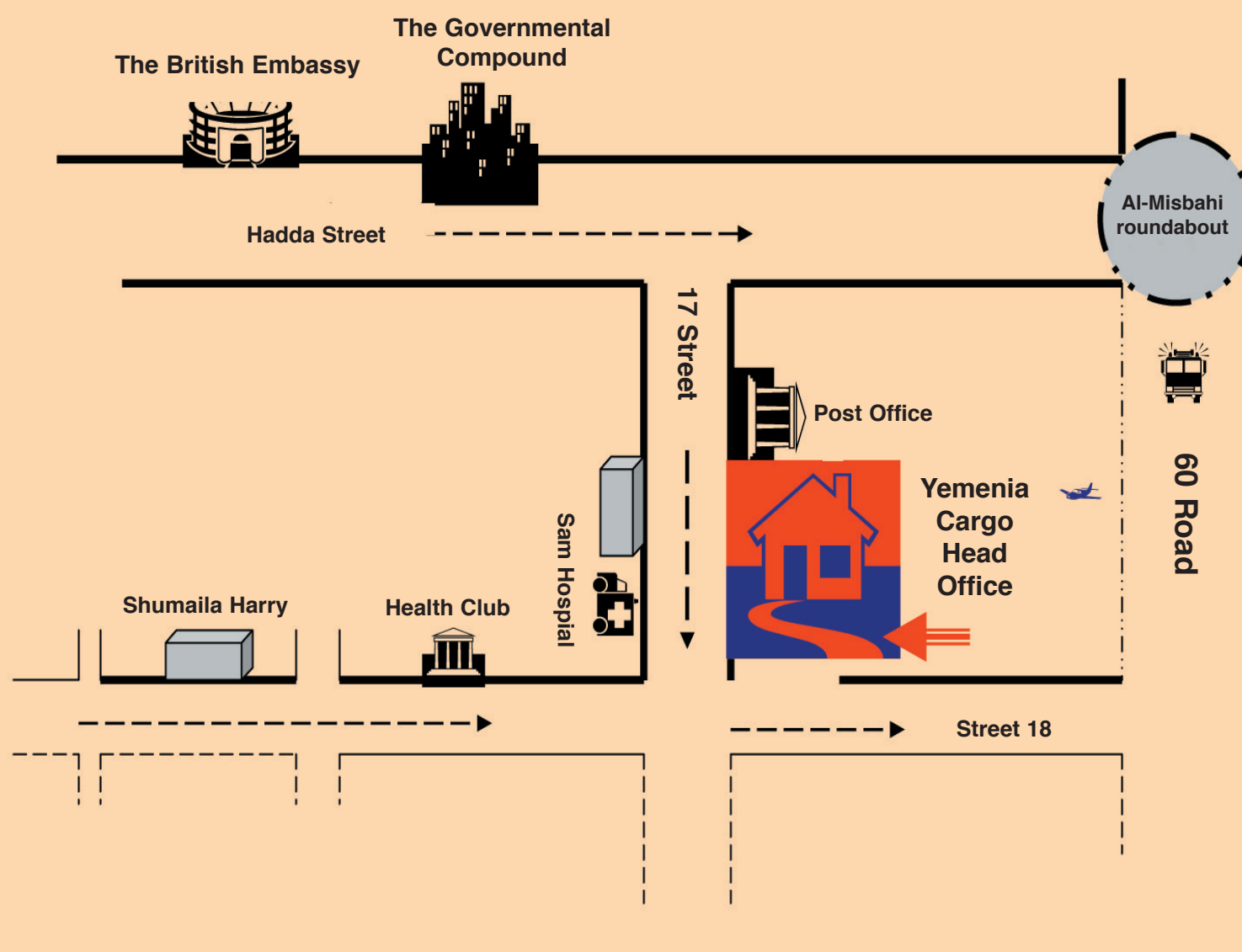


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Rich in vitamins, salts, and calcium, helps improve children's intelligence Wazif: meat of the poor and returnees' gift

By SA'ED AL-SOUFI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

It is said, according to popular stories, that a man from Sana'a ate wazif (tiny fish), got choked and then kicked the bucket. The parable says that people from Sana'a and Dhamar (I don't know why Dhamar), consequently "demonized" wazif and this is why they don't eat it. What we are going to tackle are stories derived from the Taiz rural area and from Shanini Market which is the pioneering place for selling wazif. Some might laugh at the introduction of such a topic, but we are determined to sail through the sea of laughter if we are going lay our hands on Shanini Market's treasure, wazif.

Wazif's relation to Ramadhan Gun

In the old city of Taiz, namely in Mu'attabiyah and other old neighborhoods, certain families excel in preparing porridge with wazif (luqma bil wazif). Even in Ramadhan, women grind wazif with the traditional grindstones mixing it with spices making wazif fattah and hulbah. Ways of preparing wazif differ from area to area. In some areas, it is prepared with porridge mixed with spices and Indian dates. This type of porridge is called "maridah." When it is made with wazif mixed with spices and water, porridge is called "kadhabyah" which is popular in Hujariyah area. Thus, wazif continues to occupy a prominent place among popular meals in Taiz and is on top of the rural meal list with no rival.

Reason behind Taizis' intelligence:

Once, a professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Aden University, said humorously that the reason behind Taizi people's intelligence that exceed others, is their eating wazif voraciously across Taiz districts: Sabir, Jabal Habashi, Shar'ab and Hujariyah areas.

Taiz is ranked first in terms of consuming wazif. However, the rate of buying wazif differs from place to

place.

Hamoud Qasim, wazif salesman, and Fahd al-Ameeri, customer, agreed that people from the above mentioned districts are the most wazif-consuming. At times of paucity due to insufficient fishing for wazif at the port of Makha, some traders have to go as far as Shuqrah and Mukalla ports to purchase wazif. They claim that this type of wazif is cheap because of its quality and bad drying process which makes it appear unclean. Besides, locals in those areas do not eat wazif and prefer to give it to animals.

Prominence

Surveying marketplaces in several areas, we found out that most people avoid wazif, as in Dhamar and Sana'a. In a few of them, wazif was displayed but not that notably. It was only in Shanini market that wazif was displayed very obviously and abundantly as though it was a gold ornament around the market's neck or a aromatic flower that excels famous Paris factory-manufactured perfumes. It is always displayed throughout the market starting from al-Bab al-Kabir and ending at Bab Mosa.

Favorite immigrants' gift

Wazif is of the gifts most preferred by Taizi immigrants. Most of the time their families send them ground wazif with the accompaniment of cheese and honey. There is a positive relation between appetite and wazif. Wazif gets involved even in the emotional relations. The following two humorous lines are said by a woman recalling her husband:

I remembered you as the porridge was served;

And pieces of wazif were being grounded manually.

Makha wazif the best

Makha district with its seashores on the Red Sea remains to be the sole source for wazif. It beefs up Taiz markets with top-quality wazif, according to Shanini wholesalers.

Hamoud Ghaleb Qasim, wholesaler, says: "Makha wazif is the best of its kind in the market. It, and Amran wazif is preferred by consumers because they are clean and delicious. Traders bring wazif from the areas of Makha, Khukha, Bab al-Mandab, Hodeidah, Amran, Shuqra, Mukalla, etc.

Wazif catching season

Fishermen know how to recognize the season for catching wazif. Sa'eed Abdu Salem of Makha says that there are seasons in December, January and February, at the end of winter, when seasonal winds become fiercer for forty days. "Sailors, fishermen and coastal area residents call them the Forty. At such times fishermen cast their nets into the sea and catch large quantities of wazif. In this season, wazif is of a high-quality, unlike other times of the year."

Salem adds that there are big and small wazifs: the big is called abda'a and is used as food for livestock while the small type is preferred by people.

Wazif drying places

In the district of Makha, rocks scatter along the coast on which wazif is put to dry. The drying duration depends on the whether: in cold temperatures, it takes two months but if it is hot it takes only one month. What affects the quality of wazif is the way of drying it.

Parliament's wazif debate

When wazif production is little, crisis comes to Taiz which considers wazif as one of the most important foodstuffs for a broad class of people especially in the rural areas. Wazif dominates their meals as a replacement for fish and meat whose prices are unaffordable by many citizens. Earlier, poor people used to dream about a piece of meat or fish but now they have a new dream, that is, to get a handful of wazif without which they can tastefully eat nothing. When wazif production is little, its price soars creating a real crisis for people.

Once a number of members of

Parliament deliberately discussed wazif through a report on the living conditions (feeding). Their report concluded that, concerning Taiz rural areas, wazif and porridge is the most popular meal over there. They produced that argument to undermine some of their fellow members who said that people's living standard was OK.

Prices

Wholesalers say that wazif prices depends on the quantities of the caught wazif. The price in case of availability ranges between YR 3000-4000 per sack, while in paucity prices skyrocket to between YR 20-25 thousand per sack.

A retailer sells a bushel of wazif at YR 80-100. As the prices increase, people cannot dispense with wazif because it is one of their main foods even if the price of a wazif bushel higher than the price of kilogram of meat.

Yonus Thabet from Makbana district says that he would not prefer a kilogram of meat to a bushel of wazif and he has his own reason. "The meat would be consumed in one meal while the wazif bushel would be used over a week or more." Some of his friends told us that there are people who solely depend on wazif and others diversify their meals but keep wazif present in all of them. "However well-off some people are, they would not give up wazif for the world."

Poor's meat

Fahd al-Ameeri was present at al-Shanini market. He dismantled Sabir mountain into the city of Taiz to procure wazif. When he met us and knew what we were about, he said "I feel happy as wazif's smell overcome me. I feel happier when I get my favorite wazif meal prepared by my mother." He expatiates, "My fellow villagers



in Sabir district buy wazif in large quantities and always eat it. They call it 'Poor's meat'. It is the main component of any meal. The different ways of preparing wazif have given it a variety of delicious tastes. There are families who prepare wazif in different ways: fried, mixed with other ingredients, stewed, etc. Usually it is mixed with hulba giving it a special taste. Wazif is preferred to be eaten with porridge. They are entwined and are recommended for the sick as appetizers. Some laugh at wazif eaters although it contains useful protein which is crucial for human beings.

Oh, how delicious wazif is?

At al-Shanini, we also met 75-year-old Haj Hassan Ahmed who was examining types of wazif detecting the best to buy. He kept on feeling wazif with his hand. "I have come from Jabal Habashi in order to buy our household needs from al-Shanini most important of which is wazif." He returned to feel the wazif, eyeing it with fascinated looks. He admitted that he had been consuming wazif throughout his life. "At home, we have a cow which we

milk and get butter. Yet, we cannot be independent of wazif."

75% proteins

Due to the value of wazif, Ameen al-Hubaish of Ibb province, said that people use wazif as food for their animals in order to get large quantities of milk. This also happens in Hadhramout and other places.

In Taiz, pregnant women and breast-feeders are advised to eat wazif. Sa'eed Salem said that locals think that wazif contains useful materials such as proteins which form 75% of it, calcium which builds and enhances bones, vitamins and salts.

Mohammed al-Hamadi, pharmacist, said wazif contains unsaturated fat acids which help treat rheumatism whereas saturated acids leads up to increased blood cholesterol. Scientific studies have showed that wazif helps build children's grey cells, thus improving the level of their intelligence. Researchers also indicate that wazif contains phosphor and iod which are two important elements for human body functions.

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U.S. launches 2nd major Iraq operation; 50 rebels dead

QAIM, Iraq, June 18 (Reuters) - U.S. forces launched their second major offensive in western Iraq in as many days on Saturday, ratcheting up the hunt for rebels and weapons in the Euphrates river valley that leads to the Syrian border.

Around 1,000 U.S. Marines and soldiers, with the support of Iraqi troops, began Operation Dagger in a hostile, deserted area west of Baghdad early on Saturday, the military said.

