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Parliament & Cabinet: Tension accumulates

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 18- Tension between the Parliament and the Cabinet, represented by PM Abdulqader Bajammal who attended the Parliament's session last Thursday and Saturday, has increased after a number of ministers were summoned for breaking the law.

The Cabinet, according to the Parliament, did not apply the wages and salaries law, but approved the sale of liquid gas to the European and Korean markets without implementing the recommendations of the Parliament. It also violated the sales tax law by levying an 8% tax sale in lieu of 5% as stipulated by the law.

In addition, answers were given to inquiries of some MPs on new corruption cases in the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and flagrant infringements committed in the ministries of public works and highways, electricity, water and interior.

The Parliament accused the government of playing on the State's general budget for the fiscal year 2005 by slashing funds for the investment programs by 50% and the Parliament's budget by 25%, in addition to unjustified expenditures and the demand for additional provision estimated at 52% of the general budget.

Despite the fact Mr. Bajammal avoided to meet the Parliament once again, he immediately answered ques-

tions of the Parliament fearing a recurrence of the event when his government was summoned by the Parliament concerning the freezing of the investment of Yemen Hunt Oil Company in block 18 in Marib after over 75 MPs charged the government with a series of violations.

Bajammal, who in abnormal way addressed the Parliament, said the budget grants the government the right to cancel some of its items, adding that the government signed an agreement on the sale of liquid gas based on a certificate from a specialized company. The certificate confirmed the availability of sufficient reserves for local consumption and export.

In his response to why the wages

and salaries law has not been put in effect, Bajammal said the law can't be applied easily and that part of the wages and salaries strategy has been implemented mainly in the military and security institutions where employees got their salaries with the increase starting from last Tuesday.

Bajammal attributed the delay of implementing the strategy for civil service employees due to multi-dippers and some parties have not prepared proper salary lists despite President's declarations saying there are over 60 thousand two-post employees in military and security institutions.

PM attempted to withdraw from the Parliament last Thursday giving MPs

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the right to quiz the concerned ministers. This is a trick taken by Bajammal to shift rage to the ministries of finance and oil.

MP Ali Ashal, a member of the Development and Oil Committee said he was convinced by the answers of the Minister of Oil and Minerals concerning a scandalous corruption case committed by the ministry when it gave compensation worth of 64,400,000 Yemeni rials (1.6 million dollars) to one of the lessees of a fruit and vegetables yard. He confirmed the amount was delivered under PM's orders.

Ashal said it is the arbitration office through which illegal bargains were passed in the oil blocks No. 53 and 18. Minister of Oil and Minerals acknowledged before the Parliament that the compensation is a result of dispute between the Yemen Oil Company and al-Bakri Foundation.

For his part, MP Abdulaziz Jubari mentioned that the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Highways acknowledged that his ministry violates the tender law in projects implemented by 80%. This enraged Abdullah al-Daf'e, Minister of Public Works and Highways who then refused to answer to MPs' questions.

The Parliament demanded confidence be withdrawn from the Minister of Public Works and Highways, who

has been attacked and humiliated by some MPs and his ministry has been accused of implementing road projects contrarily to international standards and specifications. This led al-Daf'e to blame MPs for misunderstanding.

In spite of the sharp tension between the Parliament and the Cabinet, the former referred the case of oil and liquid gas to the Development and Oil Committee.

Over the last four years, Bajammal's government used to open additional allocations, which the Parliament believe they have been already delivered, but what remained is the Parliament's approval. The rate of additional provisions to the general budget was estimated at 15, 19 and 16% in the fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2003. The overall additional allocations in 2004 reached 188,589,932 Yemeni rials, equal to 25% of the state's general budget.

2005 came with the government demanding the Parliament to approve additional provision worth 451,164,180 rials, equivalent to 52% of the state's general budget.

The Presidency's share of such allocations came at 8 billion and 200 billion rials spent in the form of assistances. 361 billion rials have been allocated for the purchase of trucks for the government while 2 billions are spent on celebrations and conferences.

