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Journalists and doctors sit-down, in front of the Parliament "We demand a better life standard"

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Hundreds of doctors and journalists had a sit down in front of the (parliament) last Saturday. It was the first consolidation step to demand the description of journalism career in governmental institutions, as well as description of medical careers in medical institutions.

The doctors and journalists demand to be described in the first category of the wage law that is now being discussed in the Parliament.

The doctors and journalists considered this to be only the first step. The journalists and the doctors together with thousands of teachers who are working in government institutions, have decided not to retreat as in previous cases.

In a communiqué released by the Journalists Syndicate in front of the parliament, they said

"The journalists used to demand the application of their special entitlements



Journalists and doctors sit in front of the Parliament

before the career description. The executives deceived us before, by their false promises. We won't be deceived this

time." On the other side, the doctors have threatened to carry out their growing

strike in protest against injustice treatment of the government concerning their rights. *Continued on page 3*

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Tribal clashes in Khawlan stopped, others flare up in Amran

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tribal mediators have been able to bring an end to the armed confrontation between the tribes of Nahd and Kibs in Khawlan area, 40 kms to the east of the city of Sana'a after weeks of clashes which left one dead and 56 wounded one of whom seriously.

Military vehicles which had withdrawn from the warring area, returned later and are still stationed in positions between the two parties lest fighting starts anew.

The two tribes have been disputing over the ownership of a mountain for eight years. A series of sporadic fights resulted in 15 deaths and over 75 wounded. Several houses were destroyed.

Local councilors of Hisn and Jihanah districts resigned in protest against military's inaction and delayed response which came after local council officers appealed to the President and the security forces to resolve the problem. They said the security forces should have taken quick action to prevent fighting.

In another area, located sixty kms to the northwest of Sana'a, tribal clashes erupted between the tribes of Thu al-Usaili, Thu Ubadi, and Bait Soor. The fighting, which took place in the area of Harth Sifian, within the province of Amran, five persons were killed and eight wounded. The mediation of Harth Sifian (of Hashid mother tribe) had failed to stop the continuing war. However, sources told the Yemen Times that, after the intervention of the military and mediators, the war could



be curbed. Several sorts of small and medium arms were used by the belligerents. The reason for the fighting is reported to have been a dispute over a truck and tractor which led up eventually to the use of arms. One of the wounded was a boy who was injured when a house was destroyed with shells. A large number of livestock were killed.

The Peace House Organization which attempts to resolve revenge and violence cases, issued a statement last week that warned that a tribal fight might flare up in al-Mutoon district, Marib province, between the tribes of Al-Hamad and Al-Mahdi. It called on the authority to quickly intervene before the current truce between the two sides is over.

The US Intelligence Economic Unit has predicted in its report that Yemen's future is threatened by tribal violence and government's lax grip over rural areas.

"It seems that Yemen continues to be

ruined by tribal violence," the report stated. It cited a battle early December, 2004, when 30 persons were killed in the province of Jawf.

The report said that problems between tribes leave a little chance for the state to maneuver. It added that as long as its grip over the more remote areas remain weak, the government will continue to be unable to separately warn tribes and win their cooperation.

Early this year, the President invited tribes for general reconciliation. Some of these tribes agreed to reconcile and erase past feuds in response to the call. However, the period set for the reconciliation is about to finish while the concerned governmental authorities had done nothing to resolve the reasons behind the revengeful clashes.

Some sources expect that more tribal fights will take place at the end of this year when the one-year truce made among disputing tribes pursuant to the President's call will come to an end.

For more reforms in the region Regional workshop on wise governance forum wrapped up

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- June 23- A workshop on wise governance forum was concluded on Thursday in Sana'a involving many delegations from some Arab countries including Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

The event was organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

The forum, inaugurated by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar Parliament Speaker, reviewed a number of work papers on transparency and questioning and the experiences of the Arab country (Yemen), particularly the parliamentary aspects.

All the participants agreed on the establishment of a union association for MPs in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf, and volunteers can join the association.

The concluding statement of the forum stressed on the importance of maturing awareness of MPs in the region and training them how to play their role in auditing and quizzing the executive apparatuses.

Participants in the workshop listened to representatives of political parties at the Yemeni Parliament, mainly the ruling People's General Congress, the Islah and Nasserite parties.

The work papers made a mention of some obstacles hindering the parliamentary experience in the Arab countries and advocated for reforms in current systems of governance as well as amendment of laws to enable them to reach the wise governance and transparency as a cardinal principle for democratic governance.

A number of attendants emphasized that many parliaments in the Arab regions can not audit or quiz their governments since they are usually dominated by the ruling parties.

The attendants insisted on the importance of a balance inside the parliament and the participation of all the political forces in the parliament.

They believed that the parliament's efforts in monitoring are somehow incompetent and it is possible to make any change.

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Japan Support Measles Elimination Programs in Yemen

The Government of Japan has decided to extend a grant amounting to 40,000,000 yen (approximately US\$ 370,000 (three hundred seventy thousand US Dollars)) to the Ministry of Public Health and Population for supporting the Measles Elimination Program in Yemen.

The official notice to this effect from the Government of Japan will be delivered today by Mr- Yuichi Ishii,

Japanese Ambassador to Yemen to H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Noami, Minister of Public Health and Population.

It is worth mentioning that the Government of Japan supported this Measles Elimination Program last year, and that Japan continues to give support, according to the EPI5- year plan, which started last year for eliminating measles.

CTI intensifies campaign against sales tax law

SANA'A- The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) intensified its opposing campaign against the sales tax law the government is intending to pass by the beginning of July.

Dr. Hassan Mujalli, lawyer of the CTI called Yemeni businessmen to refrain from paying tax on sales and said if businessmen responded to demands of the government, this will weaken the lawsuit sued against the legitimacy of the sales tax.

For his part Mahfoudh Shammakh President of the capital's CTI said in a press conference: "the trader's abiding by the law will weaken our position and we prefer to leave the choice for the trader."

The CTI described the sales tax law as a comprehensive economic catastrophe.

13 trade and industry chambers and associations sent a letter to the President of the Republic expressing their sorrow as they can not meet the President to explain their position of the sales tax law.

They said all their attempts have gone in no avail.

The CTI sent a letter to the Parliament Speaker and the MPs appealing them to halt executing all the government demands with respect to reforms on the sales tax law.

Jamal al-Muttarrib, a member at the capital's CTI commented the sug-

gested amendments of the law are worse than the law itself, which was appealed as unconstitutional.

Lawyer of the CTI Dr. Hassan Mujalli accused the government in a press conference held last Tuesday of practicing tyranny and oppression against traders.

He added the tax authority workers are allowed a total power to pass into the housing, industrial and trade institutions under the pretext of search of tax evaders. In addition, the Tax Authority demanded the prosecution to not allow traders to travel abroad unless they have certificates stating the tax is paid.

Dr. Mujalli noted: "I received a message of threat through the Internet since I commented on a case file and my persistence means incitement of chaos."

The CTI filed a legal action against the President of the Republic, Prime Minister, Parliament Speaker and the Ministry of Finance and the Tax Authority, including appeals against the sales tax law.

The constitutional court is still continuing its sittings to look into the case.

It is worth noting the sales tax law imposes a 10% tax on businessmen whose annual sales reached the tune of YR50 million in commodities and YR40 million in services.

In the presence of 23 foreign ministers, over 500 participants

Sana'a hosts Muslim countries conference

By Hassan al-Zaidi
Yemen Times Staff

Activities of the 32nd round of Muslim foreign ministers' conference are due to commence on Tuesday June 28, at the May 22 Hall for International Conferences and Sporting Activities. Activities of the round are to last for 3 days.

The conference will be attended by 500 participants representing 57 member countries in the Muslim Conference Organization, in addition to a number of observers, Islamic groups, international and regional organizations and the specialized institutions belonging to the Muslim Conference Organization.

Besides, there are many non-Muslim countries that are invited to the conference including Russia, Japan, Italy, Spain, Germany and Thailand.

Mr. Amr Musa Secretary General of the Arab League, Abdurrahman Attiya Secretary General of the Gulf

Cooperation Council and Ali al-Attas Representative of the UN Secretary General will take part in the conference.

The technical team coming from the Muslim Conference Organization's General Secretariat in Jeddah has made all the necessary arrangements and preparations for the event in cooperation with some Yemeni specialized committees.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi mentioned in a statement published by September 26 the conference will contribute to supporting the political and economic cooperation between the Muslim countries facing the international challenges which target the Islamic culture.

The conference is due to work on clarifying the actual profile of Islam and eliminating the false accusations that link Islam with terror.

Dr. al-Qirbi said the conference is about to discuss a report prepared by a number of well-known Islamic personalities on a series of required reforms for the Muslim countries to

develop and the aspects of political, economic and cultural cooperation.

For his part, Hussein Taher Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs clarified the conference will give more priority to the political issues topped by the Palestinian one and the difficult situations experienced by the armed minorities in several countries all over the World.

The conference is expected to discuss the situations in Iraq and Kashmir and some terror-related issues and concentrate on the economic, technological and trade aspects.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not mention whether the conference will draw their attention to the Israeli nuclear armament and the pressures practiced on Iran over its nuclear file.

The Sana'a conference is expected to gain a great significance since it is scheduled to be held in the shadow of difficult situations experienced by the Muslim World including developments in the Middle East.

Parliament object to use of Makha Port by armed forces

SANA'A- The Parliament forced the government last week to go back on its decision concerning use of the main pavement of Makha Port on the Red Sea by the armed forces. Administratively, the port belongs to Taiz Governorate.

Minister of Transportation Eng. Omar al-Amodi vowed before the Parliament to cancel the decision which allocates a big portion of Makha Port for the armed forces.

He promised to develop and update the port as well as to expand it to be

capable of receiving big and containers ships.

The MPs described the government's decision as extemporary, and was issued without any previous study or coordination with the General Ports Corporation.

They said: "the governorates of Taiz and Ibb are due to be harmed by the decision, which also have its negative effect on the city of Makha.

According to the Parliament, the decision will cost the government around YR 1 billion out of the custom

fees every year, 70% are the revenues of custom fees on livestock.

The government issued a decision last January to allocate the main pavement in Makha Port for the armed forces, but the Parliamentary committee described the decision as wrong and it may harm the national economy.

The committee considered the decision a threat against the source of income of locals in Makha and its neighboring areas which depends on the port activities.

Government warns opposition of holding summer centers

SANA'A- Some government officials last week warned political parties and charitable societies of holding summer centers for youth, exploiting them to achieve political goals, as they did over the last few years.

Undersecretary of Youth and Sports Ministry Ahmad al-Eshari said in a statement published by May 22 Newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling party in its last Thursday's issue: "the law bans political party activities among youths, and the summer centers include public activities that are supposed to operate under the law, as

well as the specified goals for the activities of the youth.

For his part, Undersecretary of Endowments and Guidance Ministry, Sheikh Yahya al-Najjar, warned the political parties and the charitable societies of staging summer centers for youth, pointing out the local authorities are the responsible parties for preventing such activities.

The government warnings seem to coincide with preparations carried out by four ministries to hold 301 centers on July 7 in different governorates to accommodate nearly 60 thousand youths. These centers believed to adopt

instigative programs are supervised by the People's General Congress.

The governmental program aims, according to the warning, to keep the youth away from the intellectual deviation and extremism and to establish concepts of national loyalty

in their minds.

Over the last few years, all the summer centers were cited to serve interests of certain political parties and charitable societies, particularly as their activities were based on fanatic concepts and thoughts.

Inauguration of Old Yemeni Civilization Exhibition in Washington

The exhibition of old caravan kingdoms, "Yemen and old incense trade", was opened for visitors in the Central Hall, of the Institute of Smith Sonian in Washington.

The exhibition is organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. It contains more than 250 pieces of old relics. Among them are bronze and stone statues in addition to palm leaves sculptures and currencies.

The exhibits present the secret of the beauty of the old kingdoms of Himiar and Saba'a and the role these kingdoms played in the

ancient world's economy. The exhibits which have toured Europe before, have now come to Washington from Sicily. They reflect the civilized face of Yemen, in reaping its incense plants that were famous all over the world, along side the spices and coffee. They were used in religious festivals.

The festival is meant to be a window to show Yemen's civilization, and to make the American media acquainted with our civilization.

Yemeni immigrants denounce media campaign against Dr. al-Qubati

The Yemeni community in Britain denounced media attacks

against Dr. Mohammad Abdulmajid al-Qubati, the Yemeni Ambassador to Lebanon.

The Yemeni immigrants in Britain described the media campaign led by one of the MPs against Dr. al-Qubati as malicious and far away from reality.

They issued a statement commending efforts of Dr. al-Qubati during his post in Britain, which helped Yemen avoid many problems that emerged after 11 September event.

The statement warned of the tragic consequences of such media campaigns, particularly as Dr. Mohammad al-Qubati was threatened to be killed during his last visit to Yemen.

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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:

Do the mounting set-ins and strikes currently staged by teachers, physicians and journalists pave the way for nation-wide uproar against the government?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do the recent heated arguments taking place at the Parliament express hopes of the Yemeni locals?

I don't know 60%
No 30%
Yes 10%

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Passport Lost

On 18 June, 2005, Ganeen Mahmood Abdulrahman Rayyan lost her Jordanian passport in the Diplomatic Area of Sanaa. Her passport number is 743970, issued on 21 July 2002, expires on 20 July 2007. If you have any information about the whereabouts of this passport, please contact her at 01-755-2000.