"Operation ... Dagger is focused on locating hidden weapons caches and denying insurgents sanctuary in the area that is a suspected insurgent and terrorist logistical hub located only 85 km northwest of Baghdad," U.S. Marine Capt Jeff Pool said.

The offensive comes a little over 24 hours after the launch of Operation Spear around the town of Qaim, about 20 km (12 miles) west of the Syrian border, an area that U.S. forces believe has become a conduit for foreign militants and weapons.

Operation Spear began with a heavy bombardment by U.S. fighter jets, which dropped at least nine 500lb (225 kilo) bombs on suspect rebel hideouts and weapons caches on Friday.

In fighting since then, Pool said around 50 insurgents had been killed and dozens more rounded up. His numbers could not be independently confirmed. Doctors in the town of Qaim said they had received 20 bodies and many more wounded.

No U.S. military were reported wounded or killed.

The twin operations -- both involve around 1,000-men and have extensive air support as well as tanks and other armour on the ground -- represents a substantial escalation of force by the U.S. military in an area that is a notorious rebel bastion.

There have been four major operations in the area since the beginning of May, underscoring the task U.S. forces face.

The huge western Anbar region, which stretches from outside Baghdad to the borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, is predominantly Sunni



A U.S. soldier looks at wreckage caused by a suicide car bomb blast in Baghdad June 18. The bomber was targeting Iraqi national guards but there was no immediate word on casualties. REUTERS

Arab and tribal and has become the heart of the insurgency roiling the country for the past two years.

It is also believed to be the hideout of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant whose al-Qaeda-allied group has claimed responsibility for many of Iraq's deadliest attacks.

Surge in violence

The U.S. military command this week blamed Zarqawi for a surge in violence since a new Shi'ite-led government came to power in late April, with more than 1,000 Iraqis and around 120 U.S. troops killed in rebel attacks since then.

Zarqawi, a Sunni militant, says he wants to provoke civil war between Iraq's majority Shi'ites and minority Sunnis.

Operation Dagger comes two weeks after a similar operation in the area found more than 50 weapons caches and an underground bunker that U.S. commanders believe was a guerrilla hideout.

In March, U.S. and Iraqi forces came across a suspected insurgent training camp in the same area, and killed a large number of fighters in an engagement.

During Operation Spear, focusing on Qaim and the district of Karabila near the Syrian border, troops found four

Iraqi hostages who had been beaten and chained to a wall, Pool said.

Footage shown on CNN showed some people waving white flags on top of sticks, and young and old women in traditional black robes eyeing U.S. troops warily.

As U.S. forces pushed the offensive out west, attacks continued in Baghdad and to the north of the capital.

A car bomb exploded next to an Iraqi army convoy in western Baghdad, wounding six Iraqi soldiers, and a roadside bomb blew up near a U.S. convoy, killing a young child and wounding two civilians, police and hospital officials said.

In Tuz Khurmatu, about 200 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, clashes on Friday between U.S. and Iraqi troops and rebels killed two U.S. soldiers and two Iraqis, the U.S. military said.

The rising toll of U.S. troops, now at least 1,718 since the start of the war, may be one of the reasons behind increasing concern in the United States over Iraq and the role President George Bush is playing.

A New York Times/CBS News poll showed 42 percent of respondents approved of the way Bush was handling his job, down from 51 percent support after the November election.

Rafsanjani narrowly leads Iran poll

TEHRAN, June 18 (Reuters) - Moderate cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani held a narrow lead on Saturday in Iran's presidential election, but was far short of outright victory, with an unprecedented run-off vote now certain, officials said.

Sources close to the Guardian Council, a watchdog body, said Rafsanjani had taken 21 percent of the 26.64 million votes counted from around 32 million cast in Friday's poll.

Former Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a religious hardliner, was in second place with 19.7 percent.

If they hold their edge over their nearest rival, reformist cleric Mehdi Karroubi, who had 17.8 percent of votes counted, the pair will square off next Friday in a deciding election.

Whoever wins, unelected Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the last word on state affairs and hardliners hold key levers of power, such as security and the courts.

Rafsanjani is a veteran politician who wants better ties with the West and would be likely to pursue a pragmatic reform programme, liberalising the economy and preserving social freedoms without antagonising the powerful clerical elite.

Ahmadinejad, a staunch ally of the hardline establishment, appeared to have won the votes of Iran's pious poor, trading on his credentials as a former instructor with the Basij militia, the zealous enforcers of Islamic revolutionary principles.

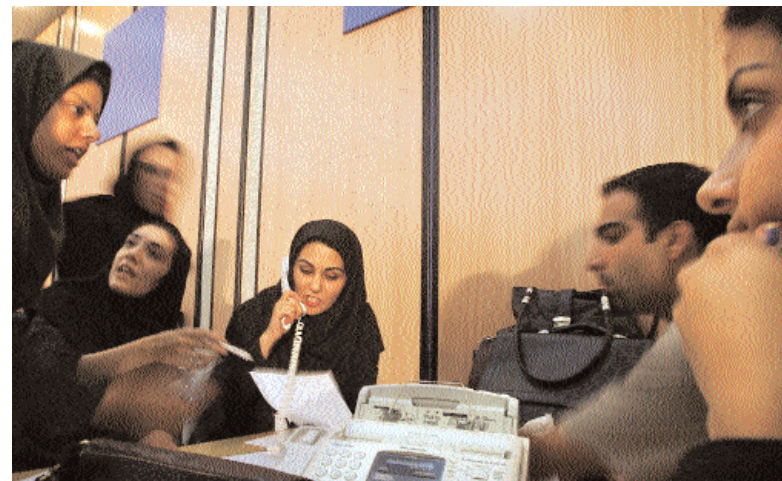
In a campaign where others broke taboos by advocating better ties with arch-foe America, Ahmadinejad said this was "not the key to all our problems".

To secure a first-round victory, one of the candidates needed to obtain at least 50 percent of ballots cast.

Unpredictable poll

No presidential election in Iran has gone to a second round since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"It has been a completely unpredictable election and one still cannot



Iranian election officials work at the Interior Ministry's election headquarters in Tehran June 18, 2005. Moderate cleric Hashemi Rafsanjani was leading on Saturday in Iran's presidential election but the vote was heading for an unprecedented run-off after no candidate secured an outright win, officials said. REUTERS

foresee the final result," Deputy Interior Minister Mahmoud Mirlohi told reporters earlier as the count continued.

Rafsanjani's campaign portrayed him as the only one with the political savvy and clout to resolve Iran's nuclear stand-off with the West and repair ties with Washington.

"I have promised people to continue reforms and I am sure I can deliver my promises," he said after voting.

Voter turnout, estimated at 69 percent, was higher than expected, with Iranians having a choice of seven candidates who had survived vetting by the unelected Guardian Council.

Ayatollah Khamenei congratulated Iranians on the turnout, which he took as a repudiation of U.S. criticisms that the poll was unfair because of curbs on who could stand.

"With your wise participation in the elections, you have once again announced your strong will to be independent, defend Islamic values and have an Islamic democracy," he said. However, the reformist Shargh newspaper dismissed ideas that the high turnout was a defiant response to

Washington or a sign that slick campaign techniques had grabbed voter attention.

Iranians went to the polls because they had experienced the difference their votes could make during the eight-year tenure of outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami, it said.

"This means that democracy is no longer an imported commodity, but now has a native, Iranian identity," it added.

Khatami described the poll as "totally healthy" and said the result would not derail the reforms he initiated.

"Reforms belong to people and have nothing to do with the next president," he told reporters.

The election was the climax to a vibrant campaign that featured Western-style television clips and exuberant street rallies that flouted normally strict Islamic moral codes.

Even many of the conservative candidates had adopted the language of reform, such as increased personal freedoms, and ditched open hostility to the West to appeal to Iran's mainly young voters eager for an end to isolation.

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Kyrgyzstan government says it will crush unrest

BISHKEK, June 18 (Reuters) - Kyrgyzstan's government warned on Saturday it would take tough new measures to crush unrest, after protesters angry at the exclusion of their candidate from elections briefly seized the main government building.

Hundreds forced their way through police lines into the building on Friday, before security forces ended the protest with tear gas and warning shots. Ministers were quick to depict the incident as a failed coup attempt by supporters of exiled former president Askar Akayev.

"We have been too shy to show force to the people. From now on, we will use force in a pretty tough way," Acting Deputy Prime Minister Adakhan Madumarov told a news conference, in response to a question from a German journalist.

"In your report, say hello to Germany so they send us democracy tools like water cannon and tear gas grenades."

Hundreds of troops and police were still deployed around the main government building in the capital Bishkek on Saturday, and officials conceded they were not in full control of the country.

Akayev, who fled to Moscow after an uprising led by now-acting President Kurmanbek Bakiyev in March, told Russian state television neither he nor his family had any link to the incident.

"I categorically announce that neither I, nor my children, nor my son, nor my son-in-law had any relation to the events that took place yesterday in Bishkek," Akayev said, without saying who he thought was behind them.

"In Bakiyev's statement yesterday he said that the leaders of these events managed them from Kazakhstan. As



Kyrgyzstan's Acting Deputy Prime Ministers Daniyar Usenov (L) and Adakhan Madumarov attend a news conference in Bishkek, June 18. Kyrgyzstan's government, rocked by an attempted coup the day before, admitted that it was not in full control of the volatile nation and vowed to use force to boost stability. REUTERS

you see yourself, we are all in Russia."

"Counter-Revolution"

Bakiyev, whose face smiles down on Bishkek from numerous election billboards, is keen to avoid any comparison between the March uprising which brought him to power — a rebellion he describes as a democratic revolution — and Friday's events.

"One can be talking today of a counter-revolution financed by the former regime," Acting Deputy Prime Minister Daniyar Usenov told the news conference.

"We realise not all district heads or regional governors support today's state power ... I have no doubts that if yesterday's coup attempt had succeeded, a certain judge would have ruled already in the evening that it was all lawful."

Local media said prosecutors would travel to Moscow to question Akayev

about the riots. He made no mention of it in his statement on Russian television.

Bishkek's leafy streets were calm on Saturday, despite earlier fears of looting of the kind that followed the March 24 uprising. It was business as usual for shops and cafes.

Police, troops and civilian volunteers guarded the "White House" government area, hiding in the shade from sweltering heat. Large groups of mounted police patrolled the town.

Friday's protesters said their action was provoked by the central election commission's refusal to register Urmatbek Baryktabasov as a candidate for the poll on July 11.

The authorities say Baryktabasov is ineligible to run because he holds a Kazakh passport. They say the protesters were paid by people close to the Akayev family keen to use his Baryktabasov's exclusion as an excuse to seize back power.

India's feuding Reliance brothers reach settlement

BOMBAY, June 18 (Reuters) - Two brothers at the helm of India's largest private conglomerate, Reliance, have settled a long-running dispute that has transfixed the country, carving up their father's legacy in a deal announced by their mother.

The Ambani brothers will split the management of a business empire built by their father, just three years after his death, dividing control of a group with a vast shareholder base and revenues equivalent to more than 3 percent of India's economy.

The deal between Anil and Mukesh Ambani followed months of acrimony that hogged the headlines. It was announced on Saturday by their home-maker mother Kokilaben, who was approached for help by the business-school-educated duo after their ownership and management row became public seven months ago.

It formalises a parting of ways for two of India's best-known business leaders, whose personalities are as distinct as Reliance's myriad interests.

Kokilaben Ambani said in a statement that elder son Mukesh would run flagship Reliance Industries Ltd., with interests in petrochemicals, oil and gas exploration, refining and textiles, and Indian Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd..

Anil will be responsible for utility Reliance Energy Ltd., financial services company Reliance Capital Ltd. and Reliance Infocomm, a leading mobile phone operator that his brother has run since its launch in 2002.

A Reliance Industries statement said the board had authorised a committee to suggest a suitable scheme of reorganisation.

Anil Ambani told reporters late on Saturday that he wished his brother all the best for the future and was confident Reliance Industries would scale greater heights under his leadership.