Popular participation in development plans

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ADEN- Sept. 13- The city of Aden hosted on Saturday the consultative meeting on goals of the third five-year plan for development and poverty alleviation. The plan stretches from 2006 to 2010.

The meeting, organized by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, covered the governorates of Aden, Lahj, Abyan and al-Beida.

The event included official and popular activities of the said governorates staged in the presence of a number of



Participants from different governorates in one meeting

representatives from the private sector, civil community organizations, and other research and academic institutions.

The meeting was opened by governors of Aden, Lahj and al-Beida who stressed the importance of such meetings in enhancing the popular participation for decision-makers in the layout of development plans.

These officials asserted the specification of the needs of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation as a well-planned initiative due to contribute to the participation of concerned people at the central and local levels in the assessment of plans and policies.

The initiative is expected to set visions and outlines necessary for the coming period of time. These activities reinforce the non-central directives and practices of the local authority and will help achieve the millennium development goals.

Dr. Yahya al-Mutawakil, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation confirmed there is a number of meetings and activities due to be held



Planning and International Cooperation Ministry's officials admin running one meeting.

in Aden, Hodeida, Hadramout, Taiz and the capital.

The scheduled events are planned to review moves of the third five-year plan for development and poverty alleviation in the shadow of internal and external changes and their impacts on efforts for achieving the development goals and poverty alleviation.

Additionally, the planned activities are due to view the local successful initiatives including efforts of the private sec-

tor and civil community organizations pursued for enhancing partnership between the private sector, civil community organizations and donors.

The third five-year plan for development and poverty alleviation, 2006-2010, is thought of as the fruit of a thorough and comprehensive revision of the development plans and programs, as well as the economic reforms that have been implemented over the past years for determining the future of Yemen.

Despite a sharp crisis between them and authorities

Twelfth Shiites insist on Saleh's candidacy



Shiite people assembling in one of the areas in Sana'a governorate on al-Ghadir day

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 17- The Twelfth Shiite Current in Yemen issued a communiqué, the second of its kind following the events of the Sa'da uprising by urging President Saleh to change his decision and stand in the coming presidential elections scheduled for September 2006.

The joint communiqué was issued by Shiite elements from the Capital and Ibb Governorate following a state-

ment by the Twelfth Shiite Association in last August insisting on President Saleh to stay in power, as the country is in need of him in the difficult situations experienced locally, regionally and internationally.

Such statements have not showed a unified viewpoint and have not been endorsed by the Supreme Twelfth Shiite Council, which was formed during Sa'da uprising including symbols and representatives from the Shiite Current in Yemen.

Continued on page 3

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Fawzia Noman; new girls' sector not against coeducation

By Nabeel Al-Toiti

SANA'A- Sept. 15- In the first workshop to be organized by the girl's educational Sector, Mrs. Fawzia Noman Deputy minister of education, said that their newly formed sector doesn't aim at separating girls from the boys. It is mainly meant for bridging the wide gap in the number of boys and girls being enrolled in schools both in Urban and rural areas.

The workshops aims are realized in its title (Participation in Girls Education is a National Social commitment). It aims at forming a national partnership for girls' education. The workshop sheds light on the necessity of integration of formal authorities' efforts with that of the civic societies. Parent's councils are to be activated to play roles in their schools. The public awareness should be aroused to recognize the necessity of girls' education, by strongly highlighting its contribution to comprehensive development.

It worth mentioning that girls' school attendance rate is only 26%. The total number of girls who don't go to schools in rural areas is 77% according to Ministry of Education's statistics.

Prof. Bilal visits Saut Al-Hayat Specialist Hospital

SANA'A- Sept. 16- Prof. Abdulaziz Bilal, Dean- Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Professor of Otorhinolaryngology arrive in Yemen on Friday for a visit to Saut Al-Hayat Specialist Hospital.

The esteemed guest, who is visiting Yemen for the first time, was received at the Sana'a International Airport by Dr. Essam al-Dhabhani.

During his stay in Yemen, Prof. Bilal will be conducting medical consultations and some complicated surgeries for nose, ear and throat sufferers in Saut Al-Hayat Specialist Hospital.