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IFC partners with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on development of women entrepreneurs in Yemen

Sana'a, Yemen - June 18, 2005—The International Finance Corporation's Private Enterprise Partnership for the Middle East and North Africa (IFC PEP-MENA) organized a three-day financial management training workshop for women entrepreneurs in Yemen under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce in Sana'a June 18-20, 2005. The training session is part of a market and product development process that IFC PEP-MENA has undertaken in Yemen to strengthen women-owned enterprises.

IFC PEP-MENA believes that unleashing the potential of women entrepreneurs is crucial to bolstering private sector development and reducing unemployment in Middle Eastern and North African economies. To identify the barriers that women entrepreneurs face and other factors that affect women-owned businesses in Yemen, IFC PEP-MENA commissioned a survey to support the development of a

demand-driven technical assistance program.

Direct Marketing Services (DMS), a local Yemeni firm, conducted the survey. Over 130 male and female entrepreneurs were interviewed—along with a wide range of public, donor, and private small business development stakeholders—during the period April to June 2005. The small business development stakeholders, from both the public and the private sectors, will all have an opportunity to present their input on the survey findings as well as the IFC proposed plan of action at a consultative workshop scheduled for June 21 at the Sheraton Hotel in Sana'a. The report, to be based on the survey findings, will provide the basic for IFC's program to support the growth of existing women-owned and operated enterprises and the creation of jobs in Yemen. One finding of the IFC study is that female entrepreneurs are twice as likely to hire women employ-

ees as male entrepreneurs are.

IFC's proposed technical assistance to growth-oriented women-owned enterprises is not only expected to create employment but also to fill a crucial market gap. "It is difficult to get high-quality training and business consulting in Yemen," said one of the businesswomen interviewed during the IFC survey. "These are very important to the development of our employees and consequently to the growth of our business," she added.

In addition to the training and groundbreaking research on female entrepreneurs and how to support them in evolving from informal microenterprises to true small businesses, IFC PEP-MENA is conducting studies in three other countries—Egypt, Morocco, and Oman. Generally speaking, regional findings indicate that women can overcome the main challenges to the growth of their businesses and realize their untapped economic

potential if they have access to targeted technical assistance.

IFC's (www.ifc.org) mission is to promote sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, helping to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. IFC finances private sector investments in the developing world, mobilizes capital in the international financial markets, helps clients improve social and environmental sustainability, and provides technical assistance and advice to governments and businesses. From its founding in 1956 through FY2004, IFC has committed more than \$44 billion of its own funds and arranged \$23 billion in syndications for 3,143 companies in 140 developing countries. IFC's worldwide committed portfolio as of FY2004 as \$17.9 billion for its own account and \$5.5 billion held for participants in loan syndications.

Graduating Ceremony for the First Bachelor Batch of IT

It is true that the present era is the era of information tech which, made the world a small village and almost deleted the theoretical sciences.

Under this slogan the APTEC Center, which belongs to Indian MANIPAL University, held a ceremony for bachelor graduates of info on the 16th of June 2005, in ATaiz tourist club.

Mr. Mohamed Al-kibsi, the director of public relations in the center, addressed the ceremony, highlighting the center's role in presenting applied systems and programs for its students, outmatching all other private universities and institutes. A representative of the graduates also addressed the cere-

mony. He reviewed the period of the applied studies that they spent. He spoke of the effect of this high training when they join their business. A short play criticizing the deteriorating conditions in the public and private hospitals was presented. Mr. Khalid Al-Homadi, Manager of APTEC Center, spoke of the graduation, saying that it will be a turning point in the global work and knowledge.

Mr. Abdul-kreem Abdul Ilah, urged the graduates to apply what they have learned, in their future life. Certificates were awarded to the distinguished graduates.

Khalid Alhomadi, the General

Manager, spoke of APTEC, saying that it is the first international center for Info Tech. It is among a number of centers being opened in the governorates. The first center was opened in Sana'a in 2000. It is also the first center in Asia that had obtained the ISO 9001 in education support services.

Student Nada Mohamed Tarish, who attained the second excellent award, with honor grade, also spoke. "I chose to study in this institute, because of its international reputation. Another reason is the real communication between the center and the Sikrim Manipal University, which provides the students books and sets and assesses the exams.

Supporting capacity building of civil society organizations & youths presidents of a squatters and tin homes

Sana'a, June 25, 2005 – Country Office in Yemen today signed the grant Agreement Letters with winners from Civil Society Organizations of marginalized groups working for their own communities living in squatters and tin homes in three governorates, Sana'a Aden and Taiz.

In its efforts in supporting civil society organization, the World Bank provides grant money each year through the small Grants Program and the Development Marketplace. This year, total Bank support is US\$ 42,000, in addition to UNDP contribution of US \$ 10,000 thus making the total funds

available for supporting those groups at US \$ 52,000.

The proposals of the four winning NGOs will mainly build the capacity and the institutional capability of the organization, strengthen partnership with local and other civil society organizations as well as enhance linkages with the municipal authority. Investing in resident youths and women will be a major instrument which will allow for equal enhance, strengthen youth's civic role through providing an enabling and encouraging work environment for innovation.

The funds will also help to raise

awareness and conduct training on citizenship rights, advocacy and aim to change the traditional thinking of other members of the Yemeni society towards them.

The four winning NGOs were selected from a pool of (13) applications received from marginalized NGOs working for their own communities. Those NGOs were AL_Takaful Social Welfare Association and Al-Mistakabl Association in Taiz, Al-Waha Development & Charitable Association in Aden and the Confederation of Municipal Sanitation workers in Sana'a.

Saudi Arabia supports development in Yemen

The Saudi Development Fund (SDF) agreed last week to grant \$250 million in loan to Yemen. The sum is allotted for funding a number of developmental and service projects in Yemen, including rural roads and the poverty alleviation strategy.

The Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council is the responsible party for boosting cooperation between the two bordering countries. It often holds meetings in Sana'a and Riyadh.

Child trafficking poses a threatening challenge

HAJJAH- Friday June 24, Security sources confirmed that they thwarted attempts of trafficking children outside the Yemeni borders. Two persons have been arrested while attempting to traffic children between 9-12 years into neighboring countries.

The security sources confirmed 5 children were taken to the Temporary Social Protection Childhood Center that was established lately in Haradh.

Hajjah tops the list of Yemeni governorates in terms of trafficking children into Saudi Arabia.

The phenomenon got exacerbated over the last few years due to severe poverty compelling families to accept their children to be laborers in Saudi Arabia to add to their incomes. Besides, dropping school gives traffickers a chance to exploit children and smuggle them into Saudi Arabia.

NGOs interested in child protection warned of several threats and risks that children are exposed to, while pursuing works that does not fit their age. It was stated that some children have been subjected to sexual abuse at work.

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The Cabinet calls for ban on carrying arms in cities

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES

The Parliament had banned the carrying of arms in the Capital and other major cities, in accordance with the law of carrying and trading in arms.

The parliament has asked the security authorities and the Attorney to take serious measures in carrying out the ban on arms in the cities.

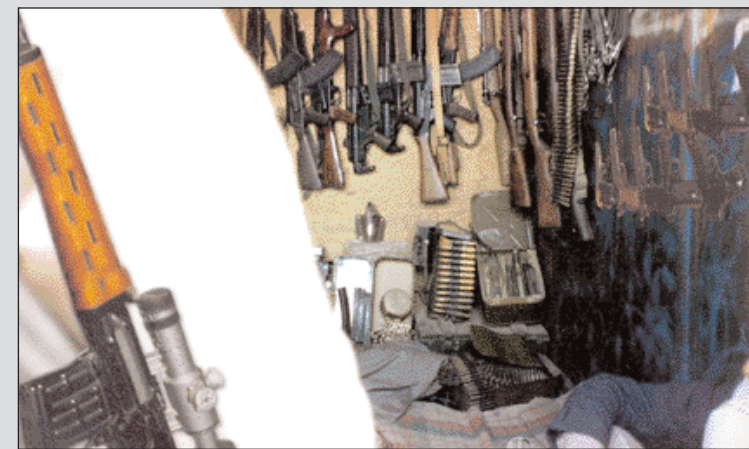
Observers think that the execution of the ban on arms in the capital Sana'a and other major cities needs courage and a firm decision from decision makers

in the government.

It is noticed that the arms situation has become a matter of concern in Yemeni cities, since it became a threat to people's security. Cities became a battle field for the vengeance between tribes.

Observers also attribute many problems to the armed guards of the executives who often escalate small problems.

Many also wonder why the weapon markets are still continuing. Some are quite near Sana'a. All kinds of weapons are sold to people in these markets.



Continued from page 1

"We demand a better life standard"

They demanded increase in their salaries and to improve their living standard. In another development, seven governmental university teachers and their aides continued their protest on the government's policy, and the abstention of Ba-jamal government to improve their living standard

In a related issue, there is a noticed concern among the citizens of the expected tide of prices up rise as the government is prepared to pass its economic reform dose. It is going to raise fuel prices that will result in skyrocket of prices up to 500%.

These developments come along side

with the aggravated suffering of the people in towns and villages due to lack of water and electricity, together with the increase in foodstuff prices.

As people's sufferings develop and services deteriorate the spontaneous reaction is expected to be boisterous.

Observers say that, the tense relations with politicians and media will contribute to the prospects of a public flare up, which will not only be confined to Ba-jamal Government.

In a related issue, as a Government spokesman, the Minister of Civil Services and Insurance, said to the media, "The final vote on the strategic

wage law will be next week, in the parliament"

The minister added that his Ministry has prepared a full matrix that they have started with the universities, and the health sector. It has formed committees to discuss the proposals presented by those two bodies, to his ministry. He added that his Ministry would, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance to discuss the wage and schedule. They are preparing to present it to the cabinet within two weeks, and start a mechanism of applying its first stage at the beginning of next July.

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Al-Samiee to Yemen Times:

I am a Unionist, and no one can deny it

Sultan Al-Samiee an MP born in 1960. He is a Taiz Commissioner, married with nine children. He is a member of the Yemeni socialist Party.

He entered into a new conflict with the authorities which politicians believe that he had opened the doors of hell. He is now subjected to fierce criticism from the government and pro government press, accusing him of calling for separation, and to divide Yemen into four regions enjoying self governance. There are some voices demanding the lift of his parliamentary immunity, to prosecute him. He thinks this is because of his reformative ideas.

Mohamed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times has met him, to clear his controversial project



Sultan Al-Samiee

Q: Lately you published an article in a newspaper, suggesting an overture for solving the problem of the Yemeni regime... will you shade a brief light on this matter?

A: I am a unionist citizen. No one can deny that. I see that our present situation is deteriorating from one day to another. I suggested an overture for debate. It is not compelling anyone to abide by it. I strongly believe that it is a way out from our political, economical and social dilemma, that we are experiencing in Yemen.

I suggested a viewpoint demanding the amendment of some of constitution articles, which will suit this period. I asked for a type of ruling, that will change the state administration into a supreme Council, and demanded parliamentary rule in Yemen, that will hold the government responsible before the parliament. I also suggested a new administrative division, which constitutes four regions, I called them, the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Regions.

Each Region will contain a number of governorates; there is nothing unusual in that

This campaign, which we witness nowadays, by the authority newspapers, is baseless. " because this proposed division is an administrative division like any other administrative division of districts and governorates"

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and all political forces have signed an agreement that will divide Yemen into four parts in the Document of Pledge and Accord.

The president has called for reform.. He was the first who called... after the fall of the Iraqi regime asserting that we should reform ourselves before others reform us.

Depending on that, and because our country is in need of reform, I declared these suggestions, and to my amazement they are met with all this unreasonable campaign. It is meant (the campaign) to turn the people's attention away from the poverty, corruption and plunder, with the continuous economical reforms, that will shortly be imposed, a thing that will raise the petrol and gas prices.

I voiced my suggestions out of craving after Yemen unity.

Q: Are you demanding Separation as the formal media says?

A: I didn't ask for separation as the authority press said.

I called for national unity. Because we are concerned with the country's plight and looking for its good. Everyone should participate in the reform efforts

I never called for any separative ideas...on the contrary we are with national unity, and our ideas are for discussion.

I am not targeting certain people. I am speaking about a reform scheme of Yemen politically, economically, and administratively, to avoid falling into a political swamp, and a civil war that will destroy all.

Q: You besides other politicians ask for a change in the ruling system. Do you mean political reform by that?

A: In my article I said that it was an idea for debate. I said the present form of the rule should be changed, taking in consideration the eminent conditions that would make it possible for all regions to participate in administration, whether on central or local levels.

There are many benefits in regional administration. The prophet, peace be upon him, has sent three messengers to three regions in Yemen. A messenger to each of the regions of Aljand, Sana'a and Hadhramout.

One of the many benefits is the expected peaceful competition between the regions, and the release of creative powers in Yemen to develop their projects. These are benefits, which are internationally experimented.

Consider Malaysia, Where was it at the end of the seventies? Today, when its people forgot all their differences, their creativity sprang forth, although it is divided into about 12 sultanates,

" What do you say to the Malaysian experience, isn't it marvelous?

Even Russia is divided into 3 Administrations. It is a system that is followed in developing countries

Q: How do you suggest the division of the regions on tribal, sectarian or regional basis?

A: First of all I am not a sectarian, these divisions are geographical, all the regions contain neighboring governorates, in short the division is geographical and nothing more. We are against sectarianism.

Q: Why don't you make your point of view on parliamentary rule clear, so that people can have a clear idea about it?

A: The parliamentary rule is found in many countries like Malaysia, Britain, and even Israel. The government will be directly responsible before the people.