"This is a new beginning for me. In



The Reliance Industries Limited petrochemical plant at Hazira in western India is shown in this February 2003 file photo. Two brothers at the helm of India's largest private conglomerate, Reliance, have settled a seven-month old dispute that has transfixed the country, carving up their father's legacy in a deal announced by their mother. REUTERS

the days and years ahead I am committed to creating value and adhering to the highest standards of governance," he said.

Mukesh has yet to make a formal comment.

"All focus was so far on the issue of control," said Devesh Kumar, head of equities at ICICI Securities. "Now they should be able to focus on the future of the companies."

But corporate lawyer H.P. Ranina said dividing the assets of the group, with \$23 billion in revenue, would be a minefield of taxation and valuation issues.

Political jet set

Reliance has had links with leading politicians, cutting across party lines. Just this week, a political row broke out following reports the ruling Congress party's president, Sonia

Gandhi, had chartered a Reliance-owned jet to fly to Russia.

The group, founded in 1958 as a commodity trader, is credited with nurturing India's capital markets when Reliance Industries floated in 1977, and it now has more than 3 million shareholders.

"For all of them, this is good news," Prem Gupta, India's company affairs minister, said on television.

The broader stock market will be pleased to see an end to the dispute. Reliance Industries is the second-biggest constituent, and resolving it required the help of powerful corporate players.

Top investment banker Nimesh Kampani was called in to value the group and the settlement was mediated by K.V. Kamath, head of India's largest private-sector bank, ICICI Bank Ltd..

إعلان مناقصة دولية

تعلن جامعة صنعاء عن إنزال المناقصة الدولية رقم (١) لعام ٢٠٠٥ م والخاصة بإعداد الدراسات والتصاميم الهندسية لكليتي:-

١- العلوم

٢- الصيدلة

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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

Ethicizing our walks of life

At the beginning of humankind on Earth, people used to live a kind of primitive life ungoverned by any rules or laws, a type of life, in a way similar to that of animals. Every individual acts the way he feels suitable to him through which he or she thinks it the best method to attain the target in his mind. People were then following their own instincts because communities and societies as we now know them did not exist. In other words, there was nothing in common among them except the following of their primitive instincts.

It took a long time until people had begun to gather in small groups living at a same place and having common goals and interests. Those groups had gradually developed into families and then tribes bearing distinctive names to differentiate themselves from other communities. To further organize their domestic relationships, those human groups started the introduction of certain rules obliging every individual to pursue for the general benefit and interest of all members of the group. They were not written rules and regulations since writing was not invented yet. They were just norms and customs observed by members of those communities for the organization of their everyday life. Only after the invention of writing by the Sumerians, codes and regulations had begun to be documented in laws. The codes of Hamurabi of Babylonia were the most famous group of laws known in history. Those rules and regulations constituted the essence and foundation of the written laws and constitutions we are now experiencing in our communities.

Nowadays, with advancement of life and various technologies, laws and constitutions have become the most necessary needs of life, without them chaos would have prevailed every walk of human life. Humankind found out later that laws are not enough to satisfy their need for regulating the relationships of their communities and therefore they have started to introduce other supplementary regulations and organizational methods. In addition to rules of procedure, organizations, trade unions and professions adopted other types of rules calling them codes of ethics, governing the performance and duties of relevant profession. Thus, now we have medical ethics, press ethics, judicial ethics and several other codes of ethics binding members of each profession to abide by them or otherwise those members are banned from practicing the profession and consequently lose the privileges a certain profession bestows on them. Each member of each profession usually takes an oath on abiding by them before he is granted the membership to that profession. Codes of ethics contain principles of the profession and methods of practicing it and the above all there are certain ethics that should be observed when using those methods.

For press, as a profession, there are codes of ethics in practicing it in addition to laws of journalists' unions in this country or that. Styles of writing and the language used in tackling topics of articles and reports should also be fixed as rules in the code of ethics. There must not be any kind of obscene language, especially when writing about colleagues or other publications. They are obligatory to each member of the union of journalists. Members of the press profession are colleagues, respecting each other and defending each other in cases of threat and harassment and violation of their rights. Therefore, it is really tragic that violations and harassments are issued by colleagues themselves. That in fact defames the profession supposed to be a leading medium of making and leading public opinion towards the community aspirations. If journalists in this country or that have not yet created a code of ethics for their profession, they have not to dally and act at ones to coin such a code out of respect of their profession and reputation so that they could be capable of leading opinion-making movement.

The Editorial Board



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Yemen unity accomplishments

Discussions are still going on between several politicians and economists on the evaluation of the Yemeni Unity. We met some of those elites, who gave their points of view on this matter, and asked all of them one question: *The Yemeni Unity needs correction, as some say it needs to correct its course. Are you with the present policy or with the demand for correction?*

Mohamed Abdulmalik Al-Motwakil



The question should be corrected first. The unity doesn't need correction. It is the political regime that really needs the correction. The unity is the people and the land, unified of their own accord. Ali Abdullah Saleh and Albied did no more than signing upon people's demand. However there are wrong practices: First the dispute over power led to 1994 war. The wrong practices continued both in the North and South. There is a defect in the regime itself that demands correction. There should be separation of powers, and supremacy of law, state's establishments should be neutral, besides a local governance with real authority, mounting to the extent of dismissing the commissioners and district Managers. People in the North and South don't care about the military force, the foreign policy or the parliament. They care about their daily life problems. What they complain of is the defect in the political regime that led to the corruption in administration. This led to security and economical deterioration. Our joint meeting is now seeking to issue a paper of political reform. Without political reform there won't be qualified administration

Dr. Bilqis



Are you with the existing policy, or are you with those who demand the change of the policy, that relates to unity?
Our debate today comes after 15 years of

the unity. The unity has given the political situation and the women a great push. Women are now participating in parliament, the Consultants' council and others, though the representation in these establishments is not enough. As I say; could there be democracy without women's participation?

Q: Could there be democracy without women?

A: Women are half the population in Yemen. For development to proceed Yemeni women should participate effectively, because she is the only who can express her interests properly. Women should be participating in decision making, because she is now a university teacher. There are so many qualified women who can lead this country. We demand change, now, and we demand quota procedure to be applied.

Mohamed Alsabri



We think there is an urgent need to correct the situation which has resulted in impoverishment, starvation, unemployment, corruption and a recess in development. All these factors make the reform issue a must. It should not be delayed or withdrawn. That is why in our joint meeting parties, we are going to present two papers explaining the areas of reform to be carried out and ask the people to stand on our side

We are not with the present policy, but we are not against unity. The present policy endangers national unity. It has a sort of discrimination between people in the implementation of the law. This could be unintentional by the state towards one area or another but certainly there is a mismanagement. The irresponsible policies could lead to the division of a country. The unsuccessful management of recourses could bring the down fall of an empire. The infringement of human rights could lead to public unrest and destabilize the country. The separation of the administrative, legislative and judicial powers, would lead to supremacy of law. Our economical crisis is widening, a thing that will make the political and informational

practice of no use. It implies that our generation is depleting the recourses of future generations. It is all due to mismanagement, and the corruption is no more than an indication to it. If accountability and transparency prevailed in this country, economical conditions will improve. We are in need of respect of human rights and freedom of media. We are also in need of constitutional reform. The type of system is not clear now, whether we are presidential or parliamentary, we want a clear cut administration that separates between the powers. The powers are now concentrated in one hand. The present electoral system is bad. It also needs reform. It freezes the present situation. Our educational system also needs to be reformed. In its present state it won't produce a generation that is able to live in a unified community. A strong judiciary is also needed. Judiciary affects all aspects of the country, so reform of education and judiciary will be a vital matter. They will be the pillars of the future political and democratic development of this country.

Dr. Adil Al-Sharjabi, participating social studies teacher in Sana'a University.



In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with the unity. It is a procedural matter. It needs no correction. What needs checking is the regime, and the existing policies, (democracy). In brief, when we speak about democracy nowadays some say it is the correction of democracy. We didn't reach a democratic level yet. We changed into a community run by the state, control of wealth and the jobs...etc. That is why we speak of the necessity of reform in all positions. They are as follows:

- 1-Right of nationality for all
- 2-Equality is almost absent, that is why we need to activate the law. It is daily violated from a dominating force, which possesses major social powers. We need structural systems, in which the one who possesses the power uses it lawfully. He shouldn't use it as a personal possession. We don't need to reform unity. We are in need of social reform.

The expensive cost of freedom

Journalists are facing unprecedented measures of suppression, since the unification in 1990, the time when multi party and free press started.

During the past 15 years of unity, the journalists have faced illegal detentions for criticisms of government officials, especially the President of the Republic, or the Saudis. Saudi authorities think that it happens by consent of Yemeni authorities.

The socialist party was driven out of power following its defeat on the hands of the armed forces loyal to the president Ali Abdullah Saleh in the 1994 war. This was a set back to modernity forces which used to find shelter under the umbrella of the socialist party. The tribal and traditional Islamic groups took refuge under the People General Congress. Appeals and external pressure increased on the President to lift restrictions on freedom of publication and permit the ownership of private radio and television stations. On top of these demands were the cancellation of detention in press cases. Prior to his participation in the G8 summit and among a few of the middle east partners in the war against terror, the President,



BY MOHAMED ALGHOBI

ordered the ministry of information to amend the press and publication law to cater for the cancellation of detention of journalists, so as to widen the scope of press liberty.

A few weeks following this incident, a primary court imprisoned the chief editor of an opposition newspaper Al-shoura for a year. It was accused of publishing articles thought to be supporting the insurgent Zaidi cleric Hussein Al-houthi, who was later killed in September. Shortly after that, there was also a conviction against Abdulkreem Sabra, chief editor of al-Huriah newspaper. There was also a prison conviction against Abdulgawi Al-gobati for publishing an article, which the judge considered to be critical to the President. The opposition has little trust in the formal declarations. What happened shows that the executive powers have a double slandered address for the Europeans and USA, that contradicts what happens inside. The new draft law of journalism, prepared by the Ministry of Information, confirmed the anxieties of journalists. It seems to be worst than the previous one.

The intelligence fabricated a case against the left wing opposition writer

Abdul-Rahim Muhsin. Two members of the intelligence intercepted his car, and led him to the Haja prison. They put a bottle of wine on his back seat and a formal report was published through the formal news agency that he was found driving his car while he was drunk. Some leaders in the ruling party say that the report is false. They assure that he was detained because of his writings. The authorities wanted to terrorize the opposition by accusing them of moral cases, in a traditional community, a thing that will shun them.

It is not only the revival of the security measures before the unity that bothers the opposition, those measures went beyond that, when a paper affiliated to the ruling party, which published only its zero issue, accused a female journalist of adultery and immoral practices. Reactions are still going on in denouncing this accusation and consolidating the journalist, the journalists demand a penal punishment against the newspaper, but the prosecution is still procrastinating in submitting the case to the court

If those who are responsible are not tried, the harmful effect of the case will continue. In a traditional community as Yemen, it will affect all females in political and journalism field. This matter will greatly frustrate western efforts to widen female participation in decision-making.