Prof. Bilal, who is a well-qualified doctor in the field of Otorhinolaryngology, is be

accompanied by Dr. Essam al-Dhabhani during his visit due to last for one week. He started performing operations from Sept.16 to Sept. 22.

Additionally, a protocol celebrations is planned to be staged at the Police Officers Club on Wednesday, Sept. 21 covering a variety of medical activities, most important of which is a lecture entitled "Transplantation of Cochlea" to be delivered by Prof. Bilal.

The visiting guest will have tours to some Yemeni ancient sites to get an idea about the Yemeni civilization and its historic impression.

Saut Al-Hayat Specialist Hospital hope to offer medical services around the hour for people who need.

Mp guards turn their guns on Arabia photographer and correspondent

By HASSAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate had asked the parliament to make a quick investigation in the oppression that Alarabia Sana'a correspondent Hamoud Munasar, and photographer Fuad Alkhdid, met on the hands of an Mp guards. Armed guards of Mp Mohamed Almushli Al-Radhi from Hajah governorate, directed their guns to the two men, demanding that they should hand over their cameras after they photographed the armed escorts of some parliament members.

In his address to Speaker of the parliament the Syndicate's, Chief of journalists described the incident as disgracing to legislative authorities, which are supposed to be protectors to rights on top of which is the press liberty.

In a release to Yemen Times correspondent Hamod said that he was being followed by armed men,



Hamoud Munasar

demanding that they should be given the camera. He said that he sensed danger and hurried to the parliament's gate. He found an MP and explained the situation to him. Then the armed guards came and threatened him. He was surprised that one of them drew his gun and pointed it at him. The MP interfered and protected Munasar. He said that he will report to Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar,

Speaker of the Parliament on this incident which endangered his life.

This incident is among a series of its kind with which several people were met from these armed guards. Hundreds of them often gather in front of the parliament carrying their arms.

At the beginning of this year PM Ba-Jamal met a similar incident when an armed guard pointed his gun at him threatening to shoot him down if the increase in prices were endorsed.

Statistics say that 30% of the MPs are tribal chiefs who are guarded by at least four armed followers.

Journalism is a dangerous career in Yemen because of massive intolerance for free speech and criticism in the prevailing Yemeni cultural atmosphere. Journalists were met with a number of assaults from several parties that have a low opinion of the journalism activities such as photography, recording and others. Lawful journalist actions are considered to be red lines that should not be

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This edition's question:

will the recent parliamentary interrogations to ministers and the revelation of corruption cases help in corruption eradication
Yes
No
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Last edition's question:

After years of enmity, the PGC and YSP got intimate. Do you think this intimacy will have an influence on the coming presidential elections?
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crossed and journalists are often indicted for them. Sometimes they will be met with actions which are real threat to their lives.

Yemenia negotiates buying ten Boing (787)

Yemenia started the first round of talks with Boing manufacturing company to buy ten Boing planes to support the growing requirements of its international fleet.

The negotiations were headed by Captain Abdulkhalik Saleh Aqadhi, Chairman of Yemenia and executive manager, with a company's delegation headed by Mr. John Mathiot, Regional executive manager for the Middle East and Africa.

Yemenia's desire to modernize its fleet by making a deal to purchase 10 Boing(787), was discussed in the meeting. Yemenia's plan came within the strategic program that was approved by its board for modernization, and upgrading of services.

Mr. Saleh Al-aoaji Deputy board

manager and Amin Al-haimi Deputy Trade manager participated in this meeting which was held lately in Dubai.

Captain Abulkhalik said that the meeting came after a series of negotiations between Yemenia and Boing following the offer that was introduced by Boing on their new highly technical (787).

Captain Alqadhi added that these negotiations are the first step towards carrying out their comprehensive economic and services modernization to achieve the company's ambitious plans through the coming 10 years.

Yemenia owners, (51% Yemeni and 49% Saudi), are eager to promote their carrier, to be one of the successful carrier's regionally and internationally, Captain Al-Qadhi said.