As for the head of the state it will be honorary with limited authority, and the power will be between the parliament and the government

Q: What do you mean by the constitutional amendments?

A: I mean the constitutional amendments that will be in agreement with parliamentary system and to restrict the presidency term of office and the jurisdiction of the government, to be like those which are followed in the democratic countries.

I said in my suggested project that the term of office of the supreme council should be six years, and for two consecutive terms of 12 years. It is a suggestion in the end.. if discussed in the different political sectors, we will agree on a ruling system that will suit all.

Q: Why did you choose figures such as Zandani and Hothi, to be on head of some regions?

A: Among my suggestions, there were nine names for the provisional supreme council, that will continue for

one and a half year, then a new council will be elected.

Q: Why did you choose Al-zandani in particular, wasn't he the first who opposed the unity?

A: I don't agree with Al-zandani in many cases.

Q: And, why did you choose Al-hothi, is it because he opposes the authorities?

A: I chose these personalities because I want to make a national reconciliation, with all the national powers, especially those who have political differences with the authorities. This will be like the model of the reconciliation of 1970, in which the republicans and the royalists became reconciled, and there were monarch and republican representatives in the republican council and the government.

"the government was formed of the leftist republicans and the right wing monarchs. I mean this model. A national unity for all. To start a new, I chose these names to be in the transitional leading council.

Q: Are your suggestions an alternative for the Document of Pledge and Accord, that was issued by the socialist leadership in 1994, before the war?

A: This are my personal suggestions and have nothing to do with my party, on the contrary the party read these suggestions in the press, I didn't write it in the Socialist newspaper, so, this suggestion is not an alternative. It is meant to pull the country out of a political crisis, which is a destructive plight by all measures.

Q: What about the demands that are released by many of the socialist leaders, and other Yemeni symbols, inside and outside, to alter the course of the unity, are you with or against this and how?

A: If the alteration is for the political, social and economical reform,

that unifies Yemen I am certainly with it. But if the if it is for separation, I am certainly against it. I still insist that I am a unionist

Q: So, You are not with the present ruling system, are you?

A: I am against the present ruling system till it reforms itself.

Q: Some newspapers said that there are political and public parties who demanded the trial of Al-samiee, for his call of separation, and the division of Yemen into four regions, what do you say to that? Is it instigation or a settlement of old enmities?

A: These are pro government papers. They try to burnish the governments image. They have no constitutional grounds for lifting my parliamentary immunity, or to indict me.

I defy them to present a petition to the parliament or the court to prove their groundless allegations.. it is their habit to black mail ,terrorize and silence others. I consider it a storm in a cup of tea that will soon die away.

Q: What is your opinion of the crisis between Al-hothi and the Authorities?

A: I didn't use to care about Al-Hothi case since it began. .. I know that the authorities had supported him before, then they quarreled.

I wished that the war in Sadaa didn't take place for it was a loss for both the people and the army ,and a loss for the whole Yemeni people ultimately.

Q: A final word to add?

A: We hope that our friends abroad, in peace loving countries, in the east and west, would stand with the reforms in Yemen, I mean that they interfere only with advice because they have democratic experience. They should criticize anti democratic actions. We hope they will stand by our side until we reach their democratic level. And advise our authority in how to deal with democracy.

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The Heritage of Ibb Province (al-Nakeelaine)

By THURAYA DAMMAJ
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

One of the most important advantages Yemen has over other countries is the cultural variety in general and public cultural variety particularly.

Also variety of social traditions, stories, decorations, poetry, and psalms like Mahgal, Zamal, public songs ...etc.

Throughout Yemen, there are several traditional arts but it differs from place to place, or from a countryside to another.

That is what we see from different dialects and Yemeni tongues from one country to another.

This issue, I have selected a place in Yemen, and attempt to describe it with some of its traditions, like weddings, folklore dances, traditional clothes, public poetry and stories, children plays, traditional meals etc.

The place is called Al-Nakeelaine. I tried to transfer the true picture of this area that pulls my attention by its various traditional arts.

It is located in the southwest of Ibb city, it encloses 22 countries, its population is 12 thousand.

Al-Nakeelaine is a green land throughout the year. Around it there are many high mountains, where the highest one is called Al-Taaker mountain.

We can find many heritage buildings with very nice decorations. One of these buildings, really pulled my attention by its traditional decoration and style. This building is called Al-Samsarah.

Even the name of the countries, which carry a beautiful meanings like The-Alneam country, which means with more blessings.

You can see also a number of development projects in this area such as, schools, water dams and stores, infirmaries and schools for illiteracy eradica-



tion. Now we will talk about this area, starting with wedding convention.

Most conventions differ from one country to another and from one region to another. In fact, it can be very amusing to look at others' traditions.

Let's look and see how people of Al-Nakeelaine hold their marriage festivities.

Engagement Stage

In the beginning the bridegroom's family choose the bride, then the bridegroom's mother and sisters go to propose to the bride's mother. When the bride's family accepts the groom, betrothal day is assigned. Then the bridegroom's father, in the company of some respected people, bring with him Qat and some sweets (Halawiat). They sit together chewing Qat, talking, arranging the dowry and the expenditures of the wedding.

The bride's father introduces some conditions, he may ask for a dowry of YR 400,000, excluding the expense of the marriage ceremony. In point of fact, the dowry differs from one family to

another. It can extend to YR. 8,000,00. For the groom that is very expensive. And we can say that is the most important cause of spinsterhood.

A groom, MN, says: My engagement period stayed three years till I could get the dowry and the expenses of the marriage ceremony. Even with my father's assistance I still need more money, because the total cost of wedding and the dowry was YR1000000. That needs hard work during the three years.

A bride LA, says: personally, I don't want a lot of money but the traditions of our families and area enjoin us to make a wedding ceremony and buy the gold and clothes, that delayed my wedding for two years.

Father of one groom NR.says :I have four boys, just one of them are married and I want to marry the rest but because of the expensive dowry, it is so difficult to get them married.

Regardless of all these difficulties, the two families agree on the assigned day of the bridal as well as the wedding.

After that, the bride's family invites the bridegroom's family and some guests to a very colorful betrothal party.

The bridegroom today has to give his bride a golden collar, ring, dress, watch, perfume and packet of makeup. The drums, songs and dances go on till midnight.

Marriage Stage

The bride celebrates her marriage for about five days. Of course, the bridegroom is not supposed to see his bride for a month before the wedding.

Marriage festivals take several days, each with a special meaning. They are:

1-The day called Youm Al Henna

This is a traditional day. In the early morning of this day, cars full of girls singing, clapping and shrilling accompany the bride to a public bathroom. They shave the hair from all the bride's body by Halawa (kind of very sticky matter), bathe her, beautifying and dress her in lovely clothes.

After that, her family and guests receive her with drums, cries of joy, songs and dances with swords, incense, and aloes.

The guests are invited by a woman called the Mokathia. About ten days before marriage, the bride's mother asks this women to go to every house in the neighborhood, inviting them to the first three days of the marriage ceremony.

Also, this woman serves the bride during her marriage ceremony. While the bride decorates her hands and feet with henna and Alkhedhab, this woman carries the henna and decorates the bride's friends hands in order to get the marriage done quickly.

When lunch is served, the bride's friends hasten to feed the bride. The earlier a girl feeds the bride, the faster she will get married. After lunch, the bride wears a traditional dress with covers the face (Qena'a), and some roses on the head (Mashkur) with Shathab (kind of smelling plant).

Her mother puts Shathab, a small piece of cloth full of salt, some verses from the holy Quran, paper, needles and black cumin inside her clothes to protect her from the evil eye.

The bride and her friends still dance and sing till midnight, then the guests leave her and the relatives stay there to spend the night with her.

2-The second day: "Youm Al Ghasl"

This day differs from the previous day. The bridegroom's family is to be involved from the early morning. The

bride's family has to serve a hot delicious meal consisting of Zurbian; a mixture of meats and rice, Bint-Alsahn, Salta, and often different plates of food and sweets. Neighbors, relatives and the bride's friends assist in preparing the meal and other things.

When the groom's family and some of the other guests come, the singers receive them with welcoming songs. In the morning, the bride has to bathe and dress herself in a decorated green dress. During this time, the bride's friends go on singing and dancing for some hours.

After coming out of the bathroom, her friends follow her in a procession, carrying a special incense with a strong bad smell which is supposed to protect the bride from the evil eyes and Jinn. They also sing traditional songs and carry bowls of different roses. Then the bride puts on a collar of full; small white flowers with a sweet scent.

After that, the bride is covered from head to feet with the green dress.

When lunch is served, she has to take it herself. Then, the bride goes to beautify and dress herself in new expensive green clothes while the guests go to change their clothes. The bride should not smile or talk much during her marriage ceremony, or else people will laugh at her.

The whole day is spent in shrilling, dancing, singing, clapping, laughter and merry making. On this note, the day comes to and end.

3-The third day: Wedding Day

In this day, the bride will go to her groom's house. This day opens with warm procession. It is the day when the groom is to see his bride. In the morning, the bride's friends pack her bags.

They fill them with incense, perfumes and different kind of sweet smelling flowers. The bride on this day has to put on a white dress, crown on her head, jewelries and make-up.

Guests come and congratulate the bride, and then chew Qat, and smoke the Mada'a at 4 o'clock. The bride's family has to distribute Qat, Pepsi, high quality chocolate, water, cardamom etc. The bride usually appears by 5 o'clock. Her friends and relatives welcome her with hearty songs (traditional songs, called Zafa) and dances. They also meet her with incense of two kinds; the first kind has a good smell and the second one is of a strange scent which is meant to expel Jinn and protect the bride. They hold a Quran, swords, and candles. They follow her with songs and dances from the gate to the bridal throne. This bridal throne is full of flowers of different kinds and colors, candles, and other decorations.

When the bride arrives to her groom's house, the relatives and friends of groom receive her by air strong shooting fires.

(Despite this tradition is very dangerous for their life, they still practice.

In some areas, there are a different traditional ways to receive the bride, they make a small flame on the tops of the houses around the country.)

Later on, the bride's father, brothers, uncles and the groom's father accompany the groom to the bridal throne where they congratulate them and wish them a happy life. The groom has to uncover his bride's face. He also gives her a collar of flowers (Ful).

They sit for a while and take pictures. Cars full of people singing, drumming, shrilling follow the decorated car of the bride and the groom.

When the bride arrives the groom's home, a sheep must be slaughtered before she enters the door of the house.

The bride's mother and sisters should not accompany the bride to her groom's home. At this moment, the bridal comes to an end.

4- The forth day: "Al-Thaleth"

This day comes after three days from

the wedding day. In the morning of this day, the bride's mother goes to the bride's house in order to prepare with her the afternoon party. The bride's sisters and friends make cakes, sweets and buy some sweets that the women chew Qat with.

After that, the bride goes to the hairdresser and puts on the same wedding dress, then back to groom's house to present the final party.

In the evening, the bride's father gives the couple a number of sheep or a bull to congratulate his daughter.

The bride puts on a beautiful new dress. When the bride appears, songs and dances and drumming begin.

5-The fifth day: "Al Rabea"

Today, the bride and the groom's family go to the bride's home to give presents in return. Sheep and similar presents to those which were given by the bride's father. Lunch is served in the groom's house.

In the afternoon, the bride's family and a company of guests go to the groom's house to chew Qat, while males and the groom chew Qat in the bride's house.

6- Al Shakma

It is not a defined day, relatives of the bride may make this party in any time and the first one who does so is the bride's mother. She invites the groom's family and other guests to the shekma party. This is the only custom which is still held rigidly. The bride's mother distributes Qat, cakes, sweets etc.

The day is spent in drumming, singing and dancing.

The party ends with the dawn's breaking. At this point, the bridal is over. The bride may be invited to another Shakma party done by another person.

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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
OPINIONReviving
our identity

Apparently, as a nation, Yemen among many other Arab countries used to know and maintain its national plan. The people of the nation knew and approved their national plan and expressed it inside and outside of their country. Today, both people and state are quite lost. What were fundamentals yesterday are compromised today and what was not even heard of in the past is today thrown on the table as a matter for discussion.

The national plan is a political program that gives a certain country its identity and place in the global scene. A national plan shows the political directions of a country, whom we consider friends, and who are our enemies. What are the red lines we should allow someone else to cross and what is a negotiable issue.

Yemen is one of the most important countries in the southern Arabia and African horn region. In fact, it plays a leadership role and could extend its role further because of its potentials not explored yet.

Yet globally, Yemen along with majority of the Arab world - if not all - have lost track of its own lines and has been following the international political trend - created by the global powers - without reflecting on its particularities that were so clear half a decade ago. If you question a few of the freedom fighters who survived until today about what their priorities were then? What their mission was? What was their national plan? They would easily narrate them to you. In fact, you don't need to go far it is written on the national newspaper every day the principles of the Yemeni revolutions. But what is the point in knowing them if we don't believe in them any more, and worse we don't even understand the implications of them in our national and international policies.

It is time to revive our identity, perhaps create and enforcement to those principles that relate to Yemen today and link them with the global changes. What do we want our position to be like in the region? Where do we want as a nation to stand in the international political issues. Are our leaders questionable to the people? Are they accountable? If they do this nation wrong, can they be judged and set straight? Are the people involved in creating the political image of Yemen in the world? Do the agreements signed by the leaders in all fields reflect the people's beliefs? To start with, do the people know what Yemen represents to the world and how it is perceived? Are the Yemeni people aware enough to make decisions and to share the responsibility of defining the identity of this lost nation? Are they willing to as people to be involved in their country's national and international politics and if they are do they have the space and capabilities to do so?