Our education system isn't friendly to the children

NADA HUSSEIN FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

For many a youth in Yemen today, attaining the goals of education is generally perceived to be a long and cumbersome journey. Our current education system is designed in such that a lot of time and concentration is needed to comprehend the broad spectrum of subjects that one has to cover. The many assignments given to students only make the load more difficult for them. To add insult on injury, the English language ring a bell in the minds of many students of which without it they get a better endowment in the job market. Less attention is paid to this international business language in our public schools but this will be another story. The young learners and

especially those in primary school are a very energetic lot. All their energy cannot exhaustively burnt up by the classroom assignments. They need plenty of time to play. To make the learning experience effective, children need to be in a jovial mood. Attaining education is a thing to be proud of. The process of attaining it thus ought to be interesting to encourage more children to join the school. It should not be made to appear like a painful initiation process that one has to go through to attain maturity. Students need to be eager for the future fruits of the education. The parents should be more involved in the learning progress of their children. Many parents do not bother to enquire from the child what problems they encountered in school at the end of the day. They leave it for the drivers or maids to drop the children at school in the morning and then

pick them again in the evening. Unfortunately some of the parents will only remember that the child is in school when they ask for a new book or other school equipment. The Government can also play a big role in changing the negative attitude that is some times taken by students against school by ensuring that teachers get good training on public relations. This can greatly improve the relationship between teachers and their students. With a more conducive learning environment for all, the Government should not find it difficult to achieve its goal of alleviating ignorance and poverty from the society. In addition, the government need to combat child labor where majority of our will-be future leaders, the people who could end up playing important roles in the society are turned to be Qat dwellers.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Amnesty International and Mr. Bush

It goes without saying that it seems that the issues of human rights and the right to uphold different political views has never been subjected to a harder ordeal than that being witnessed in the present time. Not only is the fight for human rights becoming a formidable challenge in the Third World countries, where, in some countries, even the most basic of human rights are as far away as Breakfast at Tiffany's, but even the most looked up to democracy in the world has decided to embark on a clearly open systematic pursuit of limiting and restricting the enjoyment of fundamental human and political rights of its own constituencies, to a certain extent. While not yet declaring itself an open dictatorship or a totalitarian order, it is nevertheless quite obvious that the present Administration in the White House has decided to set out on an agenda that has grossly changed the trend of political and social development that began with the coming of the Prophets and the costly struggles of thousands of the inhabitants of this planet over the centuries.

Moreover, the White House has allowed itself to be the infallible judge of all other people, who may not be conducive to the agenda pursued by the neo-con and old-con establishment in the United States, or who may have a different viewpoint as to how to deal with the problems of the world. To add fuel to fire, the White House has openly attacked any political regimes accepted by their very own constituencies, without truly having any real inkling as to the real merits and positive aspects of such regimes or how they operate. The latest attack against the elections in Iran are a clear case in point, where it is obvious that Mr. George W. Bush was clearly expressing biases and prejudices rather than constructive criticism of a fundamentally operating democracy that has the full acceptance of the overwhelming majority of the people of Iran and has earned the respect of many in the international community. The latest and previous elections of Iran shown that Iran is far more progressive than most of the oppressive and autocratic orders that the Bush Administration praises as "friends and allies" in its own rendition of the "War on Terror".

As if that was not enough, the Bush Administration then goes on to lash out at important institutions of civil society that have merely affirmed what many of America's leading thinkers, writers, and politicians have been stating for some time now: that Guantanamo Prison is simply out of tune with internationally accepted principles of human rights and humane treatment of people, who may or may not pose any threat to anyone or who are far away even from the people that the Bush Administration has claimed to be their No. 1 Public Enemy. The latter are still at large and not seeming to pose any serious worry or concern for the White House and the establishment that has openly declared a war against a significant portion of humanity, not so much as a consequence of a severe attack on the interests that stand behind the Bush Administration. Rather, this war was a predetermined agenda set out to serve the narrow interests of a dangerous evil force that seems to believe it has the right to bring down all of humanity to its knees and to stand out of the way, while the establishment plunders the elements of the planet and destroys its natural and social cohesion. We have read and found many Americans, who truly see Guantanamo prison as being far away from the shining example of American democracy, which the Bush Administration purportedly wants to propagate throughout the world. So, it should not be surprising to the Bush Administration that the harsh treatment meted out to prisoners, who are detained without legal or constitutional pretext, should come under criticism of a human rights watchdog organization like AI. One, in fact, expected the White House to hopefully come to an awakening that if AI is critical of the way the Bush Administration has behaved in Guantanamo, then as a democracy that gives weight to the significance of civil society, it should seek ways to demonstrate that it is indeed an upholder of democratic principles. But as usual the Bush Administration has demonstrated that indeed it is liable to even further criticism by harshly lashing out against its critics, as if to tell the world that the Bushniks and their Likudnik mentors have a God given hold on infallibility and their rights are only governed by the evil interests they serve rather than the desire to enhance and uphold the rights and welfare of people all over the world. It is really high time for the Bush Administration to understand that they will and must be subject to the criticism of respectable organizations like Amnesty International, whose credibility has far surpassed any credibility the Bush Administration has ever displayed.

Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



As-Shoura weekly, organ of Union of People's Forces of Yemen (UPFY).

Main headlines

- Dr al-Mutawakil requests from Political parties committees to support the UPFY to regain its headquarters and side with it according to the law
- Press prosecution rejects activation of the UPFY complaint against the newspapers of Al-Thawra and 26 September
- Al-Bakhiti arrested because of his opinions and press writings
- Legal organizations: Sentence against Dailami and Muftah violated the constitutions and international charters
- Journalists Syndicate denounces against creating split and warns against passing on the syndicate's draft law

MP Sultan al-Samie writes saying the reform we mean is not the partisan one, as some would think, but rather the political reform which the super power of the world, the United States of America, is adopting. The writer says that the reform, whether it is close or far, is a popular demand throughout the Arab nation because she is the most nation suffering from oppression of its rulers and almost is the poorest nation despite of its possession of more than fifty percent of the world riches.

The writer adds that when reform

comes from outside and is imposed on the rulers by force, the price would be high and mostly it is paid by the peoples, whether at present or in future.

On the situation in the region, the writer confirms that it could be noted that the state of wrath has already begun in preparation for moving to the second stage towards a comprehensive reform. Some governments have started to respond reluctantly to some demands of their people and with continued pressure the people would surely achieve their demands, whether the rulers want it or not.

Our country is one of these countries heading for change towards the political reform. Out of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's stand and inspired by requirements of the present stage and in response to desire of the entire humankind for the realization of justice and equality, there must first be constitutional and legal amendments in compatible with the required political reform at this stage.

The second thing is that there must be a transitional period during which a government of national unity should be formed. Thirdly the ruling system must be democratic parliamentary as that applied in Malaysia. Fourthly, political parties and all political organizations and activities should sign a national ethics charter pledging to work for holding free and honest elections.

Fifthly, there must be a general pardon for all politicians and politically wanted person for political issues, inside and outside, and release of all

prisoners for political issues. Sixthly, those who had been affected by the wars of the end of seventies and the war of Saadah. The writer suggests that the country is divided into four regions and therefore in his seventh point he suggests that each of those four regions should have a share of 15% of the natural wealth excavated from it, such as oil, gold and other types of riches.

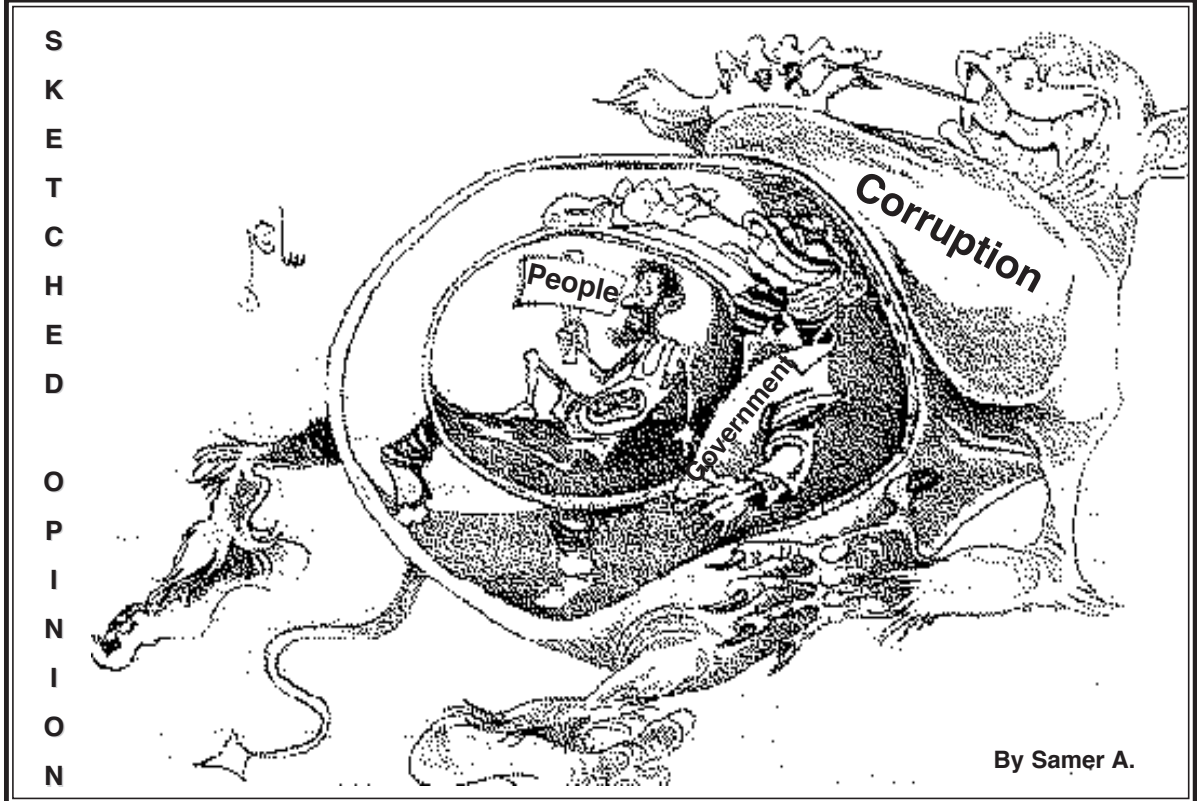


Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation.

Main headlines

- Yemen receives detainees from Guantanamo Bay base
- 113 cases of dengue fever and polio in one week, 20 thousand cases of AIDS
- NUO general secretariat evaluates results of meeting with the president
- US commander of the central command makes a sea tour of Aden in precaution of Qaeda members infiltration
- No meeting between JMP and American diplomats

The newspaper's managing editor writes about the reformist movement of June saying the rectifying movement of 13 June 1974 came with cautious steps from inside the army bearing a national project to rectify the course of the 26 September revolution and its first steps



By Samer A.

was the statement issued by the army. The statement had criticized the big failure and deterioration of the situations that were prevalent in the country, calling for urgent reform to end that abnormal state. The article goes on mentioning that the then political forces had praised the statement of the army and saw it as bearing a concern towards the homeland that all was thinking about. The Yemeni students league in Egypt in Cairo at that time rushed to welcome the movement and expressed willingness to cooperate with it. Despite the prevalence of the Nasserite characteristic of the movement, participation of all the country's political trends in it had continued in

various institutions of the state because the Nasserite orientation was intending an example of rule aimed at participation of all political spectra in order to formulate a draft of the national charter so as to be the people's charter.



Al-Haq weekly.

Main headlines

- America demands agents and spies to work for serving it
- Military men seize a citizen's land
- Hood reacts to the question of attack on journalist al-Khidhr al-

Hassani

Columnist Ali al-Sulaimani writes saying that diseases have increased and spread in various governorates of the country, such as polio, dengue fever, malaria and others in addition to many frustrating things as the speedy deterioration of the Yemeni riyal against hard currencies, the mad rise of prices of different consumer goods and spread of corruption in various departments of the authority. All those are examples of a crisis the people of Yemen are experiencing and necessitate an immediate interference from the government of Abdulqader Bajammal and accountability of the minister of health.

Policy Line
by Fatima Fouad
fatima@yementimes.com

Chaotic Democracy

Some Arabs think that delivering Democracy to the Middle East means bringing more Americans on board. The mere thought of it is horrific, given the fact that they usually come on F16s.

Bringing democracy to the Middle East with war is not a concept that we can easily chew, there is a fear that democracy in the Arab world can only be executed through the unusual, through violence and blood. Especially that every peaceful attempt to bring the same concepts to the former Soviet Union States failed drastically.