Awareness campaign on environment

By TAIZ BUREAU

TAIZ- Sept. 13- The Municipal Development and Protection Program organized last Tuesday a workshop on environmental awareness at al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture.

The workshop reviewed the goals of the campaign represented on sustaining the environment and raising awareness about conservation.

Participants of the workshop also made a mention of the impacts torrents have on environment and the environmental implications of

the use of plastic bags. Additionally, people from different non-governmental societies, pressmen, teachers, zone chiefs and mosque imams received training on environmental sustainability.

Attendants then discussed the difficulties and barriers that faced the campaign in addition to different themes of the workshop, which was enriched with a plenty of viewpoints, ideas and proposals aimed at boosting cleaning activities and maturing awareness of different social categories on importance of sustainable environment.

Dubai invests \$370millions in Aden containers Port

ADEN - Deputy Manager of the General Corporation for Free Zones, Dr. Mohamed Mahmoud Al-Wedhn, said that Dubai International Company for Ports, will resume management of the container port in Aden next month. The company will be investing \$370 million in developing infrastructure, as per its contractual commitments, Al-Wadhn said. It will also build a village for air- freight in Aden airport in addition to rehabilitation of free zone and

the construction of a dry basin for ship servicing.

Mr.Al-Wadhn added that negotiations with the company are proceeding smoothly and most of the differences are resolved.

Dubai Company is committed to raise the number of containers to 1.5million, within three years of the commencement of its work.

The deputy manager pointed out that Aden port has got natural charac-

teristics that distinguishes it from other ports in the area. Its strategic position as a bridge between Europe, Africa, Asia and South Asia is prominent among its advantages. Al-Wadhn said that it is unlikely to enter into competition with Dubai port at least for the time being.

Mr. Al-Wadhn described previous press campaigns that tried to interrupt the progress of agreement negotiations as unpatriotic.

Sana'a International Book Fair opened

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA, Sep. 17- Yemen vice-president Abdrabeh Mansour Hadi Thursday opened the 22nd session of Sana'a International Book Fair held at Expo Center for international exhibitions. Taking part in the fair are 360 Arab and foreign publishing houses from twenty countries. The fair continues open until 28 September.



The minister of culture and tourism of Yemen, large number of officials, and representatives of diplomatic missions in Sana'a attended the inauguration event.

Yemen minister of culture and tourism Khalid al-Ruwaishan has said about 7% of books on exhibition are recent issuances meeting scientific, social, literary and religious demand of readers, beside children books and electronic chips to be sold with acceptable prices.

Students visiting the fair told Yemen Times they were unable to buy scientific books in the fair because of their high prices. Selling of books in the first

days was mainly to establishments, organizations, and little individual purchasing.

Egyptian and Saudi Arabia publishing houses are among the prominent participants in the fair. The ministry of culture is to hold an extensive cultural program during the days of the book fair, taking part in it a number of Saudi men of letters in addition to poetical evenings by the Jordanian poet Tahir al-Riadh beside a number of poets and intellectuals from different countries.

It is usual that religious books are prevalent in these fairs against the scientific books due to increased selling of religious books in Yemen.

Lawyer prevented from defending al-Moayad

SANA'A- Sept. 17- A U.S. court has prevented Mr. Cohen, a U.S. national and defense-advocate of Sheikh al-Moayyad to visit his client.

Lawyer Khaled Al-Anisi told the 26 September Net that he received a telephone call from Stanley Cohen telling him that the court rejected his defense for al-Moayyad and prevented him from visiting his client.

Cohen signaled out that he did not receive any written justification for such refusal, but he confirmed he would appeal and, in case the appeal is refused, he will show his defiance before the Supreme Court.

Cohen visited Yemen last August and got a power of attorney from al-Moayyad's family to defend him during the appeal phase, as he once said at a press statement that the ruling was politicized and unfair and the trial lacked justice.