These are many questions that need urgent answers. We need to set the records straight for the sake of the current and coming generations who don't know what we are fighting for any more.

The Editorial Board



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Politics and governance
in the Arab World

The talk about reform and its future implications is related to the political sphere and the nature of regimes existing in the Arab World. Most of the Arab capital cities are still suffering some sort of instability as though they are anticipating something new or waiting for a

change looming in the near future. Democracy is still the variably the controlling issue across the Arab World. Undoubtedly, it is felt that the public has been stirred into realizing the importance of political participation and enlarging the circle of decision-making of all Arab states without exception. Here, I must admit that the Arab World in general is straggling far behind many regions of the World in terms of democracy and political change. Arab regimes are mostly aged traditional ones. Their old age has made them unable to lead a self-transformation and motion the stagnant waters to push their people into new stages. Let's discuss the factors that constrain the freedom of people and limit regimes to go in the direction of real reform:

First: The relation between real democracy and real development is controversial and needs no proof. On this occasion, to claim that democracy is something not essential to poor people is wrong. The Indian democratic experience best refutes such a claim. Democracy is a way of governance and a philosophy of life. It is not related to the wealth or poverty of a state but depends on the general atmosphere in which it can survive and thrive.

Second: We, in the Arab World, focused on the institutional aspect and not the philosophical one. We have pseudo-democratic political institutions but the general atmosphere is not promising. The most important thing is the spirit of the regimes. The majority of the Arab states boast that they have parliaments, political, and syndicates. However, the end product does not live up to the existing infrastructure. Democracy is ultimately the community's culture and the regime's spirit. It is

General observations on new journalism draft law

Law of press and
publication (PART 1)

By ABDULBARI AL-TAHIR

Before tackling this matter, it is necessary to point out that the Yemeni constitution, "the unity constitution" stipulates the compliance with the united nation's Charter, International Human Rights Declaration, the Arab league, and the General Bases of Accredited International Charters. In spite of all amendment of the constitution, this article remained, and became article 6, in September 1994 constitution. The unity constitution, that is amended in 1994 - guarantees "the citizens in the Republic of Yemen, in no contradiction with the law - to organize themselves, politically in syndicates and professionally."

It is to be noticed that the article remained as it is, a thing that indicates that the constitution has given this right without need to submit ion or codification; article 42 (every citizen has the right to participate in the political, economical, social and cultural life. The State guarantees the right for freedom of thinking, expression and photography within the law."

It is obvious that the Yemeni State is internationally bound to model its laws in accordance with the declarations it is signatory to. In case of contradiction, between the two legislations, the general will predominate. It is internationally known now that, there is no need for the press or parties, to abide by obtaining license for newspapers / magazines or parties. It is queer that the State is insistent on issuing press law, and impose penal procedures against free opinion and expression, besides legislations like that of penal procedures, penal law, documents law, a mater that subjects the journalists to more than one punishment. There is even a legislation that demands

not seasonal slogans or provisional institutions.

Third: Education, culture and media are the three elements that formulate the public opinion and shape the collective mind of the nation. Therefore, the three elements contribute to one channel that raises understanding of what is happening around. Education influences mind

right from childhood and determines the personal characteristics. Culture is the crucible that contains the human heritage. The democratic sense is inextricably linked to the political education. Both of them affect each other. Democracy is a life way starting from the family, passing through the community, up to the state. Suppression at home, suppression of women, extremism, and fanaticism do not help create the needed atmosphere. They are associated with absent political participation and weak democratic culture.

Fourth: Religion has been playing an effective role in the Arab region as part of the Islamic world. Friday sermons, for example, account for a main constituent of millions of Arabs and Muslims.

Fifth: I have pointed many times the incestuous relationship between wealth and power in the Arab World which presents a substantial obstruction to political and constitutional reform in the Arab World. It affects the integrity of governance. Such relationship has increased political corruption and engendered starkly social contradictions.

The above factors are meant to expose the ailments of Arab World's governance. Now, we should talk about the future and its promising characteristics. Arab regimes are politically and economically similar. Speed of action may vary but the nature of regimes is similar sharing similar symptoms. Arab political forces are bound by similar factors including religious background and class differences. This invites us to examine the structure of Arab societies and their abilities to treat their illnesses and resolve problems. If we are approaching future with a desire to

death penalty for the journalist

First: Chapter One

In definition of who is the journalist, the draft adds to the right definition in law (25) of 1990, the expression, and diffuse media information on private sites and electronic webs

The Human Rights Ministry noticed that this addition contradicts article (53) of the constitution, which offers liberty as a divine right for the individual.

In fact there is an international definition of a journalist, which needs no addition or omission

The Ministry has -no doubt- noticed that it hasn't got the ability to make a sponsorship on the communication activity, which is truly the third international revolution, besides it is internationally prohibited to sponsor post and communications. It is also stated in the Yemeni law and constitution. It is the security mentality that direct the censorship. The draft contradicts the Constitution and the international Human Rights declaration by imposing sponsorship.

The draft has said that, the journalist is the member of the Syndicate, making the membership of the syndicate a term in renewing or defining the journalist. This makes syndicate membership compulsory, which is unconstitutional. Syndicate membership is optional, and you can't force a journalist to be a member of a syndicate that he doesn't like. It is also not in the least logical to prohibit a journalist from practicing his job or to extort him through the syndicate membership. This is what our qualified colleague Nabil Al-Mohemady wittingly noticed. One also adds that there is confusion in membership and registration

The syndicate membership is not compulsory all over the world. What is really compulsory is the availability of the definition and the technical terms, this

reform looking forward to democracy, the following remarks are pertinent:

First: Modernizing Arab regimes and rationalizing their policies should be top priorities. Political backwardness, miscalculations and making wrong decisions have been behind our setbacks and disasters. It is time to redefine the course. We should here realize that the Arabs' big mistakes are related to totalitarianism and lack of democracy.

Second: The weakness of the Arab partisan system is generally due to the one-party dominance in some of the states. This substantially damages democratic development and annihilate the ability to make sound decisions promptly.

Third: Real representation of the Arab people is something inevitable. It is neither reasonable nor acceptable that broadly based political forces which can not govern while those in power have no public base. It is time to disown the concept of excluding certain political forces because that would hamper the democratic progress and improvement.

Fourth: It would be a milestone on the path of democracy when NGOs thrive. That would open doors on the external world, bring down the barriers of isolation.

Fifth: Modernization and the optimum usage of modern technology necessarily rationalize the political decisions and raise governmental performance. It is not recommendable to use outdated instruments and ignore modern scientific and technical achievements.

I feel that such remarks are some sort of advice which intends to say that Arab governance crisis and wrong policies have cost us a lot. It is time to proceed objectively. The delirium will not be over unless we get rid of illusions. We should be an international productive power with considerable contribution. Arab political regimes will no longer be burdens on their peoples; their policy mistakes will no longer block the progress of modernization and rationalization. We are looking forward to modern systems and credible policies based on transparency and objectivity. That is the spirit of the age, movement of the history, and vision of the future. When will ever politicians and rulers realize such facts?

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Iran does
it again!

When Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani completed his twice won terms of office as President of Iran eight years ago, there were many in Iran who wanted him to continue. In fact a movement was almost arranged to change the Constitution to allow him to run for a third consecutive turn. But Mr. Rafsanjani shut the door in front of all these efforts and insisted that the Constitution shall be diligently applied. He probably could have run after President Mohammed Khatemi's first term, but again he thought there was wisdom in allowing Mohammed Khatemi to continue pursuing his reform agenda and again did not run for office. Mr. Rafsanjani is well known for his astute pragmatism and his success as a private individual and a politician.

This time Mr. Rafsanjani went into the race for the Presidency, but very late and he was probably the last candidate to declare his nomination. This may again indicate that perhaps Mr. Rafsanjani did not so much enter the race with a full fledged desire to actually seek it but to influence the race so as to ensure that Iran chooses the most capable candidate possible among the many that were there.

The Western press categorizes Iranian politicians as hardliners and reformists (We never get such categorization in western political polemics; there we have right wingers and left wingers). But in reality, this does not depict a thorough understanding of the Iranian political psyche nor an objective assessment of the Iranian Revolution as a successful Islamic concoction as an egalitarian movement that deserves recognition.

That the people of Iran were fully behind the revolution that overthrew the tyrannical and oppressive regime of Shah Mohamed Pahlawi is still something the West, in particular the United States is not willing to accept as a factor in gauging the pros and cons of the current regime. Moreover, that the Iranians are a highly politicized people and have a fairly good idea of what they want from their government, without waiting from signals from Washington, must be weighed in determining how relations with Iran are to be consummated. The Europeans may have a better feel for the situation in Iran than Washington does. The mentor for the Iran policy in Washington is Israel and the highly influential Zionist lobby in the United States. Washington could never be expected to have a favorable attitude towards Iran. Israel would simply fight that with all the political arm twisting and false propaganda that MEMRI (Middle East Media Research Institute, AIPAC (America Israel Public Affairs Committee, which is also a spying and intelligence liaison for Israel in the US) and the hundreds of other organizations that are promoting Israel's interests in the US could come up with on Iran.

The Iranian voters sought to confirm that they vote on the strength of the candidates in upholding the principles upon which the Iranian Revolution was based on. So the fact that a dedicated Iranian Revolutionary was the winner should not be surprising to anyone familiar with the Iranian scene. They have no reason to placate anyone by voting in reformers, because they have already tried reformers and they felt them to be unsuccessful in reflecting the reforms that would set out to increase the egalitarianism called for by the Iranian Revolution. In other words, the Iranians felt that the situation in Iran was veering away too much from the fundamental social issues the Revolution came to address. People like Ahmedienjad, the new President of Iran, revived the Revolutionary spirit in Iran by reminding the Iranians of the stand of the Revolution on many issues which neither the reformists nor the conservatives have fully put in place. Social justice to the Iranians is part and parcel of the Iranian Revolution and it is time that someone who has demonstrated his belief in such issues takes the helm.

Whether it was a reformer or a conservative at the helms now in Iran, what is significant is that the choice was decisively made by the people freely and democratically, notwithstanding efforts to indicate that there was some finagling here and there by some of the supporters of this candidate or that candidate. Surely Rafsanjani would have been in a better position to influence the elections by illicit means than his opponent. He would have also been able to make a lot of noise, if he felt his opponent used any unorthodox means to assure his win.

The peaceful transfer of authority in Iran is a great achievement that the Iranians can now boast of enjoying. That in itself is worthy of respect and emulation by many of the other Islamic states that have a long way to go before turning over authority back to the citizens of their lands.

To be continued next issue

Neo-Liberalism meets neo-Confucianism

By KENNETH MURPHY

The West has dominated the world ever since the industrial revolution. Today that dominance seems threatened by the East Asian heirs to Confucianism, the ideology *par excellence* of state cohesion.

Centuries of inculcation with Confucianism was as important to the rise of East Asia's hyper-growth economies as the conjunction of Protestantism and the rise of capitalism was to the west. Confucianism's tenets still provide an inner compass to most East Asians in a post-Confucian age, just as Biblical admonitions remain standards for the West in a post-religious age.

The basic thrust of Confucianism has changed little since Confucius's disciples recorded his aphorisms a generation before Socrates. Indeed, Confucianism became the official ideology of the Chinese state two centuries before the birth of Christ.

Confucianism was essentially a philosophical justification of government by benevolent bureaucracy under a virtuous ruler. Virtue ensured harmony between man and nature, as well as obedience within a stratified society. As one Confucian classic put it: Possessing virtue will give the ruler the people. Possessing the people will give him the territory. Possessing the territory will give him its wealth. Possessing the

wealth, he will have resources for expenditure. Virtue is the root; wealth is the result.

During the neo-Confucian renaissance of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, a metaphysical dimension was added to fill a gap exposed by Buddhism's inroads into China. Thereafter, a good Confucian could, with untroubled conscience, scorn the Buddhist renunciation of the world. This restatement of fundamental precepts restored Confucianism to a primacy in China and neighboring states that remained unchallenged for 700 years.

Neo-Confucianism provided the basic ideology for China's admiring neighbors – Japan, Korea, and Vietnam – until the advent of the West. Its tenets were highly appropriate to the settled, sophisticated agrarian civilizations of pre-nineteenth-century East Asia, for they knitted together society and polity in a manner calculated to promote stability and harmony.

The ultimate guarantee of harmony was the ruler's justness, which permitted him to enjoy the "mandate of heaven"; the people had a right, indeed an obligation, to rebel against a tyrant. But while the ethical basis of Neo-Confucianism was crucial, the Chinese also understood the need for a morally motivated bureaucracy, and thus perfected in the seventh century the world's first examination system for selecting bureaucrats, with the Confucian canon as the syllabus.

Of course, the Neo-Confucian system

was not immune to mankind's appetites. Many Confucian emperors were brutal. Yet stability was achieved. There was only one change of dynasty in China between 1368 and the end of the imperial era in 1911. The Tokugawa Shoguns, who completed the reunification of Japan in 1600, remained in power for more than two and a half centuries. In Korea, the Yi dynasty ruled from 1382 until the Japanese conquest of 1910. Periodic civil strife and rebellion were not eliminated, but only in Vietnam was the longevity of a dynasty a cloak for inextinguishable internecine warfare.