Iraq constitutes the ultimate example of a democratic American dream that turned into a nightmare. The reconstruction of Iraq is now based on western values that defies every sense of an Arabic vision (assuming that there is one). In fact, it is based on too many fragmented identities that fail to achieve a unified voice. People in the region cannot observe a democratic culture of inclusion and participation, the bombings and killings are the major witnesses event at the moment.

The ongoing horrors in Iraq executed in the name of democracy and freedom are enough to confuse our illiterate audience, but they speak strategically to our elites. There is more than one message that can be deduced from the ongoing events, all these strategic messages subtly tackle the importance of understanding the new requirements of change and forming a better alliance with the west.

The stress to foresee what is happening in Iraq as a successful democratic process cannot fool the Arabs. The coming years will dissect the current politics in detail, but what is going on now is quite simple: After the fall of the dictatorship, there has been a failure to achieve consensus and consultation with all the fragmented segments of the Iraqi population. In fact, it has been easy enough to turn them against each other and fuel conflict. The leadership of Iraq, is simply not there.

The emphasis of bringing 'Chaotic Democracy' guarded by international troops questions the commitments of the US in bringing serious reforms to the region. This has been a serious slap to long term development initiatives and peaceful solutions.

Furthermore, the escalated tones that are addressing Syria and Iran are impatient and provocative, they are indicative of the desire of bringing more troops to the Middle East rather than bringing democracy.

In a desperate search of alternatives, Islamic values of achieving consensus and consultation have resurfaced as great concepts of local democracy but they, like democracy, are stagnant in the Middle East. The aspirations of revitalizing an Islamic state have been confused with focusing on an Islamic dress code rather than working for prosperity for the people. The core Islamic concepts of achieving Justice and Governance have been left undeveloped. Hence, the failure of achieving an Islamic form of democracy is much similar to the failure of achieving democracy; the champions advocating for both strategies lacked the vision to adapt to local circumstances and resisted change.

Development-wise, we are witnessing free and fair elections in Iraq that are feeding the western Media. However, elections are merely a tool in implementing democracy and they should not be seen as the end of objective. The major players in this Iraqi democracy are Shiat, Kurds and Sunnis who are eager to participate in a game that they have never played before. Building up the experiences of those will need time, resources and most likely lots of blood.

The Middle Eastern people crave democracy but they can not afford war. There is a great aspiration of democracy that can only be developed by a free strong nation. The masses of Arabs do not have the simple tools that can make this democracy work. In Europe and the States, Media, Civil Society, Elections, parliament and public opinion has its own weight. I can recall seeing any influential group or institution in the Middle East that has a strategic voice in challenging the ineffective.

Democracy is not just a term or an aspiration from the west. Democracy by itself is a value that can only be nurtured by culture. It can simply flourish or die. Without having the democratic institution that can foster a proper environment for change, developed only by the people who demand this change, the whole initiative will always head to failure.

A Europe for All

By YULIYA TYMOSHENKO

Longtime members of the European Union now seem to doubt the Union's future, but we in Ukraine look at the European Union with hope and admiration. To join in the EU's progress is the basic object of our foreign policy, for Ukraine has discovered that nationhood is not an end, but a beginning. Indeed, European unity is indivisible: when one nation is ostracized, all are not free. We Europeans are caught in an inescapable net, tied in a single garment of destiny. Every aspect of our shared culture, if not the last century of shared suffering, confirms that for us. Whatever affects one European directly, affects all indirectly.

Never again can we afford to live with the narrow notion of two Europes, of haves and have-nots, of insiders and outsiders. Anyone who lives within the European continent cannot – indeed, must not – be considered a stranger to its Union. Today's great Pax Europa and today's pan-European prosperity depend on this. Of course, some people mutter that Ukraine is not Europe. Let them come to Kyiv and speak to the people, young and old, factory worker, farmer's wife, the lawyers and doctors and teachers who stood and stayed in the cold and snow for weeks on end last winter to defend their freedoms.

Are they not united with those who stood alongside General de Gaulle in the French Resistance? Are they not one with those who died fighting for the Spanish Republic in the 1930's, who liberated Budapest in 1956 and ended fascism in Spain and Portugal in the 1970's? Are they not animated by the same spirit as Poland's Solidarity and the peaceful masses that created Prague's Velvet Revolution in 1989? That is the true European spirit, and no doubts can crush it.

To those who say that Ukraine is too backward for EU membership, I say: Let them, too, come to my country and see the mothers who stay late at night at work teaching their children to use their workplace computer. Let them come to the language classes in every village and city where young people are readying themselves for Europe by learning French and German and English. Those who doubt Ukraine's European vocation should understand that Europe is not a matter of hardware and superhighways; it is the unquenchable desire for freedom, prosperity, and solidarity.

I believe that our future is as promising as Europe's past is proud, and that our destiny lies not as a forgotten borderland of a troubled region, but as a maker and shaper of Europe's peace and Europe's unity. Self-determination no longer means isolation, because achieving national independence nowadays means

only to return to the world scene with a new status.

New nations can build with their former occupiers the same kind of fruitful relationship that France established with Germany – a relationship founded on equality and mutual interests. That is the type of relationship that my government seeks with Russia, and achieving it is how we can help extend the zone of Europe's peace.

Of course, it is premature to do more than indicate the high regard with which we view the prospect of EU membership. We know that our part in that great edifice will not be built overnight. We know that the great works of European unification lay not in documents and declarations, but in innovative action designed to better the lives and insure the security of all Europeans.

Building a Ukraine worthy of EU membership will not be easy, cheap, or fast. But, like the Union itself, it will be built and it will be done. We know the challenge is great, but the prize is worth the struggle, and Europe should know that this is our goal.

Part of the work of renewing Ukraine is a creative battle to put an end to a nightmarish century during which fascism and communism – ideologies born in the heart of Europe – battled for mastery. Only a few months ago, in cities throughout Ukraine, our children and our parents confronted armed troops, snarling dogs, and even death. Only a few years ago, a young journalist, Georgi Gongadze, seeking to inform the public about our old regime's corruption, was brutalized and beheaded by that regime's thugs.

But our Orange Revolution last winter shows that Ukraine's people prevailed. So, despite today's doubts and difficulties, I retain an abiding faith in Europe. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities and horrors of Ukraine's history. I refuse to accept the view that Ukraine is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of communism's legacy that we can never see the bright daybreak of peace and true European unity. When the EU's citizens ponder Ukraine's place in Europe, they should look both beyond and more closely at the face they see. They should look beyond the ravaged wastelands that communism inflicted, beyond the poverty, and beyond the social divisions through which our discarded ex-leaders sought to prolong their misrule.

Instead, they should look closely at the face of our president, Viktor Yushchenko, ravaged by poison during last year's election campaign, and recall the words of the great Frenchman André Malraux, for whom "the most beautiful faces are those that have been wounded."

Yuliya Tymoshenko is Prime Minister of Ukraine.

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SILVER LINING
By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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Will the opposition challenge Saleh next year?!

The questionnaire that al-Sahwa net published last week about the expected results of the presidential elections September next year has been very interesting and has invited an angry response from the ruling party's media. The questionnaire has given president Ali Abdullah Saleh 47% while the unknown candidate of the opposition parties got 46%.

I do not find an explanation to the anger of the ruling party media which described the questionnaire as false, fabricated and was not based on scientific criteria. It claimed that president Saleh commands the respect of all the Yemeni people and has got a lot of fans. But winning the presidency with 47% does not undermine or defame Saleh or his tenure in office. Rather, it will show, if it happens, that there is real democracy in Yemen. Why this fury?

In a democracy, we should have a loser and a winner. This wrath shows we have not reached that level of accepting the results of voting. I guess if such a result is going to take place, it will be an advantage to Yemen's democracy. It will be an asset to Saleh as well as it will show him as a person who has helped in enhancing democratic values in his society. Having an opposition challenger to Saleh means nothing but that this is democracy and we should accept it. Democracy entails the right of the masses to choose their ruler and we should respect it regardless whether who wins or loses. We can not claim to be democratic while we have only one candidate. This can never be democracy expect in the Arab world where the rulers win elections or let us call it referendum with 99.9%.

But the question that is being raised by a number of people interested in the political life of the country is: will there be a candidate for the opposition parties challenging president Saleh and who?

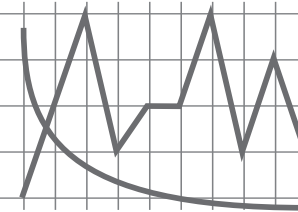
In the final analysis, the Joint Meeting Opposition Parties must have a candidate to run the presidential elections. This is very crucial, otherwise there will be no meaning for having a democracy. I know that it is a big challenge for the opposition to do this but they should face it if they want our democracy flourish and prosper. I agree with Ali Saif Hasan of the Political Development Forum when he told the media recently that "if the opposition coalition does not have a nominee to challenge Saleh, the wheel of politics in Yemen will come to a standstill." This is very true as this will bring about hope and optimism among the masses that a change is still possible. Otherwise, the people will go more and more pessimistic about the ability of the multi-party system and democracy to breathe a new hope of change into their life.

I know that some people will say that tomorrow never comes and that their participation in parliamentary elections most of the time does not bring fruitful results as they see the same people, the same parliament, the same majority and the same decisions. People are losing hope that their parliament which is toothless is in any way representing them and voicing their problems.

The opposition should not betray the general public and allege that they cannot have a candidate to challenge Saleh due to this or that. They should, however, live up to the expectations of their fans or die out.

To drive the point home, I envisage it is very important and to the benefit of our emerging democracy that there should be a real challenger to president Saleh. It will be a privilege to Saleh to win elections with 51% rather than with 90%. In other words, the coming elections is a genuine challenge to both the ruling party and the opposition coalition. In fact, it tests and questions the legitimacy of political system and sustainability of Yemen's democracy at large. Don't you think so?!

YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	193.0000	193.2500
Sterling Pound	349.0900	349.5400
Euro	232.8600	233.1700
Saudi Rial	51.4600	51.5300
Kuwaiti Dinar	660.9400	661.7900
UAE Dirhem	52.5500	52.6100
Egyptian Pound	33.2600	33.3000
Bahraini Dinar	511.9600	512.6200
Qatari Rial	53.0200	53.0800
Jordanian Dinar	272.4300	272.7800
Omani Rial	501.3100	501.9500
Swiss Franc	151.3100	151.5000
Swedish Crown	25.1500	25.1800
Japanese Yen	1.7668	1.7690

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

A Historical Glimpse at

The facts of foreign investments and financing in the Republic of Yemen (Part 3)

Yemen has witnessed spectacular political changes since 1990 that attracted the interest of international researchers and writers due to its impacts regionally and internationally, on one side, and its contribution to the study of international changes on the other side, since the achievement of unity on the hands of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Other issues are the changes that accompanied. They were represented by the democratic process, with the regional effects of the unity, and the consequences of the second Gulf crisis and their reflections on the relations between Yemen and its neighbors. Added to that is the elections of 1993, 1994. Another development is the escalation of political differences in 1993-1994, which ended in a civil war that continued for two months from the 4th of April to the 7th of July, and ended with the defeat of the separation project and the restoration of unity. All these were important points in the Yemeni political development, which the international writers had tackled in a manner that reflects their interest in their results on Yemen and the region as a whole.

We can observe the dimensions of the western interest in Yemen, after the unity in 1990 from a number of perspectives, in connection with the changes that were connected with the unity. The importance of Yemen increased after the establishment of the new Republic of Yemen on the remains of the former South People Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen, and the consequences of the merger of population, the geographical region, the economy and the military forces which left important impacts that could not be ignored.