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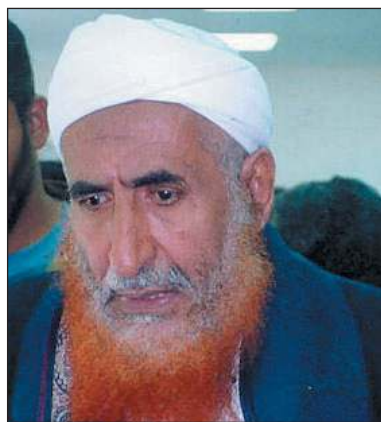
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Al-Zindani urges President to hold government to account

SANA'A- Sept. 17- Following accusations against him by the US Treasury, which were also published in the official newspapers, Sheikh Abdulmajid al-Zindani urged President Ali Abdullah Saleh to hold the government to account.



Sheikh Al-Zindani

Al-Zindani described the stories as baseless and far away from reality.

Sheikh Abdulmajid al-Zindani said that President told him that these newspapers are undisciplined and work beyond control by harming the seamless reputation of different parties.

President Saleh told al-Zindani "I will hold the US concerned authorities responsible for your case and clarify to

them whether they have material evidence on the base of which some Yemeni newspapers published stories against you."

Sheikh al-Zindani demanded the government officially erase his name from the indictment, signaling out the government has never understood what it should do for restricting such fabrications. It tended to conceal facts and the Representative of Yemen in the UN did object to the resolution against him, he added.

He claimed the President and the Parliament to hold the government accountable for being remiss in defending its citizens, mainly the issuance of a UN resolution to freeze his money and present reports on his activities.

Judges discuss independence of courts

By TAIZ BUREAU

TAIZ- Sept. 15- Functions of a workshop on transparency and independence of preliminary courts kicked off on Wednesday. The two-day workshop, which was organized by the Civil Guidance for Democracy in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the UK Embassy in Sana'a, involved 40 judges from the Taiz and Ibb preliminary courts.

The workshop aimed to boost transparency and independence of preliminary courts and activate the role of judicial inspection and cooperation between non-governmental authorities and the judicial authorities. It also aimed to enable simple people to profit from the judicial services in a better way through a number of themes related to concepts, management, procedures, evaluation and inspection.

On the occasion, a number of speeches were given by Judge Yahya

Abdullah al-Ansi, Chief Magistrate of Ibb Preliminary Court, Mr. Ja'afar Ba Haisami, Head of the Judicial Affairs Circle in the Ministry of Justice and Mr. Abdulmajid al-Fahd Chairman of the Civil and Democratic Guidance Foundation. In their speeches, these officials stressed the importance of an independent judiciary, claiming its centrality to justice and openness in modern Yemen.

They praised support of the political leadership for the independence of the judiciary although it faces some barriers and difficulties while performing tasks and duties.

The speeches focused on emphasizing the role of judicial inspection in assessing flaws and defectiveness. The concerned people expressed their thanks to the Civil and Democratic Guidance Foundation for adopting such important projects that target thousand judges and judge-assistants from 245 preliminary courts and courts of appeal.

Eight people die in heavy rains

SANA'A- Sept. 17- Eight people were reported dead and another ten wounded last week due to heavy rains and thunderbolts in a number of Yemeni governorates, security sources said on Saturday.

Two people, one of them a woman, died in Malaheedh of Saada after they were hit by a thunderbolt.

In Raima Governorate, the thunderbolts also killed a man and a woman. A third man lost his life in Hajjah, the sources added.

Additionally, torrents swept Taiz streets last Wednesday damaging business shops and public facilities and claiming lives of three people.

Continued from page 1

Twelfth Shiites insist on Saleh's candidacy

Some Twelfth Shiite figures have made up a council for them and issued a letter in their first meeting to President Saleh stating they have no link to al-Houthi and his followers. They claimed al-Houthi never represented the Twelfth Shiite Current but he is a Zaidi cleric, appealing to the President to not harm the Twelfth Shiite figures who back his regime and party.

Observers of the Islamic movements in Yemen believe that the Shiite's support for President Saleh and his party comes as part of causing disturbance and trouble to the Islah Party and the Wahabi movement, thought of as a threat to the future of Twelfth Shiite Movement in the country.