Like a happy and secure childhood, Confucian civilization bestowed upon its practitioners the self-confidence to meet the challenge of the West. Since Confucianism was essentially an agnostic ideology, concerned with the management of the visible world, the post-Confucians experienced little of the spiritual angst that afflicted Hindus, Muslims, and Christians in their collision with the "materialism" of industrial society.

Confucian civic culture also provided the basis for a long history of successful self-government. East Asians entered the modern world of nation states in self-consciously discrete secular units. By contrast, the Indian subcontinent, with two major religions and a dozen major linguistic groups, was united in modern times only under British rule.

Applied learning is the key to the post-Confucian states' success. Confucian



literati, shunning manual labor, grew their fingernails long, but they never displayed antipathy towards the world of affairs. The Chinese myth of success was the bright peasant boy whose village clubbed together to educate him and whose subsequent success resulted in the elevation of all who had helped him on his way into the civil service.

Ideally, state and family were mirror images. The emperor was the supreme paterfamilias, his benevolent rule reciprocated by the obedience of his ministers and subjects, while family members were fixed in their appropriate hierarchical relationships. Families and nations that obeyed together stayed together.

Meiji Japan grasped the advantages of making the nation a macrocosm of the family. An imperial order in 1890 outlined the objectives of education: the

Confucian concepts of loyalty, obedience, and filial piety were to be transferred from the family to the nation. At about the same time, the Chinese scholar Yen Fu – whose translations of Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, Herbert Spencer, and Montesquieu were read even by the young Mao – also concluded that filial piety fostered habits of disciplined subordination to authority that could be applied to the factory and the polity.

During the past century, the post-Confucian states have accustomed themselves to a pluralistic world of theoretically equal nation states. But it is difficult to know how deep that adjustment has gone. If the West is perceived to be attempting to reclaim the leadership it snatched 200 years ago by industrializing first, thereby denying the post-

Confucians the fruits of their dynamism permanently, the Chinese, in particular, will conclude that pluralism is eyewash and that the West's worldview in fact replicates their traditional one.

Today's trade and currency battles would then become a Kulturkampf. In a few decades, when China's economy equals America's in size, the winner will be hard to pick. Better for the West to accept equality now – and struggle to maintain it.

Kenneth Murphy's latest book is *Unquiet Vietnam: A Journey to the Vanishing World of Indochina* (Gibson Square Books, London). He is currently a senior fellow of Smolny Collegium, Saint Petersburg University, Russia.

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Policy Line

by Fatima Fouad
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Fragile perspectives

There is a long menu of development and political requirements that needs to be addressed by the Government of Yemen in order to achieve social, political and economic change. Where to begin is the million dollar question. It actually costs more than a million dollar if you calculate the amount of armored Land Rovers and security installations that the development missions perceive crucial to enable them perform their tasks in this country.

Security is one of the major problems that hindered long term development investment in Yemen. However, when International Agencies talk about Security, they do not necessarily mean the security of Yemeni people or even include conflict. They often stress fear of Extremists as a main factor that disturbs the way they operate. They also think about the security and well being of their own staff who might not be welcomed by a strict Yemeni society. While the concern is legitimate, the difference between the concept of security of staff and security of a country is not visible anymore. This had lots of negative impacts on Yemen as it is now viewed by lots of agencies who work in and outside of Yemen as unsafe and unwelcoming.

From a foreigner's perspective, there is a certain amount of ambiguity that surrounds Yemen ranging from having a weapon as an important dress accessory to producing some attacks on western interest. There is hardly any assessment of the security situation that affects the Yemeni people and the role of the Government in this scene. Because of the various perceptions that are based on fear of the Middle Eastern hostility, Yemen has been officially unattractive for business or pleasure for quite a while.

The Government of Yemen has worked intensely in trying to eradicate the problem of targeting westerners from its roots. This has led to a considerable amount of security enhancements. And although the Government has provided all the necessary precautions for the protection of foreigners' interests, the perception of a poorly secured Yemen prevails among the various missions residing in Yemen, quoting incidents that goes back to 10 years ago or more.

Yemen is now being described by International Agencies as a fragile state. According to the World Bank, a fragile state is one that is burdened by

conflict, weak governance and political turmoil. This term is increasingly used by the international donor community. However, it is important to note that the definitions of a fragile state vary drastically from one organization to the other. For example, the UK Department for International Development has defined fragile states as "those countries where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people, including the poor". While the concept is sound, it simply doesn't add anything new, the term can almost reach out to all developing countries because of problems of capacity or political will. The term is also inclusive of all the unique problems and different social and political causes the states have, it does not recognise that while the states may have a fragile formal state system; it may possess other informal governance systems that the donors do not necessarily deal with.

Having Yemen crowned as a fragile state fortifies the image of a Yemen linked with conflict and violence rather than a country that has stabilised and developed rapidly. It overlooks the efforts that have been invested in this country by both the Government and International Agencies. It also does not explain how development aid will be different or in what frame should it move to allocate the best resources for these countries. Furthermore, the security paranoia that the western missions have in Yemen has further linked conflict with fragility and confused the development aid agenda. In most fragile states, donors do not have the experience or the expertise to deal with the political and social systems of these states that can make their intervention any different from what it is now.

It is important to understand that concepts around development are constantly changing to adapt to International requirements rather than local circumstances. There is no constant method that can be the ultimate solution in providing the peace and prosperity that the people aspire for. Better aid allocations do not come by adding a new term or developing a certain jargon that we commit ourselves to, it comes from increasing and expanding work with the people who demand the pro-poor change. It needs the same serious commitment of donors to work as partners in development rather than advisors for development.

Europe's blame game

By OLIVIER BLANCHARD

The European Union's leaders have just met to draw the lessons from the failed referendum on the Constitutional Treaty. But they need not search too far for culprits; indeed, they need only look in the mirror and confront the consequences of the dishonest game that the leaders of EU member states have played for too long.

Over the years, those leaders hoped to reap the benefits of reform while avoiding the blame, so they routinely let EU officials based in Brussels take the political heat for unpopular but necessary measures. They then bitterly complained to their people about "Brussels bureaucrats" and their undemocratic ways.

But these leaders forgot that their people might actually believe them. So, when the leaders of France and the Netherlands – pro-constitution to a fault – asked their people what they thought about the Union, they received a clear echo of their own message: the people did not like the reforms, and they did not like the "Brussels bureaucrats," constitution or no constitution.

Nowhere has this game of passing the blame been more visible than in the way EU governments have handled the deregulation of the product market.

The rewards to be gained by deregulating product markets are very large. Breaking up monopolies often yields dramatically lower prices and thus higher living standards for consumers, because the same wage buys a lot more.

Consider deregulation of telecommunications and airlines, which has ushered in competition from low-cost carriers of data and people. Deregulation also leads to economies of scale, lowering prices even further, as we all know when shopping at the hypermarket rather than the corner grocery store.

But deregulation inevitably brings disruptions. Consumers gain, but some workers lose. Existing firms often have a hard time adapting. New, leaner firms take over. In the process, old firms go bankrupt, workers are laid off. Rents disappear, and think of the effects of airline deregulation on pilots' salaries. Even if as many or more jobs are created as are destroyed, this does not eliminate the pain of those who find themselves unemployed.

By any estimate, with a decent safety net for workers who lose their jobs, the benefits of deregulation far exceed the costs and the pain they cause. But this does not make governments' political task much easier, because the benefits are diffuse: consumers paying less for airline tickets may not attribute it to deregulation. By contrast, the costs are localized: airline workers who risk losing their jobs are intensely aware of the connection between deregulation and layoffs.

Of course, governments could try to explain why they pursue deregulation.

But it is much easier for them to adopt a low profile, get the "Brussels bureaucrats" to do it, and then blame those Brussels officials, indeed the EU, for any and all of the pain.

Or could it really be true that "Brussels" has overstepped its powers, forcing more deregulation than national governments wanted? This exonerating hypothesis does not hold water.

The case of airline deregulation is again revealing. Twice in the last ten years, national governments have explicitly given the EU the authority to tighten constraints on their subsidies to failing airline companies. Governments did not have to cede these powers. But they did, and this did not prevent them from blaming "Brussels" strongly and loudly for these very constraints when their own national airlines got in trouble.

Having triggered and then witnessed the "anti-Brussels" vote, what should European governments do?

One piece of good news is that deregulation of product markets has been largely achieved, so there is less need to play the Brussels blame game. The main item on the agenda now is to design better social insurance, in order to minimize the pain from reallocation, be it from deregulation, technological progress, or globalization.

Of course, some product-market deregulation remains necessary, especially in the service sector. The Bostein directive on services played badly, but there is no question that European consumers pay too much for many services. To take just one example, eliminating the monopoly that notaries public hold in countries like France and Italy would substantially decrease the costs of buying and selling homes, decrease the cost of housing, and make it less costly for workers to move to where the jobs are.

European governments face three choices. They can try to stop product market reforms altogether and, by the same token, try to stop trade liberalization and globalization. So far, no government appears to have fallen to that temptation.

They also can continue to play the blame game, letting the Union pursue reforms, while complaining about Brussels bureaucrats. But the anxiety now being felt across the EU shows the dangers of that strategy. Moreover, labor-market policies do not fall under the EU mandate, so national governments will be on their own, without the Brussels bureaucrats to blame.

Finally, they can help "Brussels" define and design product-market reforms, and then sell those reforms, and the EU's role in enacting them, to their voters. If they Europe's leaders are wise enough to choose this course, the fiasco of the French and Dutch referendums will prove to have been useful after all. Olivier Blanchard is Professor of Economics at MIT.

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Why the hustle and bustle over al-Sam'ee proposal?!

The article member of parliament Sultan al-Sam'ee who belongs to the socialist party published last week seems to have created a political crisis in the country and put the life of the man hanging in the balance.

The authorities and the ruling party have accused him of felony and breaking the Constitution and demanded that his immunity should be called off and put on trial. The socialist condemned this attack, considering it an attack on the party.

As an initiative to reform the situation in the country, Al-Sam'ee suggested that Yemen can be divided into four territories, changing the presidency into a sovereign council. He proposed that these territories should have some kind of autonomy while the sovereign council has an honorary power and authority.

The same thing was put by the well-known writer and politician Abdullah Salam al-Hakeemi. He was badmouthed and accused of high treason.

The ruling party caucus demanded the trial of al-Sam'ee. The state-run and the ruling party newspapers condemned the views of the two guys, considering them a call for secessionism and split of the country. Al-Sam'ee was scared and said that it was just a proposal he put which is not binding and that he followed the speech of the president Saleh who asked the Arab regimes "to reform before they get reformed".

It is fine that people reject the proposal of al-Sam'ee but not in this way. They can argue and defeat it down to the ground.

Wow! What is really astonishing and very bad is to bring into the surface again an old hidden rotten apple. In other words, when al-Sam'ee was a member of the parliament in 1993, he wrote an article asking Saleh to resign following a political crisis between Saleh's party and the socialists. He

chased up by the police who tried to arrest him despite his immunity. His escorts clashed with the policemen and two of the second were killed.

The police was not able to arrest the MP who was fully protected by the people of his village and constituency. Some social dignitaries interfered later during the presidential elections of 1999 and the problem was sorted out through tribal norms, of course.

The president interfered and convinced the families and tribes of the two murdered policemen to accept the blood money. Everything was over.

What is very scary and unwise now is that the authorities started to move the case with the tribes of the two policemen again, instigating them to appeal to the parliament to lift the immunity on al-Sam'ee and put him on trial.

This is very dangerous and shows the tribal mentality that still governs the mind of the people in authority and how they think. How can they call people to respect the law while they themselves do not cherish it.

This can lead to tribal revenge and instigate hostilities between the people of Sam'e and Aniss. It truly shows the weakness of the regime. It should not bet on such tricks and live by them. They are of devastating consequences to the country at large.

In my opinion, there should not have been such a hustle and bustle about the article of the man. The ruling party and the government could have debated and refuted it in the way, through newspapers, bringing out its dangers and it is up to the public opinion to decide who is wrong and right.

Hey guys, we do not need the tribes to sort our political problems and differences. There is no even need for further political problems. We need to look after our development priorities. Mind you, we do not have even enough electricity.

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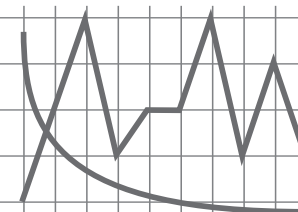
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YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	193.9100	194.2300
Sterling Pound	352.9400	353.5200
Euro	234.3500	234.7400
Saudi Rial	51.7000	51.7900
Kuwaiti Dinar	663.9600	665.0600
UAE Dirhem	52.7900	52.8800
Egyptian Pound	33.4300	33.4800
Bahraini Dinar	514.3500	515.2000
Qatari Rial	53.2600	53.3500
Jordanian Dinar	273.5000	273.9500
Omani Rial	503.6800	504.5100
Swiss Franc	152.1000	152.3500
Swedish Crown	25.0100	25.0600
Japanese Yen	1.7839	1.7868

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Beggary... from bad to worse

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The phenomenon of beggary in the Yemeni society gets exacerbated due to sufferings of the poor families and the rise of unemployment rate, which causes the rapid proliferation of beggars in the capital and other main cities.

In the same respect, many younger boys and girls said they practice beggary in streets and extend their hands to people requesting them for help. They use all the wily methods and cunning styles to evoke other's sentiments in order to give them money.

Field studies showed that these children are victims of heartlessness of their parents who oblige them to beg and collect money under the pretext that they are unable to work but in need of money to meet their basic needs.

Parents do not take for granted the rights of their children and what will happen to them while practicing beggary.