The geographical merger raised the population number to 20 million, accord-

ing to 2004 census, which made it the first state in the Arab peninsula. The geographical merger put Yemen in second place to Saudi Arabia, with an area of (60,000 sq. km) after the demarcation of borders with Saudi Arabia in June 2000. The military, economical, and political abilities of Yemen have greatly multiplied, because of the several experiences it gained after unity. It could be said that Yemen has inherited two armies, two economies and two experiences, though the factors of political conflict undermined it during the transitional period, and the 1994 war has wasted even, if temporarily a great amount of these abilities, but still, the unified Yemen is a focus of interest for a number of factors, among them the stability which Yemen is considered to be one of its basis, in one of the most sensitive areas in the world.

The process of the unity in Yemen was connected with a number of oil discoveries in the governorates of Marib, Hadramout, and Shabwa, which stimulated the rush of western and international companies to obtain contracts for oil and gas discoveries, and to invest in those two sectors.

No doubt this has an effect on the interest on Yemen in spite of the small amount of oil production in comparison if compared with the neighboring countries, but development indications were still high especially in gas. This item is expected to have high importance in the future.

It is clear that the reasons of the prevailing an equilibrium in our economy is mainly due to the general spending policy of the different governments, but the development problems are attributed to historical, economical, social, political and technological factors. They have

restricted the levels and nature of the development of the technological economy and its requirements in sectors of production and services. These factors lead to the deterioration in the quality of the mechanism of mobilizing the use of economical recourses, especially those of the central control of the state economy, and the unqualified procedures of the government.

Yemen has depended on foreign financing before and after unity (loans and aids), instead of obtaining investment financing from foreign companies. This led to an increase of gain services on foreign debts. They reached 4.4 milliard in 1994 of the total foreign debt, which was inherited from the two regimes, whose total was 11 milliard dollars, with the exception of a few, big investments before the sixties. Those were before discovering the oil in 1984. When oil discoveries began, the special and public foreign investments began their competitions to play roles in Yemen not only as importers, but also as partners and investors. The direct foreign investment increased if compared with the foreign aids as a source of financing.

There were positive results in this respect, in the rescheduling of the foreign debts at the end of 1996, according to Napoli and Paris Club, which is supported by the agreements of the International Monetary Fund on reforms. An agreement was reached in Paris Club to drop about (80%) of the total Yemeni Russian debts whose amount was 7 milliard dollars, by rescheduling it on the long term, so that the foreign debts will be less than five milliard dollars by 2001. In 2000-2001 Yemen has signed an understanding memorandum with creditor countries to re schedule and rebury about 695million

dollars of its trade debts, through a donation of 15million dollars furnished by the International Development Authority. This is a success for the government in its reform program to reduce the total of the foreign debt to about 11 milliard which constitutes the rate of 206% of the national product up to the end of 1996, to 4869.9 million dollars 4, whose rate is 55% of the total national product of 2001. The rate of foreign debt increased to 5.381million dollars by the end of 2004, but the process of mobilizing and distributing the economical recourses, which constitutes up to now an effective factor in economical activity, is still affected by many organizational and manageable factors in addition to unfavorable conditions to improve its utilization. It is true that these problems are not in the least different from the ones that are prevailing in the developing countries, where in spite of the availability of the economical, natural and human recourses, among which is the agricultural, tourist, oil, gas, fish and employment, in spite of all that, their utilization level is still randomly tackled. This is of course due to the intervention of a lobby outside the administrative body. This lobby work for their own good. They, unlawfully seize the country's recourses and consider them their own, ignoring the rights of the other 20 million. They don't respect the law by using their positions and the term of privatizations to usurp the country's wealth. They have wasted the wealth, and offended the State and the President by doing so. These are the reasons for the still low levels of producing and the products, added to it the decrease in private savings. As a result the investments remained low, though they are the main incentive for the economical development. This is of course in spite of the increase in oil revenues.

The oil revenues were not enough for

covering the foreign debts, or to contribute to investment, but they also faced foreign threats concerning the ownership of the oil on the boarders, with efforts to hinder the companies that work in Yemen. It is the second time for the foreign politics and the international economy to affect the development plans in Yemen, by hindering the influx of investments. In spite of that, investment projects in Yemen did not stop. Among the most important developmental projects, is the revival of the Aden Free Zone(*). In October 1996 an understanding memo was signed between a foreign company and the general Authority of the free zone in Aden. This company will try to find investments from the private sector, for the necessary construction projects to promote the investment, which is the first step in carrying out the major plans of the free zone whose total cost is 5.600 million dollars in 25 year's time, on several phases. These included new facilities, enlarging the airport, constructing a turbine station for the generation of electric power, by utilizing the gas and building the industrial area itself. There are now efforts within the free zone where there would be four industrial zones, a zone for conversion industries, containing a heavy industrial area, a raw material port, a zone for stores and Information city, a technology garden and a center for international exhibitions and a tourist area that extends for 11square kilometers.

The legal framework for this project was established in accordance with laws that grant the exemptions of export and import customs, and also to cancel a number of already imposed taxes, on income and interests. This will last for 15 years in an effort to lure the companies to the area. There are extra exemptions issued lately within the area of the free

zone, which will reach up to 25 years for these projects, which export more than 50% of the products, and could allow for execution of 100% foreign capital with the same terms of those of joint and governmental projects. There also guarantees against nationalization, water, electricity, and other facilities. The position of Aden has important privileges distinction, unlike regional zones, because of its strategic importance, it joins the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, and as a petrol station between East and West. Other merits are cost saving. There is a bright future ahead, but it depends on the governmental policy and the choice of national consciousness elements.

The Yemeni Government has to reconsider the reform policy for the economical, managerial and fiscal program and to also reconsider how to employ the outcome of the educational and research establishments of the universities and economical and political research centers in addition to the wage strategies, to motivate them and guarantee them a better future. The absences of coordination between development of minds and the needs of the developments lead to the emigration of the elites. It is one of the most important threats in addition to other factors, will curb the development of the community. It will also contribute to undermine university education and research, as an important recourse which provide the state with the decision makers, spastics, information and political, economical and social analysis, according to the country's needs.

(4) Reference :The Magazine of Markets and Finance, Issue no.(23) May2005

(*) Aden was a British colony since 1839-1976 and was a free zone

Risks of Banking Management

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under Patronage of Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Samawi, the governor of Central Bank of Yemen (CBY), the CBY with cooperation of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, organized a workshop on Monday 13 June for 65 trainees representing different banks and financial institutions in Yemen on the following topics; Basel I, Basel II and the risks of bank management.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Samawi, in his speech in opening of the workshop started talking about the importance of holding this workshop in raising awareness among the employees in the banking field about the standards of Basel I and Basel II.

Al-Samawi revealed that CBY has achieved good points in implementing the standards of Basel I and now the bank will try to apply the standards of Basel II. "Through the last decade the bank has developed in many aspects and qualified its employees in financial matters. The CBY capital has reached from 3 billion to 38 billion."

The CBY governor added "The aim is not mainly to collect deposits but the basic goal is amending the banking field that could enhance and promote the economy and the development wheel."

He also stressed on the importance of exchanging experiences with the neighboring countries that have experience more than 50 years in the banking field.

Mr. Hilal Asmar, office Managing Partner at Deloitte, "This workshop is organized based on the invitation by CBY to share the banks and financial institutions in Yemen to understand the general risks they are exposed to, particularly the management hazards to enable these institutions to implement



The panel in the workshop opening

the international standards of Basel II that are complex and need specific time between I1006-I1008. Today we will discuss all kinds of risks in the financial institutions besides lectures about Basel II in Europe and Middle East."

Mr. Naim Khiury, advisor, "The workshop sheds light on the risks and its types and how to run and solve these risks as well as Basel II Convention and its effect on capitals in Yemeni banks. This workshop is to the Yemeni banking institution to know these risks and this convention. Basel is part of international convention to connect the Yemeni banking institutions with other banks in the world and it is important to apply this convention. The main goal is to raise awareness about the requirement of Basel II and the risks of banking management as well."

Mr. Mohammed Humaid, the public relation officer, talked about this workshop in detail "Basel I and Basel II are international standards that are issued by the International Marketing Bank in Swiss. These standards are required

from the banking devices either in Yemen or international community to achieve certain goals such as raising the capital of the banks. In the past we didn't pay attention to Basel I and Basel II and such terms before we apply the financial and monetary amendment program since 1995.

There were some notes about Basel I and then they met and add new standards and called Basel II. All the countries are obliged and asked to adapt themselves to apply these standards such as the capital of the banks should not be less than \$6 billion through specific period.

Our banks are offered a chance to raise their capitals with 20% but if there is a bank that cannot have such a raise, it can integrate with a bank or two.

As a result these banks can apply their role in enhancing the developmental movement and flourishing the economy in the society"

He concluded "CYB has organized different workshops and training courses in the field of training and rehabilitating the cadre of the bank."

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Impressions from the Poverty Alleviation experience in Malaysia

Salamat Datang!



By HOORIA MASHOUR
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I used to think, prior to visiting Malaysia and coming in direct contact with the Malaysian development experience, that what this country has done in terms of economical progress and political stability in South Asia is a miracle. Perhaps a miracle so unique that is impossible to be replicated elsewhere. However, the invitation I received from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Economic Planning Unit in Prime Minister's Department in Autumn 2003 to share the Malaysian experience changed my perception 180 degrees. The invitation was to attend the training course titled "Poverty Alleviation-Localizing the Anti-Poverty Agenda: The Malaysian Experience", and was organized by the Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA). It has given me a chance to see the impact of the political and economic plans in real life, the results of this miracle were tangible facts visible wherever we went in Malaysia and whatever we heard or saw.

Facing the challenges:

The lecturers presented the economic development and growth Malaysia has achieved since independence in 1959, inline with its development year 2020 vision. The Malaysian policies and the political commitment to overcome the many challenges was most admirable. The fact that the country depended on its own national resources in building the economy was astonishing. The magical word was through adopting the most effective administrative methods in implementing projects, and this is what carried the country through the financial crises years 1998 and 2001 enforcing the economical growth right from the next year to the crises.

Visiting Johore:

If I were to identify the most interesting and enjoyable part of the visit, it would be our stop in Johore. In this southern village of Malaysia we came across some practical projects run by the poor on individual or collective basis. What impressed me the most is that women are targeted by these projects and that they work in flexible environments in their homes using domestic labor. This way, women are given the advantage of fulfilling their domestic chores while being economically productive at the same time. Poor women are provided with small credits and

technical assistance to support them in their projects whether in the production process or in marketing and selling their products.

Salamat Datang:

In order to get a sense of the Malaysian family life we spent a night with a Malaysian family in Johore. The hosting of foreigners and accommodating tourists in native homes was another means of income for some of the families. Where the host families generated additional income by accommodating and entertaining the guests, it has enabled the families to improve their life and to become more business-oriented. It was an opportunity for us to become closely acquainted with the Malaysian culture and traditions. It was quite amusing how in spite of our different languages and cultures we were able to communicate and understand each other, at least when we exchange the magic words "Salamat Datang" to express our happiness and the lovely feeling of being at home with the host family. This words welcome the visitors and tourists call them to fall in love with Malaysia and to definitely plan to revisit this charming country once again.

Touring Malaysia:

Although our visit to Malaysia was intended to be a learning experience, our program involved visiting a number of tourist attractions. We enjoyed visiting many marvelous sites and places such the museum in Malaka, the mosques in Putra Jaya, the new modern city and many other beautiful places.

The fascinating memories and impressions I retained about the places and kind people provide me the enthusiasm to benefit from the Malaysian learning experience. The knowledge and skills I gained from that training course have given me an insight to consider Malaysia as a module of rapid advancement and in involving women in the public life and political life, as we found women present everywhere.

Thank you Malaysia:

On a more personal note, after this lovely experience I've decided to maintain my link with Malaysia through having my daughter in KL. Because of feeling safe and secure during my stay in Malaysia as well as because of becoming familiar with the culture and traditions, I convinced my daughter and her husband to travel to this beautiful country to study there and enjoy the taste of the Malaysian beauty and warm versatile Asian culture, believing that Malaysia is truly Asia.