"The Wahabi Movement has strong adherence to Bani Umayyah who fought relatives of the prophet", a Shiite activist revealed to the Yemen Times.

During the 80s, Yemen witnessed a great influx of traditional Twelfth Shiite volumes that were also reached areas prior dominated by the Zaidi movement. These volumes caused a change in the minds of al-Zaidi affiliates and a rapid growth in the Twelfth Shiite Current (al-Ja'afari) supported by Iran. The Shiite Movement started to establish education and science centers and provide students with books for free as a kind of support from Shiites in Iraq and Iran.

According to recent estimates, around 14 thousand Twelfth Shiite volumes entered Yemen during the 80s and 90s.

The Yemen's 2004 strategic report argues that the Shiite Current in Yemen faced severe calamities during Sa'ada events after it started to develop and spread in different parts of the country. The report added that the Revolutionary Shiite Movement, intellectually and politically represented by the Faithful Youth will suffer a heavy loss, contrarily to other traditional currents.

The report by the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies, owned by the Muslim Brothers Movement in Yemen, stated that the creed affiliation is expected to grow high among people of Shiite orientation.

It anticipated the occurrence of bloody confrontations leading to the killing of some religious symbols and the detention of others, as well as harassments of the prominent Shiite

figures and marginalizing their role in the society.

Large numbers of Shiite figures in Yemen are still in prisons following arrest campaigns by the security apparatuses during and after Sa'ada bloody clashes between al-Houthi followers and the government troops which broke out on June 18-2004.

Despite the killing of the rebellion leader cleric Hussein Badriddine al-Houthi on the ninth of September 2004 and the revelation of the involvement of Shiites in the rebellion, the situation in Sa'ad is still unsafe.

The Sa'ada events resulted in hunting operations for the Shiite elements, confiscation of their books and the closure of their religious centers. In addition, mosques of the Shiite movement are now under government control.

Despite the Shiite's declaration and support for President Saleh, a sharp crisis is still going on between the authorities and the Shiite movement, a situation exacerbated by poor communication and an exclusive political process.

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Announcement for Diploma & MSc. Program in IWRM at Water and Environment Center, Sana'a University

The Graduate Studies and Scientific Research (GSSR) at Sana'a University (SU) announces the opening of acceptance in Diploma & MSc. Program in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at The Water and Environment Center (WEC-SU). Graduates from the three faculties (Engineering, Agriculture and Sciences) who would like to apply are requested to submit their applications to the GSSR within 15 days from the date of this announcement.

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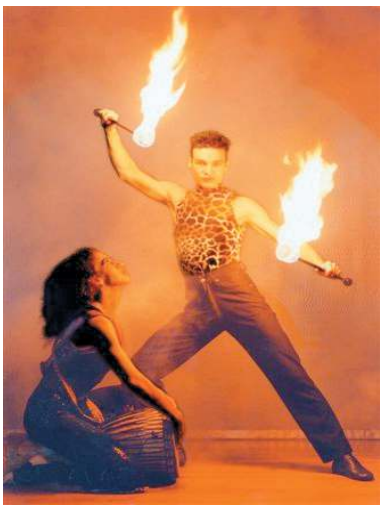
BY ISMAEL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen - German Friendship Association seeks to consolidate cooperation with Yemen and Germany through cultural and literary communication. It endeavors also to spread knowledge of the two cultures.

Among the role the Association is playing and in its activities is a street Festival being performed by troupes from Germany and France. Ismael al-Ghabri from Yemen Times Staff has recently conducted an interview with vice-chairman of the Yemen-German Friendship Association Mr. Amin Dirhem and has come up with the following report.

Q: First of all what is the role the association plays with regard to promoting friendship between the two peoples?