The study confirmed that children hate such a profession due to being humiliated and insulted by the society that make them subjected to harassments. Child beggars are obliged to beg by their parents due to difficult economic conditions and the requirements of living. Parents do not take into account the negative consequences of the profession on the future of their kids.

To inquire more about the phenomenon, we asked Hassan Farhan Abdu, 15, who replied that since his father married another woman, he along



with his mother and three brothers were left without anyone to sustain them, and his mother can not work because of her deteriorating health.

Hassan added that he felt himself compelled to beg, particularly after his father left his mother and her children

to live in difficult economic conditions. He also mentioned that he gained over one thousand riyals daily which can meet their basic needs.

He cried: because of our economic difficulties, my father obliged me to beg in order to cover the expenses of

our studies. When I started to practice such a profession, I could not acclimatize with it but the insistence of my father to leave us without a supporter forced me to practice beggary.

Ibtisam Nasser, 13, a primary school student, said she inherited the

profession from her elder brother after he was obliged by her father to beg, but he practices beggary only during the summer vacation to accumulate some money for his study expenses.

Ibtisam adds: "I practice beggary during the summer vacation and I dis-

tribute my time to two shifts at the Republican and Al-Thawrah Hospitals and sometimes at the bus stations. Every day I gain between 700 and 900 hundred riyals, and when my father finds that my brothers gain more than me, he becomes angry and accuses me of keeping some money with me."

Another beggar Nabil Abdurrahim said he has ten brothers and sisters and his elder sister is a university student, and since his brother is out of work, he shoulders the responsibility of the family. He dropped school to practice beggary and one of his sisters works for a restaurant in order to help him meet the living standards of his family.

The field study indicated that there are many reasons behind the proliferation of beggary and the domains of the phenomenon are not taken seriously by the society. In the views of people, the phenomenon spreads like a communicable disease, mainly among younger children due to social, economic and political factors.

The study confirmed that the exacerbation of the phenomenon is attributed to some economic conditions closely relevant to some changes and the scanty income of families because of the lack of job opportunities and the rising demand of essential food-stuffs.

So, what is the role of the project of fighting beggary that monitor beggars, to take them and study their cases to suggest some possible solutions?

Remote sensing and geographical information center to be established

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology is planning to establish a center for remote sensing

and geographical information system.

The project aims to provide different government parties with thorough data and help them in implementing joint projects, in addition to the implementation of a number of joint regional and

international projects in the field of wealth development, natural sources, urban planning, agriculture and environment.

Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology Eng. Abdulmalik al-Mu'alimi clarified that the center is to work through the satellite data, which is considered as one of the important resources of information about geology that may help in avoiding the repetition of project implementations and improving coordination between the concern sides.

Such rapid development comes in the shadow of new directives starting by intensifying the government efforts to improve telecommunication services and multi-party investment environments.

The Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology is currently implementing several projects, most important of which is the 500 thousand-line project with the aim to expand the telecommunication services all over Yemen at a total cost of \$31.03 million, and another project with an overall capacity of 115 thousand lines to cover most of the rural areas.

The Technology City functions as a central point between the telecommunication projects and the information technology in the country. The total cost of the project in its first step is estimated at YR 2.2 billion and it is aimed at establishing a complete technical complex, attracting the specialized and creative cadres who already possess the ability to convert their thoughts into economic products.

The Technology City includes a number of centers and specialized companies operating in the field of information technology and telecommunication.

Notice

The Yemen Co. for Fisheries and Marine Life announces its interest to appoint a General Manager for the company. Interested applicants for this post should have the technical qualifications as well as technical and administrative experience in the fisheries field.

Therefore those who feel they have the ability and the necessary qualifications should submit their applications, accompanied by pertinent information and documentation, to any of the company offices mentioned below within two weeks from the date of this announcement.

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Hamdan, furnishes more than ten thousand jobs a day



BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Introduction:

Hamdan is the name of one of the most famous tribes of Yemen. Today's Hashid and Bakiel tribes are the descendants of this tribe. The tribes of Hamdan are still living in north west of the capital Sana'a

In spite of the historical reputation of Hamdan, we find that it is nowadays famous for growing Qat, which is considered to be the best kind of Qat in Sana'a. Hamdan is the place which was referred to in the Holy Qur'an in the story of those young men who, after the death of their father conspired to give nothing to the poor, their story is as follows in Qur'an, ' Verily, we tried them as we tried them, as We tried the people of the garden, when they swore to pluck the fruits of the (garden) in the morning.' The story continues '19. There passed on the (garden) a visitation (fire) from your lord at night and burnt it while they were asleep.' surah 68. Al-Qalam Part 29.

Hamdan lies in the northern side of Sana'a:

Hamdan- Dharawan is a semi plain area , with intermittent mountainous of varied heights, which is characterized by a rich volcanic soil. There are three dams in the area. On top of these are, Sud Al -Shi'b Al -Kabeer, Twoadha Sud and Rai'n Sad

The Tribes of Hamdan

Hamdan tribes are now divided into four divisions; they are:1- Wada'a 2-Bani Makram 3- Dahm 4- Al-Robu'

Its area is about 589.3 sq. km. and its population is 101.212 or 169 persons per sq. Km. Hamdan consists of four directorates as mentioned before.. there are 98 villages.

Hamdan and the cultivation of Gat and Plums:

The fertile soil of Hamdan is exploited in growing Qat. It is



considered as the first cash crop for the population. The most famous villages in growing Qat are, Wadi Dhuaa, Alkibar, Toudhan, Al-Madam, Hataab and Bait -Aldhuffi. People are now digging the rocks, then they cover them with soil brought from other sites to grow the Qat. This is ofcourse in addition to the other vast areas already planted. The other areas, in which Qat is not grown, depend on the seasonal rains. In exception to this, there is Al-Hawri area, that is famous for growing plums.

Dharawan employs ten thousand workers daily. Zaied Ali, a businessman (contractor), from Al kubar area, says, "Qat is a cash source for 85% of the Hamdan population.

Hamdamm district Center "Dharawan " receives 10 thousand workers daily. They come from Sana'a and other areas. They are then carried by wholesalers which are called "Majabrah" to the farms to pick the Qat. They work from 5 in the morning to ten. Each gets 600 rials plus a small bundle of Qat "tekhzinh"

Unfortunately, a number of the youth have left school to work in Qat selling "mugautah". This of course needs to be addressed.

Disparity of Income:

There are some families in Hamdan that live below poverty limit, especially those who don't own farm lands, or live in an area that is affected by severe cold "al-dhareeb". The other family's annual income is estimated to be ten million Yemeni rials, that is five thousand dollars

Huge revenues, and No Services:

Abdulbari Hizam Al-Gadhi, an inhabitant of Hamdan, says that, "Because the people of Hamdan don't get jobs in the government, many of them left school to work in Qat selling, take me for instance, I graduated from the faculty of law in 2000 and I didn't get a job. Now I work in Qat selling," he continued, "The District receives daily revenues from the Qat that is brought from the neighboring villages. The monthly income of these customs is about twenty million Yemeni rials in addition to other customs of Zakat

and others. In spite of that there are no services in this area, no water or health services, no infrastructures and the local councils have no role.

Qat and Depletion of water:

Qat is the major water depleting factor. There are about ten artesian wells in a village. Now they are being deepened to a depth of 250 meters in the last three years . Some reach up to 400. There is no compensation in spite of the suds that have been lately constructed. According to Ministry of Agriculture latest studies, Qat consumption of water reaches about 800 million cubic meters. There are assurances that, one bundle of Qat consumes 500 liters of water, which is enough for the consumption of a family for a month.

Marriage Traditions in Hamdan:

The high dowries are a great concern to the young people in Hamdan. The expenses that a proposer should pay amount to 700 thousand Yemeni rials. The other expenses could reach a million. This is a bad habit that should be seriously faced, by the well doers in the area.

Historical background of Translation

The ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Romans, Greeks, Egypt and others witnessed the need to have a dialogue, conversation and communication to solve the conflicting issues due to clash of cultures in those times. It was important to give a big role to translation process during negotiations, dialogues or discussions that took place between each two conflicting parties. At the beginning translation processes had been verbal through indications, signs, gestures and sounds to express the meaning and approaches intended to convey.

It is very hard to track when man first felt for a need to express his thoughts and ideas in another medium or means. Translation began the moment that people contacted each other through the battles and wars. Ancient Egypt witnessed one of the earliest translation activities in the ancient world, The " Rosetta Stone ", Rashid stone a black basalt slab bearing an inscription that was the key to the deciphering of Egyptian Hieroglyphics and such findings led to more discoveries of the ancient Pharaohs riddles.

The Greek and Egyptians exchanged philosophy, thoughts and ideas throughout history. The Stone was carved in 196 BC. The Stone

shows one of the evidences about existence of translation activities between the Greeks and Egyptians. Another example is " The Great Library of Alexandria" which was one of the remarkable libraries of the time. The library was the center of knowledge between Asia, Africa and Europe. The library was a bridge between the old and the New World at the time. Mesopotamia witnessed a handful of languages co-existing together in one land and written also using the same Cuneiform writing which made them easy to write and speak in one time.

Old China witnessed deep-rooted civilization so it knew translation activities some 3000 years ago. They transferred their ideas and wisdom into / from their language in a very systematic process. Documents dated back to the Zhou Dynasty 1100BC indicate that translation was implemented by government clerks. Buddhism first originated in India and entered China through translation of its scriptures from Sanskrit into Chinese. During 13th and 7th century of Yuan Dynasty China witnessed once again a special concern towards translation from the west.

Arabs had possessed the Greek and Roman knowledge by means of translation. The Arabs even reached china and translated some works into



BY SAMEER A. HAQ
SENIOR SPECIALIST
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Arabic. In Bin Battuta was the first Arab traveler to reach China and gave us a full description of the places that he visited in China. A lot of books in astronomy, logic and medicine had been translated into Arabic. The Christian missionaries from the western countries to the Far East and China also witnessed a development of translation activities.

It is significant that each nation had participated somehow in the translation activities and created some new methods in the field of translation. Arabs built their empire and marched the peak of progress after

embracing Islam. The Arabs saw that it was significant to bring human knowledge to enforce their growing power. One can observe that " Beit Al- Hikmah" (House of wisdom) was one of the knowledge and translation sources for all knowledge seekers. The House contained books in philosophy, math's, logic, astronomy and philosophy.

The Khalif Al Mamun in 830 A. D. established the House of Wisdom and encouraged the translation activities to approach the world more.

It is note worthy to see that the Holy Quran pushed us to learn and gain knowledge to please God. One can notice that the translation movement has grown in the cradle of the three Holy Books, the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Holy Quran. The need to spread and promote the doctrines of those holy religions needed translation of their meanings to all languages of the world. The German Protestant reformer Martin Luther translated the new Testament into German in 1522 and the rest of the Bible in 154. In one way or another Arabic language is very rich in vocabulary and figures of speech so translation is very difficult to the Holy Quran. Only the meaning could be translated for understanding purposes.

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

Dead, but still he is in good health

Subject Book: Dead, But Still He is in Good Health
Author: Afaf Al-Bashiry
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Year Published: (2004)

There is no question that the literary world in Yemen is still a male dominated environ. However women in Yemen are now beginning to show that they are capable and willing to take up the pen to reflect the flow in their minds. In journalism, we are beginning to see many women take on daring political stands that demonstrate their ability to comprehend the trends in public opinion and criticize openly where Government has reneged on the social contract between rulers and the governed. Some have been subject to harassment or pressure, but that has increased the determination of these women to be more outspoken.

In literature, many have gone and issued their collection of poetries or short stories. Aziza Abdulla Abu Luhoum is a pioneer in the short story genre (Literary Corner will not neglect to look into some of her short stories and poetry later). There are also others, who are just starting, but have shown a high degree of imagination and literary prowess in putting their thoughts and reflections on Yemeni social life. One of these is the author of the book we are reviewing here. This critic accidentally found the book, "Dead, But still He is in Good Health, with a friend. At first, I thought this is probably one of those absurdists, who wants to get the reader immersed in an abstract field, from which there is no exit. However, upon starting to leaf through the first few pages, I could not help but become drawn by the mastery of intellect and the ability of the author to put expansive ideas or thoughts in a few well selected words. This is her introduction to the book: four lines of verse but reflecting wide horizons of thought and feeling. Let me share them with the reader:

*My stories, which were short
Grew fast ... and have lost their
charm of innocence*

*I brieve for a time that has since
passed*

*And today there is no more time for
reading ...*

The actual number of words in Arabic is less than half of the words above (with every effort made to make the translation as concise as possible). Yet, the choice of words is so expressive. They seem to show a whole life span of literary development amidst a world of paradoxes that often are not encouraging for any writer, because there are so few, who would read one's efforts. In other words, I have a lot to say, but a very few people to share them with.

The work is a very short one indeed with 68 pages. Moreover the work is a collection of short stories, sometimes in the narrative, i.e. with a taint of autobiographical input. There are also a few thoughts thrown in here and there.

Most of the stories or thoughts show a strong influence of Sana'ani life on the author and, accordingly the Ministry of Culture was correct in choosing to publish this when Sana'a enjoyed the honor of being the Arab Worlds' first cultural capital in 2004.

The stories Afaf gives us are about ordinary common folk in Sana'a, who are not really busy with politics, big business or fighting over real estate.