The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the post of Programme Manager for Maternal and Newborn Programme

Under the supervision of the Population DM and the UNFPA Country Office, the Programme Manager will substantially contribute to the effective management of UNFPA supported Maternal and Newborn Programme activities. He/She analyzes and assesses relevant policy patterns, social, and economic trends and provides substantive inputs to programme formulation, management and evaluation, joint programming initiatives and contribute to further improvements of the national development frameworks of reproductive health sector.

The Programme Manager:

In close collaboration with Government counterparts, UNFPA office, RNE health advisors, UNICEF EMOC officer, WHO programme officers, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to the formulation and design of the detailed work plan of the programme and its RH activities in line with Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures. Ensures quality of programme/project implementation incorporating lessons learned, newly developed policies and best practices and establishing appropriate execution and monitoring mechanisms and systems, as well as ensuring activities are in line with the MDGs and PRSP. Contributes to the carrying out of the baseline survey, and mapping of the service delivery points.

Analyzes and interprets the political, social and economic environment relevant to reproductive health and health sector reform and identifies opportunities for UNFPA assistance and intervention. Keeps abreast of new policy developments and strategies analyzing policy papers, strategy documents, national plans and development frameworks and prepares briefs and inputs for policy dialogue, technical assistance coordination and development frameworks.

Analyzes and reports regularly on programme and project progress to Population Sector and to UNFPA in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools and introducing new mechanisms and systems; identifies constraints and resource deficiencies and recommends corrective action. Liaises and collaborates with all relevant sectors of MOPH. Monitors financial implementation vis-à-vis target expenditures and results.

Helps create and document knowledge about current and emerging population development and RH trends, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies approaches and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices, and shares with management for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies.

Assists advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Country Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, seminars conference papers, and participating in relevant meetings and public information events.

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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 is 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 example, 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.

Medical wasteWhere?

By Amal Mohammed Al-Ariqi

No doubt that the world is witnessing progress in various medical service fields. However, the outcomes of this sector is not always curative. Since this progress synchronizes with the existence of a dilemma called "the medical waste" it becomes a burden on the medical sector itself, as many human pathogens can be found in health care

waste items, e.g. Staphylococcus sp., HIV, hepatitis B&C in blood.. etc. Therefore safe medical waste disposal are an integral part of controlling the risks of infection. It is useless to treat people of their primary illnesses if they face a high possibility of developing a secondary infection. While medical waste is not the only source of potential infection, it is the most easily avoided through organized storage, collection, transport and disposal.

Medical waste consists of two comprise of unused medicine.
 • Radioactive waste which is produced by an unclear medical department, for example, cancer therapy section.
 • Pressurized containers and gas cylinders, such as used aerosol cans pose a potential risk of explosion if a gas cylinder valve corrodes and the remaining cylinder pressure is unknown.
 Although the hazardous medical waste accounts for generally much less than 25% of medical waste, its



lab waste are mixed with general waste



protective clothes

general components: general waste or solid waste, e.g. packaging materials, food scraps, bottles and hazardous medical waste that is contaminated and considered as a source of potential infection:
 • Used needles, syringe assemblies, lancets, blades and any sharp tools which could cause wounds to the skin.
 • Swabs, bandages, gloves, IV lines, catheters and any potent ional infectious waste.
 • Pathological waste, including anatomical remains.
 • Chemical waste including heavy metal-bearing wastes e.g. mercury from thermometers, spent X-ray developer, chemical disinfectants and pesticides.
 • Pharmaceutical waste which

danger increases by mixing them with other wastes that become contaminated unnecessarily. Good separation needs to :
 • Put the waste in containers (bins, boxes, strong disposable bags) to prevent direct contact.
 • Cover the containers to prevent contact with the open air.
 • Keep the sharp and potentially infectious waste in separate containers in each medical area, putting them well away from patients.
 • Label the containers that contain sharp tools.
 • Establish a color coding system or put clear signs on containers and bags to distinguish between general and hazardous medical waste.
 • There should be two separate storages, one for hazardous medical

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health and the other for general waste.
 Among the 35 million health workers worldwide, about 3 million receive percutaneous exposures to blood borne pathogens each year, two million of those to HBV, 0.9 million to HCV and 170000 to HIV. These injuries may result in 15000 HCV, 70000 HBV, and 500 HIV infections. According to this data , we see that the most frequently exposed groups are medical staff and waste handlers. Therefore there are many safety measures to protect staff such as:
 • Training staff on handling wastes and used sharp tools, avoiding accidents and post-exposure procedures

Provision of protective clothing and equipments such as: overalls, industrial standard aprons, gloves, leg protectors or strong boots, and face masks .
 • Establishing immunization, post-exposure treatment and regular medical surveillance.
 • Washing hands after any direct contact with patients and insuring of equipments building hygiene.
 • Cleaning up spills of blood and body fluids carefully and promptly.
 • Provide hepatitis vaccination to all staff.
 • Establishing a committee responsible to manage and control the medical waste inside the hospital.

and injury. Transporting by trolley is less risky than manual carrying. Burying the potentially infectious medical waste should be beneath 2 meters of the municipal landfill and far away of any populated area.
 Using high temperature, double chamber pyrolytic incineration, microwave disinfection, steam disinfection, dry thermal disinfection and chemical disinfection are all ways of medical waste treatments that are mostly used in higher income countries.
 Unfortunately, Yemen dose not have medical waste management yet. This may explain the miserable medical and environmental situation that result in people losing trust in the performance of the medical and environmental sectors.

As medical waste gets out the medical establishments, the most important aim is to isolate this waste to prevent casual access by people and to destroy the infectious pathogens. Burial of medical waste is one way of disposing. Wherever this burial is, in the grounds of the medical establishment or in a municipal landfill nearby, it must undergo safe procedures that insure the safety of workers who carry , transport, and bury the waste. Porters should be provided with protective cloths to reduce the risk of infection

Although getting a safe and affordable waste treatment and disposal system is more difficult than undertaking the waste separation problem in the medical area, this issue can not be ignored. An inclusive cooperation between the involved authorities, such as the administrations of medical establishments, Ministry of Health Environment, Protection Authority, municipality offices, local councils and even private sectors are desperately needed.

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An "underview" of the Sana'a Shakespeare Seminar

As I recently noted (*Yemen Times*, 25 April; *The Statesman*, 22 May 2005), the academic Shakespeareans have practically ignored the controversies surrounding the authorship of the works attributed to William Shakespeare and so the man from Stratford-upon-Avon remains for them as potent as his pentameters.



BY MURARI PRASAD SADA'A
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The two-day (May 24-25) National Seminar on Shakespeare, the first-ever of its kind in the Republic of Yemen, organized by the Department of English in the Faculty of Arts of Sana'a University attracted animated critical interest in the works of the world's most discussed writer. The Rector of the University, Dr Saleh Ali Bassurah, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr Mohd Abdul Aziz Yusr, and the Chairman of the Department, Dr Damodar Thakur have reasons to stand tall for hosting productive deliberations on the peerless genius who has not only been the linchpin of English literary heritage but has also dominated the page, the stage and the screen.

To spotlight the themes and issues as well as the insightful interventions that wove through the engaging sessions, I propose to appropriate to myself the term "underview" since I feel able neither to sum up all the disparate elements of the discussions in a comprehensive overview nor to resist the temptation to comment. I apologize in advance for leaving out detailed reference to all the presentations (the list is as long as your arm!), although it was indeed a pleasure to listen to and profit from diverse points of view.

The seminar began with a bang. Dr Thakur's plenary presentation on "the Number Symbolism in Shakespeare's plays"—a subject singularly untouched in the lavish explorations of the Bard's works—was erudite and provocative, focused and perceptive. He expounded his proposition by citing the recurrence of the number three in Shakespeare's

though I rather doubt that it has an esoteric significance. That is, I think that Shakespeare took it over from such places as folklore, where there are frequently three sons, or daughters, or geese, or caskets. (Have a look at Calvino's collection of Italian folktales). I have no idea what folklorists make of it. There are some compelling reflections on numbers in *King Lear* in John Jones'

remarkable book, *Shakespeare at work*. Harold Bloom, Professor of English at the University of Yale and the author of *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human* (1999), says in his pithy comment: "The triads that [Dr Thakur] notices certainly are there. I don't know what to make of them." Prof. Ania Loomba, an Indian academic specializing in Shakespeare studies at Pennsylvania University, has this to say: "Three is a fairly standard trope in all fairy tales and legends all over the world, not just in Shakespeare." More remarkably, a prominent Shakespeare scholar at Jadavpur University (India), Prof Sukanta Chaudhuri, sees no deeper meaning in the recurrent "threeness", and is rather skeptical about this line of study: "I certainly don't think there's any significance to Shakespeare's use of the number three at certain points of his plays, though I have no doubt there's been a good bit of numerological analysis." Quite a few perceptive correspondents suspect Judaeo-Christian associations, e.g., Christ rose on the third day, but, as regards the magical property of numbers, Christianity seems to privilege 3 and 4 and 7 (3+4=7) and 12 (3x4). Equally, some have speculated about the subtle implications of the Holy Trinity. Once I extract the salient points of these observations, there is no doubt that Dr Thakur has set out a challenging hypothesis with a new angle to probe some Shakespearean texts. Whether this multi-level triplicity is an inheritance from medieval cosmology a la, for example, Dante's *Divina Commedia* or the threesomeness in his epic, or is

ghosts, witches, and daggers.

However, there is always the danger of overinterpretation if one presses the point too hard as is the case in linking Shakespeare's use of the number three to his supposed ties to Freemasonry, an international secret society built around an interest in esoteric knowledge, including the ancient art of alchemy. Bro Robert Guffey reads *Macbeth* as an allegory for the bloody murder of Hiram Abiff, one of the three original Grand Masters of Freemasonry. Although, according to mainstream historians, Freemasonry was founded in 1717, long after Shakespeare's death, a subtle analogy to a fragment of the Hiram Story, Guffey argues, can be seen in Act Two, Scene Three in Macduff's speech after Duncan is found murdered. Tellingly

The Rector of the University, Dr Saleh Ali Bassurah, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr Mohd Abdul Aziz Yusr, and the Chairman of the Department, Dr Damodar Thakur have reasons to stand tall for hosting productive deliberations on the peerless genius who has not only been the linchpin of English literary heritage but has also dominated the page, the stage and the screen.

enough, a pair of assassins hired by Macbeth to kill Banquo and Fleance turns into a threesome, and Banquo is killed noticeably in Act 3, Scene 3. Well, I have laboured the point enough and will now pass on to some other points clumped under various themes.

A significant dimension to the seminar was Shakespeare's language as well as its relationship to English language teaching. Distinguished scholars including Prof Anjani Kumar Sinha (Taiz University), Prof VS Dubey (Hodeidah University), Prof. R S Sharma and Dr John Eliezer (Sana'a University) focused on Shakespeare's linguistic inventiveness and ingenious expressive devices, while other submissions, my

dents modelled on an excerpt from *Hamlet* (Polonius' advice to his son, I.iv, 59-80) and extrapolated fruitful ELT possibilities by appropriating Shakespearean constructions. My own submission, partly along the same track, adumbrated how Shakespeare's use of conversion, collocation, affixation and idiomatic allusiveness can teach non-native learners to improvise nonce-formations and manipulate the language in dramatic situations of conversation. The chairperson of the session, Prof KM Tiwary, however, expressed doubts about EFL learners becoming linguistically creative in communication, and I can't quite accept his position. Foreign learners of English do allude to Shakespearean quotations, such as *to be or not to be* when they say: *to go or not to go, to fight or not to fight, to copy or not to copy*. When an EFL student in Yemen, after learning the basic rules of the language—its grammar, phonology and semantics—takes off on her/his own and uses expressions like *if me no ifs, but me no buts, s/he is manipulating a quotation to suit her/his purpose*. And where does the original construction come from? It comes from Shakespeare's *Richard II* (II, iii):

Bolingbroke: My gracious uncle—
York: Tut, tut, grace me no grace, nor uncle me no uncle.