They are stories that start with one about a little girl, that has an innocent affectionate relationship with a neighbor Gradually, she realized that she cannot defy the evolution that growth brings to children in gradually limiting their freedom to feel and to interact with people to as far as their innocence can take them. As the years advance, the question arises, can this innocent relationship be turned into a permanent one of matrimony. In the end, we find how she feels about that. When her mother told her that her long-time storekeeper friend has come to ask for her hand: "Wake up! Abdul-Salam came. My heart was arrested and I felt a lightning has hit me, so I turned my face away from my mother to let my eyes pour tears that wet my pillow ... tears I shed in sadness at what remains of a fatherhood that was implanted in my heart ...

The remains of a fatherhood Abdul-Salam (the long time storekeeper friend) decided to cut up with his own hands!

On another three line story titled "Shh! ("Uss" in Arabic), we have again a scene of change in character: Shh!

-Look, isn't that the one who never left a women without winking or flirting at her? What is with him today, he has kept his vision straight and his eyes cast down??

- Shh, you imbecile Shh! He has fallen in love!

That is it; the story is over. Many times does Afaf do this, a few lines, a minor scene of two friends talking and a passerby, a simple dialogue and the reader is left to make out the past, and imagine the future with only a brief interlude of the present.

In an interesting story, Afaf, gives us a man who lost his wife sometime ago and had a passionate relationship of love with her. He has since consoled himself by constantly talking to her picture, giving her tales of his plans to marry describing to her in detail, how the new wife will be so much like her. He asks her why she is staring at him so puzzlingly. It is his hair. It is now gray. He speaks for her and asks himself "Why haven't I dyed it? He then recalls how she, soon after their marriage, was playing with his hair smilingly told him: "I will continue to enjoy my eyes, with the slowly creeping white on your hair". I interrupted her and told her: "You talk as if ageing is only the predicament of men and not of women as well." She quickly interrupted me: Oh no! I will never let you look at me in ageing. In your eyes, I will always remain a youth in her adolescence!" He then goes into explaining to her the torment he has had to go through. Their love was strong and passionate and seemed to be an everlasting journey. Her sickness and early death ended a life that simply could never be reinstated in him. He sought to continue the joy by daily going to talk to her, as if she was still around, trying to tell her that he is about to find a replacement, but in reality he knows that she knows there is really no replacement! Torment and the sweet bliss of a love affair that only has one player to carry on the affair with. Then there is story of the husband, who returns to his wife after having lost his leg in war and the dialogue that ensues between them about what change shall come about in their feelings, never mind their going about in life as such.

Such are Afaf's stories, small but passing through years and decades, with much left to the reader to immerse him/herself in his/her imagination as to how to fill the gaps in between . A truly enjoyable book!

Water in YemenReduction and pollution

By Amal Mohammed Al-Ariqi

According to many water crisis studies, 80% of diseases in the third world is due to water pollution. Ten million people die annually because of the same reason. Millions of people are deprived of safe drinking water. Children that live in rural regions where there is no healthy discharge,



undergo diarrhea 7 times a year.

Ninety-five percent of all fresh water on earth is ground water. Ground water is found in natural rock formations. These formations, called aquifers, are a vital natural resource with many uses. Nationally, 53% of the population relies on ground water as a source of drinking water. In rural areas this figure is even higher. Eighty one percent of community water is dependent on ground water. Although the 1992 Section 305(b) State Water Quality Reports indicate that, overall, the Nation's ground water quality is next to excellent, many local areas have experienced significant ground water contamination. Some examples are due to leaking underground storage tanks and municipal landfills.

The major sources of water pollution can be classified as municipal, industrial, and agricultural. For example:

- Petroleum products (oil and chemical derived from oil are used for



fuel, lubrication, plastics manufacture

- Pesticides and herbicides that are used to kill unwanted plants and insects.
- Heavy metal like copper, lead and mercury are exposed to water from many sources, including automobile industries.
- Excess organic matters (fertilizers wastes and other nutrients used to promote plant growth on farms)
- Large amount of sediment
- Infection organisms or parasites as Giardia, lamblia and

cryptosporidium parvum.

It is obvious that water pollution is a result of human activities. For example pollutants from industrial sources may pour out from pipelines to underground storage and tanks. Many industrial, medical, printing establishments .etc discharge pollutants into city sewers, increasing the variety of pollutants in municipal areas.

Yemen relies on underground water basically to cover the need of agriculture that uses up 90% of water, industry that uses up 4%, and 6% for other uses. However, Yemen lives watering poverty sub-line. In accordance with the studies that the portion of land a Yemeni person had in the eighties was 579 sq m. In 1990 it was about 214 sq m. In 2005 it reaches to 116 sq m. There are fears that the portion of a person will be only 73 sq m in 2025.

This serious Shortage leads people to use water regardless of water pollution. That is exactly what

happened in the nineties when much illness circulated in Alruth region due to the pollution of underground water in Sana'a basin. So, because of the mismanaging during the population expansion with the absence of water service and discharge, as well as the absence of effective legislations, monitoring water pollution becomes so current. Since the safe water services cover only 26% of population, the health discharge covers only 12%, people follow imperfect methods to discharge their waste and contaminate surface and ground water. Many establishments throw out their wastes in the sewers which causes dangerous environmental damages.

The government alone cannot solve the entire problem. It is ultimately up to us, to be informed, responsible and involved when it comes to the problems we face with our water. We must become familiar with our local water resources and learn about ways for disposing harmful household wastes so

they don't end up in sewage treatment plants that can't handle them or landfills that are not designed to receive hazardous materials. In our yards, we must determine whether additional nutrients are needed before fertilizers are applied, and look for alternatives where fertilizers might run off into surface waters. We have to preserve existing trees and plant new trees and shrubs to help prevent soil erosion and promote infiltration of water into the soil. Around our houses, we must keep litter, pet waste, leaves, and grass clippings out of gutters and storm drains. These are just a few of the many ways in which we, as humans, have the ability to combat water pollution. As we head into the 21st century, awareness and education will most assuredly continue to be the two most important ways to prevent water pollution. If these measures are not taken and water pollution continues, life on earth will suffer severely.

Children's Health and Parent's Smoking

By Dr. Amr Al-jawi

According to a report of World Health Organization (WHO) on parent's smoking in the presence of their children, more than 600 thousand children in the world die of what is known as negative smoking, because of its effect on their Respiratory system and the future effect on the heart and other organs.

Negative smoking means, the presence of a number of people in a closed place where there are smokers. Smoking is a bad habit. Its harm is not confined only to the smoker. Other



Dr. Amr Al-jawi

people around the smoker are subjected to dangers not less than the smoker himself. The concentrated smoke increases the dangers of contracting colds, chest infections and asthma as well as ear, nose and throat infections. E.N. T. Infections, especially effect children when they inhale the smoke, because of the insufficient development of their immunity system.

In a report for the International Environment Organization, it

considered smoking to be one of environment pollutions, it poses a threat to children's health all over the world. There is a connection between the air pollution and the high rate of chronic lung diseases, including bronchus inflammation (Bronchitis). The polluted air aggravates the pulmonary diseases in children and adolescents that undermine lung functions. There are acute chest sensitivity cases in children that are hard to treat. Investigations lead to the direct reason, that one of the parents is a smoker. Asthma diseases are common in children medicine. There is a connection between smoking parents and the aggravation of this disease.

Asthma happens as a result of exposure to certain substances, like

cigarettes smoke, fuels, or due to immunity factors such as furniture dust, wool and bird feathers. These are substances that combine in the Air Bronchus and allows the passage of a number of substances like the HISTAMINE & LEUKOTRINE. This type of asthma is known as the ALLERGIDIC ASTHMA. There is readiness in some families for the repetition of the cases due to the similarity of the condition. Negative smoking is also responsible for early children's disease of ARTERIES.

WHO's report has also stressed on the seriousness of smoking on pregnant women.. It leads to the birth of children with an underweight of 200 grams less than the normal rate. This is attributed to the oxidation of the

tissues of the fetus. There are possibilities of other diseases after birth.

A study conducted in Bristol University on 8500 working women who were exposed to negative smoking, showed that 14% of them had a decrease in their ability. The study mentioned that pregnant women who smoke have a high tendency to miscarriage, pre-mature birth, and still birth.

The high rate of carbon monoxide and (neonates) blood and born infants of smoking mothers reduce their ability to carry blood, because carbon monoxide has the ability to combine with HEAMOGLOBIN. Apart from the dangers of the nicotine on the CIRCULATORY SYSTEM, the tar

that results from the cigarettes is sure to cause LUNG CANCER and URETERAL CANCER, in addition to its destructive effects on eye and skin.

All sorts of smoking are harmful. Smokers should terminate on the spot. Studies have proved that juvenile delinquencies often start with smoking. The dangers of smoking in closed areas should be avoided, specially in the presence of children. In most of the developed world countries smoking is prohibited in public places like lifts, restaurants, airports and transportation. The problem is still more acute in hot, humid countries, where air conditioners are used day and night with limited ventilation.

The wave on the horizon

Shall we be ready when the next tsunami strikes?

by Koichiro Matsuura

Two thirds of humanity today lives in coastal areas. By 2030, this figure will reach 75 percent. Last December's tsunami reminded us of how vulnerable populations in these areas can be. Will we be ready when the next one strikes?

Almost six months later, an interim tsunami warning system is operating in the Indian Ocean basin. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has overseen the installation or upgrading of tide gauges, deep ocean pressure sensors and seismic equipment across the region. This equipment is already transmitting information about climate, tide changes and other scientific data at hourly intervals.

IOC teams have also been sent to several Indian Ocean countries to assess their needs with a view to help them set up their national plans for dealing with such disasters, including public education programmes, communications and other vital infrastructure such as evacuation routes, emergency accommodation and medical facilities.

At the IOC Assembly at UNESCO Headquarters later this month (June 21-30), the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System will be formally launched. However, despite often difficult negotiations and titanic efforts to draw up a viable blueprint for the system, this has been the relatively easy part of the task.

UNESCO's ambition, goes beyond the Indian Ocean and the Pacific region, where a regional tsunami warning system has been operating under the aegis of UNESCO since the 1960s. Rather, we are working towards a worldwide warning system, to protect other tsunami-vulnerable regions, such as the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the South West Pacific and the Atlantic.

The challenges ahead are legion. They can only be met if we succeed in promoting a worldwide culture of anticipation and prevention. Setting up a detection and warning system is not

always easy. It requires not only material inputs, but also the mobilisation of the countries concerned.

Many countries, for example, take the view that certain kinds of information - such as seismic data and underwater topographic maps - belong to the realm of their national security and commercial interests. Yet tsunamis know no boundaries and an effective warning system demands that vital scientific data be made readily available in real time.

Such a system also requires long-term investments.

The IOC's experience in the Pacific shows that maintenance of a specialised regional system often lapses over time and disappears from the list of government priorities. In 2004, for example, three of the six seafloor pressure sensors in the Pacific system were out of commission.

This is why UNESCO advocates the creation of a global ocean observation system, covering the planet as a whole and offering a whole range of oceanographic services to scientists, governments and the private sector. These services would include other climate-related hazards such as storm surges and cyclones, which are much more frequent than tsunamis and just as deadly, as evidenced by the 500,000 deaths caused in Bangladesh in 1970 and 1990.

Apart from the science and technology, disaster prevention also requires preparing people at local level. They must be educated and informed so as to be alert to tsunamis and other major hazards and to know what to do in the event of a warning being issued.

There is surely no better illustration of this than the case of the young British girl who, remembering what she had been taught in a geography lesson on tsunamis, was able to save the lives of hundreds of people on a beach in Thailand in the face of the retreating sea; or that of the native inhabitants of islands in Thailand and Indonesia who were able to save thousands of people thanks to legends deriving from their oral tradition.

Contingency planning also concerns the human environment: identifying risk areas, designating or developing evacuation zones and, above all, prescribing the construction of earthquake-resistant buildings and refusing permission to build on dangerous sites. In January 2005, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe (Japan) recommended that critical sites such as schools, hospitals, communication and transport lifelines, power sta-

tions and heritage sites should be protected.

Finally, nothing will be possible without a constant exchange of knowledge and information between the authorities, local communities and scientists. The concern for such a dialogue prompted UNESCO to devote a recent session of its 21st Century Talks to the topic: "Tsunamis: foresight and prevention". Organized by Jérôme Bindé, this international meeting

brought together two world-renowned geophysicists, the former French minister Claude Allègre and Emile K. Okal, together with Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of the IOC responsible for the global oceanographic programme.

A new social contract between science and governance is necessary if decision-makers are to act other than as blind pilots with scientists as their lucid but impotent passengers. For it is

essential that leaders should be clear-sighted and that science should possess the necessary leverage, if, in keeping with Archimedes, it intends to move the world.

Koichiro Matsuura © UNESCO
* Director-General of UNESCO.
This article is a revised summary of the author's presentation to the 21st Century Talk on "Tsunamis: foresight and prevention", recently organized at UNESCO.

الإختيار الذكي في عالم الراحة

الطرز المعلق على الجدار

تصميم متناسق عموديا وأفقياً
يتناسب مع الزخرفة الداخلية

الهيئة تنظيف الهواء بواسطة البلازما

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Othello: A tragedy of jealousy and suspicion

Shakespeare is the greatest dramatic genius in the annals of English literature. He has produced comedies, tragedies and histories and portrayed a large variety of characters. *Othello* is one of his four great tragedies. It is a tragedy of jealousy and suspicion. Jealousy in Roderigo, Desdemona's disappointed lover, is caused by her elopement with Othello. Jealousy in Iago, an ancient to Othello, is caused by Cassio's promotion to the rank of lieutenant. This jealousy brings both Iago and Roderigo closer. So they hatch out conspiracy against both Cassio and Othello. Iago, burning with jealousy, is suspicious of his wife's illicit relation with Othello. Jealousy and suspicion incite Iago to poison Othello's mind against Desdemona's chastity. Iago is a



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villain to the core. He exploits Desdemona's loss of her handkerchief and tries to convince Othello about his wife's liaison with Cassio.

Othello is a great tragic hero indeed. He falls an easy prey to Iago's conspiracy. For all his goodness, he has a grave tragic flaw in his character. He is a gullible person who cannot see through Iago's 'motive hunting, motiveless malignity'. His credulous nature is his greatest handicap. It prevents him from suspecting the well calculated evil design of his enemies. Naturally, he believes what he sees. Moreover, Othello is essentially a valiant soldier. He believes in valor and victories. He cannot take to trick and deception. He does not possess a clever mind capable of subtle intellectual distinc-

tions. Whenever emotion excites him, it undermines his intellectual faculty. A.C. Bradley rightly describes Othello's character in the following lines:

Emotion excites his imagination but it confuses and dulls his intellect.

Othello believes in the dignity of life and moral values. This belief combined with his credulous nature clouds his vision and, consequently, he fails to see through Iago's malice.

Iago's villainy is at its peak in the third scene of the third Act where Othello's mind succumbs to constant poisoning. When Cassio is closeted with Desdemona, Iago brings Othello to the scene with a villainous purpose. Cassio has no courage to face Othello and, therefore, sneaks away from the scene. As Cassio leaves the scene, Desdemona requests her husband for Cassio's restoration to his former position. But the devilish Iago misinterprets the whole scene. He suggests that Desdemona is no longer faithful to her husband by drawing his attention to the supposedly noto-

rious, questionable character of a Venetian woman. He says that Venetian women are generally unfaithful to their husbands. So he successfully insinuates Othello that it is impossible for a fair and charming Venetian lady like Desdemona to love a dark and ugly Moor like him (Othello). He further inflames Othello's mind by saying that the handkerchief presented to Desdemona by him is presently used by Cassio.

All these machinations destroy Othello's confidence in his wife and make him impatient to verify the truth. Therefore, he feigns headache and asks Desdemona to bind his head with the same handkerchief. But Desdemona fails to produce it and this failure confirms his suspicion. It is the handkerchief that was dropped by chance and picked up by Emilia. Emilia passed it to Iago who managed to send it to Cassio. Lastly, when Desdemona learns the news of Cassio's death, she bursts into tears which really infuriates Othello. Wild

with fury and suspicion, Othello fails to restrain himself and smothers his beautiful innocent wife. His credulous nature proves fatal and brings about his undoing. When Iago conspires against him, Othello is unable to see his evil design. Rather, he praises his enemy:

I know thou art full of love and honesty.

Othello murders Desdemona, not in jealous rage but for the sake of his moral universe. He is an idealist who believes in moral principles. He feels to have lost his social prestige and finds his world shattered. Just before Desdemona's murder, Othello gives reason and justifies his plan:

It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul.

To Othello, Desdemona appears to have lost her chastity. It is the cause that Othello is unable to bear. It is the cause that takes Desdemona's life. But this cause is artificially created and the credulous Othello is taken in. When the truth is revealed, it restores Othello's moral

universe. But it fails to make his life endurable. He is unable to stand the sight of dead Desdemona as cold as her chastity. He utterly regrets his foul deed and plunges into deep agony. Conscience bites him and renders him restless:

O Desdemona! Dead! Desdemona! Dead! Oh! Oh! Oh!

At last, Othello kills himself and gets rid of his suffering. His suicide is inevitable to escape the mental torture he undergoes.

Othello is trapped in a web of intrigue. Iago deceives Roderigo into losing his purse. He deceives Cassio into losing his honour and lieutenantcy. He deceives Othello into losing his nuptial love and trust. Lastly, he deceives himself and loses his life. In Iago's intrigues against Othello and Desdemona, the handkerchief plays a crucial role. It breeds suspicion and suspicion ruins their life. And the play appropriately ends in arousing the emotions of pity and fear.

Annual Day Celebrations of English Department, Faculty of Education, Al-Mahweet

Promote a sensitive awareness towards the changing prism of education

Keeping up its glorious tradition, the department of English, Faculty of Education, Mahweet celebrated its Annual Day on 16 May with pomp and solemnity. Dr. Bushra M. Sadoon, Head of the department presided over the function. Dr. Mohammed Al Kamali Dean, Dr. Adel, Vice Dean and Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim, General Manager of the college were invited to the glittering ceremony as Chief Guest, Guest of honor and distinguished guest respectively.

The event got underway on a solemn note with recitations from the Holy Quran by Jalal Al Sahel. Dr. Bushra in her warm welcome note thanked the distinguished guests, members of other departments and students who made the occasion a great success by their kind presence. Mr. Bassim Al Saqir, General



BY DR. RAMAKANTA SAHU
AL-MAHWEET

Secretary of the Cultural Association presented his report on the activities of the Association and kept on record his sense of appreciation for the sincere efforts of the teachers, under the patronizing care of the Dean and the Vice Dean, to groom the hidden spark of cultural and athletic talent of the students, not only of the English department, but of other departments as well. This was followed by

an emotional send off given to the outgoing Level 4 students by the juniors. Ali Julul, on his personal behalf and on behalf of Level 3 students, wished all luck to the graduating elder brothers and sisters. From among the Level 4 students Radhi Al Radhi and Afrah Ahmed Humran responded to the kind gesture, and expressed their thankfulness to everybody, especially the teachers, who directly or indirectly contributed, with passion and professionalism, to their nourishment during their academic train-



Dr. M. Al-Kamali addressing the gathering as Dr. Alward, M. Ibrahim and Dr. Bushra look on.



Dr. Bushra displays the Citation for Dr. Al-Kamali

ing, spanning the happy and memorable four years, which have rolled by amid joy and cheer, offering challenges and opportunities much as life does.

Mohammed Modhaffar and Mohammed Humza, then, presented brief but impassioned speeches on the problems crippling the educational system in Yemen and the role assigned to the young graduates to redeem the educational scenario from the quagmire of orthodoxies that it suffers from.

The department, in tune with its tradition of excellence, honored the Dean Dr. Al Kamali, the Vice Dean Dr. Adil, the General manager Mr. Ibrahim, the Head Dr. Bushra, and members of the department Dr. Sahu, Dr. Mohammed Alward, Mr. Mohammed al-Fattah, Mr. Ismail with mementos, as a token of appreciation for their signal services.

'The Spectrum', the department's literary journal edited by Dr. Bushra and Dr. Sahu was released on this occasion by Dr. Mohammed Al Kamali.

The next item on the agenda was distribution of certificates of merit and trophies to the winners of literary and sports competitions. The winners of the sports championships and the awardees of trophies are as follows.

1. Football championship: won by Level 2
The Krishna Chandra Sahu - Taramoni Debi Memorial Running Trophy (donated by Dr. R. K. Sahu) was received by Ismail Khadary, Captain.
2. Volley ball championship: won by Level 4
The Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf memorial running trophy (donated by



Radhi Al-Radhi responding to the send-off given by Level 3 students.



Basim Al-Saqir, General Secretary presents the Annual Report.



A group of outgoing graduates in a mood of 'merry sadness'



Afrah A. Humran responds to the farewell address by Level 3 students.



Mohammed Modhaffar presents his emotionally charged speech.



Mimicry, an item of the cultural skit, presented on the occasion.



A section of the audience in rapt attention

A letter to the teachers of English: 87

Punished by rewards (1)

Dear Fellow teachers,

The title of this article has been borrowed from a psychologist, A. Kohn, who writes how the rewards given in schools such as stars and prizes to recognize the achievement of students work against motivating them; they act as bribes. He is firm that external motivational sources like these most often do not

create the wanted results and stresses that intrinsic motivation – motivation that comes from within – is more useful than extrinsic motivation – motivation that is provided by rewards.

Is it true of our schools and colleges? Do our students get carried away by the prizes and rewards they get for their achievements? Is extrinsic motivation less useful than intrinsic motivation with our students too? If it is, how can we correct the imbalance in the situation? Can we not use any extrinsic motivational factors at all in our situation? How can we develop intrinsic motivation in our students? These and a few related questions will form the theme of this and a few letters that follow this. I have chosen to write about motivation as I have recently experienced a controversial behaviour in some of my students and I am sure that the problem lies in how motivation is perceived differently by different teachers and how they are motivated by them.

First of all, what is motivation? Several psychologists have provided definitions to motivation; some of them are:

- internal state or condition that activates behaviour and gives direction
- desire or want that energizes and directs goal-oriented behaviour
- influence of needs and desires on the intensity and direction of behaviour
- the arousal, direction and persistence of behaviour

Though there is disagreement about



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these definitions, motivation is commonly believed to be the desire or want or need that energizes one's action or behaviour. Motivation can be externally provided in the form of rewards, prizes and incentives such as jobs or positions or extra money; even a word of congratulation can act as extrinsic motivation. It can be provided internally by the satisfaction one

gets in completing the job on hand.

It is believed that internal or intrinsic motivation is more powerful and longer lasting than external or extrinsic motivation mainly because it creates the necessary urge to go on with the work on hand. It has been found to be true of learners as well. Teachers as well as parents are, therefore, advised to keep the level of motivation of the learners as high as possible while they are in schools or colleges, especially intrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is more durable and self-enhancing, according to Kohn.

Many experts have made suggestions as to how to provide intrinsic motivation in learning situations. As good learners are driven by success, curiosity, originality and relationships in order to achieve good performance, opportunities to obtain them can be a rich source of motivating them. Teachers should see that the conditions in the classrooms are conducive to provide opportunities to obtain these goals.

Nothing succeeds like success, it is said. One success leads to another and another and so on. Provide the opportunity for the learners to succeed; by fair means, through healthy competitions, using good and useful testing devices. Success through unfair and unethical means will not bring real motivation. More will follow.

Yours fraternally,
Dr M N K Bose.

Teacher preparation in Yemen

BY HUSSEIN AL-NOURI
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Colleges of Education in Yemen are responsible for preparing secondary school teachers. Although it is true that in the existing training modules due attention is paid to sensitizing the pupil teachers in specific areas of specialization, general culture studies and vocational preparation, yet there seems to be an abiding need for the inclusion of a component relating to leadership qualities.

It is commonly agreed that, in addition to achieving proficiency in the curricular components, efficient teachers ought to inculcate in themselves leadership qualities, which is very important especially in the classroom because the teacher is the nucleus of the teaching-learning context. It is therefore essential that the teacher

projects himself/herself as a good leader with a vibrant and dynamic personality, capable of a close interaction with the pupils.

Theories of leadership highlight the saliency of developing a broad awareness about major social trends on the part of teachers. The situational theory of leadership, too, focuses on the role of the social factors in promoting leadership qualities, and its far reaching effect in exercising appropriate degree of control.

As such, it is only proper that the pre-service as well as in-service teacher preparation modules in vogue in Yemen include cultivation of leadership qualities in the teacher trainees.



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Actors for change: The growth of human rights institutions

Defending human rights has a new tool in its arsenal. More than 100 national institutions have emerged in recent years to protect the rights of vulnerable groups. They are increasingly active in a wide range of human rights causes, from the prevention of torture and discrimination to conflict resolution.

The Story

What does an improved status of the Tsaatan minority in Mongolia have in common with the rescue of child soldiers in Uganda, the probe into decades-old cases of forced disappearances in Mexico or documents on the training of police in Northern Ireland? All of these examples reflect a promising trend – a growing role and effectiveness of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. “Building strong human rights institutions at the country level is what in the long run will ensure that human rights are protected and advanced in a sustained manner,” Secretary-General Kofi Annan stressed in a 2002 report. And that’s what – away from the media spotlight – appears to be happening.

Since the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted in 1993 the so-called Paris Principles – minimum standards

concerning national human rights institutions – many countries have worked with the UN to establish or enhance such bodies. What often goes unnoticed, however, is that these institutions, already numbering more than 100, are increasingly active in a wide range of human rights causes.

The Context

- The majority of existing national institutions can be grouped in two broad categories: “human rights commissions” and “ombudsmen.” Less common, but no less important, are the “specialized” national institutions which function to protect the rights of a particular vulnerable group.
- Such national institutions are not set up to replace the UN human rights organs or non-governmental organizations working in the same area. Their role is complementary, and a strengthening of such institutions can only enhance the effectiveness of both national and international human rights machinery.
- In January 2005, the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan launched a report, A Call to Justice. Thanks to this bold initiative, for the first time Afghans were asked to express their views on vital issues of peace, security and justice.

“Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About”

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

- The Danish Institute for Human Rights is creating a knowledge database to raise awareness of the specific impact and consequences of anti-terrorism legislation.
- The official probe into the forced disappearance of 532 people in Mexico during the 70’s and early 80’s had limited results until the Mexican National Human Rights Commission intervened and was able to throw light on that tragic episode.
- Established as an outcome of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement 1998, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has investigated and supported through courts key cases on issues covering all political and religious viewpoints.
- The National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia has made a significant contribution to securing the rights of the Tsaatans, the smallest ethnic minority in the country, residing in an isolated mountainous area.
- Despite the challenges of working in conflict areas, the Ugandan Human Rights Commission has investigated reports of recruitment of child soldiers and made recommendations on their reintegration into society.
- The National Human Rights Commission in India has been making efforts to create an environment in which economic, social and cultural rights could be better promoted and protected.

For further information
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