In everyday conversation even non-native learners, once they are confident in using the language reasonably correctly, need to bend and break the language in tune with their semantic motivation, and when they do that, they become creative in its use. The question is which English such a speaker is a near-native speaker of. To answer this, let me invoke a Shakespearean paradigm. Caliban says to Prospero in *The Tempest*: "You taught me language; and my profit on't/Is, I know how to curse..." (I.ii.363-4). Is Caliban a native or non-native speaker of English? The decision, I think, is Caliban's as long as he is following his own code. It depends on him what name he gives that code: Calibanese? Prosperian? Or English, if you like.

This confidence and competence in the use of the language is not adequately addressed in the pipeline approach or, I dare say, tunnel-vision methodology of need-based pedagogy, as I understood from the points of view presented by Dr MNK Bose and Dr Ayid Sharyan. They also seemed to labour under a misconception that Shakespearean English is a totally different language from modern English. Shakespeare is not old, he is unyoung. According to the reliable database in *Shakespeare's Words* (2002), there are 930,000 words in the entire canon of 39 plays and some 46,000 occurrences of words in all the poems and plays which are different in some way between Shakespeare's days and now. So, only 5 per cent of the time are we going to encounter a word which is different in meaning from what exists today. And grammatical difference is also within the same range. Certainly, in some of the passages we do encounter a string of unfamiliar words but even these are, though not easily comprehensible, fairly amenable to our modern English intuition. In other words, we do understand Shakespearean lines even though they are not exactly like current English. Besides, the Bard can be summoned in the service of vitalizing the progressive attenuation of the language in communicative English teaching.

Notably in addition, the notion of canon carries value. If certain texts are put on a pedestal and considered valuable in any community, students will want to satisfy their aspirations besides achieving their learning objectives. Of



Dr. Saleh Ali Bassurah, President of Sana'a University presenting his inaugural speech as Dr. Abdulrahman Abdurabou gives its English rendering.

course, the canon is not a fixed monolith but some texts are canonical and secure against shifts in taste and ideological cross-currents by virtue of their intrinsic worth.

No wonder Shakespeare is currently inspiring a minor boom in management education even as the proponents of communicative English teaching consider his work incompatible with efficient communication. Perhaps it is not a rumour that the acronym ESP once meant *English for Shakespearean purposes* before the recent meaning gained currency. The affective power of Shakespearean lines is being appropriated by Business schools for corporate executives. Dr Jaysree Mohanraj made a plea for developing soft skills like interpersonal communication, motivational addresses, and business negotiations by using relevant passages from Shakespearean texts. She referred to Paul Corrigan's book, *Shakespeare on Management*. As far as I know, two more books on this subject have come out: *Power Plays* by Tina Packer and John Whitney, and *Shakespeare in Charge* by Kenneth Adelman and Norman Augustine. Here Falstaff meets Victoria's secret, Cleopatra tangles with the Internet, and Hamlet wretches with AT&T. Ken Adelman, the former US Ambassador to the UNO, and his wife have set up a company, *Movers and Shakespeares*, to deal with the boardroom issues and to motivate corporate professionals to think in a creative and nimble way. Sure enough, Shakespearean material becomes an ally to lateral thinking and emotional intelligence—the quintessence of modern management—when Bill gates takes the cue from *Henry IV*, Part I: "O the blood more stirs to rouse a lion than to start a hare."

In the context of Dr Jaysree's paper, I imagine, a business course titled "In Search of the Perfect Prince," centred on the case studies from Shakespeare, at Columbia University's School of Business for its MBA students, and *Speaking Shakespeare* (2002) by the voice coach Patsy Rodenburg may have useful and enriching inputs, in addition to the course description of Management Communication of Berkeley and Carnegie Mellon that she mentioned.

The seminar also had a session devoted to the problems of translating Shakespeare. Mr Tawfique Abdo Sa'eed al-Kinani referred to the cultural problems in translating Shakespeare into Arabic with a particular reference to *The Merchant of Venice*. In the opinion of other paper presenters, too, Shakespeare is enormously challenging for Arabic translators. In the same vein, Dr Tyagarajan pointed out how the "diverse interlocking components" of a play make the textual transfer multiply difficult. I would bear him out with an example from *King Lear*. In Act I, Scene 5, Lear says

O let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven!
Keep me in temper: I would not be mad!

The Bristol edition records that Paul Schofield, in 1962 as Lear, achieved quiet terror on the line. And in a 1955 production, Sir John Gielgud paused

upon the first 'mad', and took the hand of the Fool, who was crouching beside him, deliberately within reach. Thus a translator has to conflate the text and the spectacle, more so in the case of Shakespeare.

Other presentations of note were papers on *Macbeth* by Prof RK Jayaraman, Dr Uday Kumar Mishra, Dr Anil K Prasad, Dr Rajesh Kumar and Dr Rafiq azam Khan, as well as cogent and accessible submissions on *King Lear* by Prof AK Sharma, Dr Nityanand Prasad, Dr Indu Bhushan Sharma and Dr Gurudeo Poddar. The other Shakespearean plays discussed included *Measure for Measure* by Prof Ashok Kumar Jha, *Antony and Cleopatra* by Dr Rakesh Kumar, *The Merchant of Venice* by Dr Chandra Bhushan Prasad, *Othello* by Sam Sahayam, *The Taming of the Shrew* by Dr Usha Kiran Sinha, and *The Winter's Tale* by Dr Vinod Kumar Sinha.

Among other notable paper presenters were Prof PA Abraham, Dr Raweah al-Kumaim, Dr AK Tripathy, Dr Satyartha Tripathy, Dr Rama Shankar Sharma, Dr Pramod Prasad and Dr Meena Rani. The seminar had its moments when Prof KM Tiwary, in a sprightly discussion on Shakespeare's art of laughter, attempted an engaging explication of the wit combats, comic repartees and verbal duelling in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and other comedies. In addition to what Prof Tiwary admirably brought out, the comic effect in these plays is heightened by Shakespeare's use of *stichomythia*, the Senecan rhetorical device of one-line exchange with staccato effect of rapid thrust and parry. The rich and complex vitality of the comic scenes and their realization in the theatre are, as Prof Tiwary rightly said, often ignored in critical interpretation.

I'm not sure how far the psychodynamic perspectives of the *Gita* can be useful in understanding Shakespeare's tragic universe. Prof JP Singh's paper dealing with this line of argument promises to be trail-blazing, once it is published. I believe it was Thoreau who once said, "Compared to the *Gita* our Shakespeare is only Greene" (I owe this quotation to late C D Narasimhaiah). The parameters pertaining to the states of affairs in respect of Arjun in the *Gita*, on one hand, and Shakespeare's tragic protagonists on the other, are markedly different. However, Steven Crimi has compared Arjun's crisis with Hamlet's in his paper "The Outcome of Crisis in *Hamlet* and the *Bhagavadgita*." I hope Prof Singh breaks new ground along this track without falling into the trap of inflated and invidious comparisons.

After such knowledge, what forgiveness? Prof Anjani Kumar Sinha, one of the valedictory panellists, counselled the seminar participants to study and interpret Shakespeare from "our own points of view", and not to parrot the West. It reminds me of Nestor, a character in Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*, who reiterates everything and contributes nothing. Unlike Nestor, we must reorient and invert our terms. The seminar turned out to be quite an event in that many participants tried to look beyond Nestor and, finally, an explicitly eastern or postcolonial perspective on Shakespeare studies was enjoined.



A section of the enraptured audience.

plays such as *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and *Othello* at various levels of textuality. Is there any signifying transaction by way of the palpable triplicity in these plays, or other plays for that matter? Is this trope symbiotically related to the ontology of the plays and as such epistemically significant? Instead of relying on my gut reaction—and to give the hypothesis an intensive airing to boot—I quizzed some eminent Shakespeareans almost globally known. I should like to share their response with the readers for a better-informed take on Dr Thakur's point.

Stephen Greenblatt, by far the best Shakespeare scholar and also known as the founder of the most influential school of literary theory and criticism today called New Historicism (or cultural poetics), the editor of Norton Shakespeare and Cogan Professor of English at Harvard University, writes to me:

I think the recurrence of the number three in Shakespeare is interesting,

related to the famous Christian trinity, or even the Hindu trinity, is still hugely debatable. Shakespeare is often hooked on to his favourite numbers: twenty, for example (*Romeo and Juliet*) in swearing words or general expressions of description. Unlike the three sons (leaving out the one out of wedlock) in Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* with three distinct characteristics, passion, reason and piety, King Lear's three daughters are not amenable to this neat categorization.

We do have now a fragment of school report about Shakespeare's unusual, "frivolous" interest in things outside the normal range of a Grammar school curriculum. I have had access to this scrap of evidence by courtesy of Prof David Crystal. It seems to have been written by a "straightlaced, Latin-minded Elizabethan teacher" in 1571, when the lad was seven:

Some small improvement this term. Needs to work on his handwriting. Still talking in class a lot. Frivolous attitude. Seems to have an unhealthy interest in

own included, dealt with how to enlist Shakespeare to produce language gains in the classroom. Prof Ashok Kumar Sinha and Dr Manmath Kundu of Hodeidah University stressed on evolving unconventional reading strategies and fashioning our pedagogy into a fresh mould. Surely, new initiatives in Yemeni context can be catalyzed as there are practically no institutional impediments to new motivations, nor is there a uniform, stifling format of testing. The teaching of Shakespeare can indeed be enjoyable and rewarding when students move away from the staple diet of what Widdowson says, "potted critical judgments" or surrogates of experience to personal contact with actual texts.

Prof Mohanraj of Taiz University demonstrated how a judicious blend of materials and methodology can make a passage from Shakespeare an authentic text to develop different language skills. He shared his experience of teaching writing skills to undergraduate stu-

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While the situation in Uganda has received growing international scrutiny over the past year, continued and sustained attention to the tragedy of civilians – particularly children – caught in the deadly conflict in the north of the country remains a high priority.

The Story While the situation in Uganda has received growing international scrutiny over the past year, continued and sustained attention to the tragedy of civilians – particularly children – caught in the deadly conflict in the north of the

country remains a high priority. United Nations relief officials have repeatedly expressed concern about the neglected humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda, where up to 1.6 million people have been displaced by the conflict with the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), notorious for its campaigns of lootings, murders, mutilations and abduction of children to serve its militia. To provide context, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the area is close to that of Darfur, Sudan, but the plight of Ugandan children is especially troubling.

"It is mind-boggling how little international attention there has been and also

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The editor

how difficult it has been over the years to fund the work for the children, the reintegration of the children who have escaped, and a real response to the crisis in the north," says Jan Egeland, who heads the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). According to OCHA, conditions in the IDP camps across the north are poor, despite improvements over the last year and a half. Medical care and water and sanitation are well below standards. Insecurity has been a major limiting factor, and this is linked to the relatively small humanitarian presence in the north.

The context

- Uganda has rich agricultural potential but more than half the population lives in abject poverty with insufficient food to eat.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) provided emergency supplies to a record 2.8 million people in 2004, but a shortfall on resources threatens WFP's delivery capacity this year. In the northern Karamoja district alone the numbers dependent on food assistance were expected to quadruple from 117,000 people in March to 570,000 in April.
- Families living outside the camps continue to shepherd their children into secure lodgings at the end of each day for fear that the LRA will raid their villages at night and carry them off. According to UNICEF there were 11,000 of these 'night commuters' in the district of Gulu alone in March 2005.
- In 2004, UN sought \$158 million for Uganda as part of its overall \$1.7 billion appeal for 2005. Most of the

funds were targeted to providing basic goods and services such as clinics, clean water and sanitation, food and supplies.

For further information UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): Stephanie Bunker, Spokesperson (New York), Tel: (1 917)367-5126; E-mail: bunker@un.org.



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