A: At the beginning of this year, the two administrative boards of the Yemen-German Friendship Association and the German-Yemen Friendship Association had agreed to embark on a competition that was announced in both



German Volker Maria Maier, a player with fire

countries with the purpose making these two friendly people in Yemen and Germany knowledgeable about the others country

Here in Yemen the competition took place between 85 students from both sexes and the one who won the competition was the university students Nashwan al-Jamrah from Sana'a. The first prize was a one-week visit to Germany hosted by the German-Yemen friendship association with a flight ticket presented by Lufthansa German Airlines.

In Germany, a 19-year old student Susana Rothmeir captured the first prize which was an invitation of visiting Yemen for ten days to be acquainted with the country. She has written an article titled "Mysterious Yemen" even without her visiting Yemen. The German student was able to convince the panel of the competition judges on her right to win the chance of visiting Yemen. In her article, the German student had covered topics on costumes, perfumes and jewelry the Yemeni woman are accustomed to use, and she talked about the Yemeni women's social and family role, which is very different from that in the German.

The Yemen-German, friendship association also in the beginning of September had organized a reception party that was attended by the German cultural attaché of the German Embassy in Sana'a as well as the parents of the German student, Susana and a number of the Yemeni and German members of the two societies. The two societies also presented gifts to the German student and her parents who had expressed their impression on their visit to Yemen.

The German cultural attaché had delivered a speech on the occasion and also touched on the German elections scheduled on the 18th of September this year .

Q: What about the idea of the street festival?

A: This idea had emerged and was brought forth by the German and French Embassies in Yemen in corporation with



Yahya Winter (second from left) during wedding ceremony held at the YGFA.

the German house for culture and development.

Some trading firms in Yemen were asked to cooperate in financing part of expenses of this festival . The response was positive on part of Yemeni businessmen, namely the Tihama Trading Company (Thabet brothers), Tihama Tractors & Engineering Co Ltd. Sabafone Company, Yemen Mobile Company, Adhban Company and others.

Street art is in fact composed of acrobatics and musical performances performed by artists from Germany and France and this style of art is considered



Amin Dirhem and Rosana

popular in the streets and do not need a stage. The troupe is now in Yemen and have trained eight Yemeni students in such arts. The festive activities would begin on the 19th of September 2005 starting with a parade from the German House heading towards the French cultural center and later on activities would be performed before live audiences in Al-Tahrir Square in Sana'a. These activities are to continue in other

streets of the capital and on the 24th the team would move to Aden.

The joint German and French artists troupe is composed of six members: the German Rudolf Deg; magician, the French Gandalf Goudar, a musician, the German Clements Rudolph, a clown, the German Volker Maria Maier, a player with fire , the French Gohn Cristophe Chapon, a clown and the French Francois Zanini a fire blower.

Q: What are the activities the association does?

A: The association has a monthly program for its activities and all its activity are focused and devoted to strengthening the Yemeni-German relations at the two peoples level. Political and economic relations have their own specialists who are in the best situation for developing it for the better.

This year the association has participated in many cultural and social activities, prominently taking part in the annual meeting of the German-Yemeni Friendship Association held during the period of 28th April to 1st May 2005 in the city of Leipzig. The meeting was attended by around one hundred members from all the German States. From the

Yemeni side it was represented by Mr. Mohammed Basallama, the association information official, Engineer Abdulmuti al-Junaid a member of the association and myself.

From the 14th to 30th May of this year, thirty tourist members from the German-Yemeni friendship association came to Yemen , headed by Mr. Peter Helmut, chairman of the association, they had visited most of the tourist sites in Yemen and met social personalities and local sheikhs and civil institutions. The visit was a success and their travel was via the road of Khawlan to Mareb without any guards. The governor of Mareb and his deputy Sheikh Adnan Abu Luhom welcomed them and they had a good impression and gratitude, they had visited Shabwa, Hadramout Aden, Taiz Ibb and of course Sana'a especially the old city of Sana'a with its alleys and markets. After their return to their country they had a good impression on Yemen and its security and everything beautiful in the German newspapers. Our association has played a role in facilitating their mission and their reception and their feeling was as if they were at home .

Wedding party of the German friend Yanz Winter (Yahya)

The association had in July this year given a wedding party for Mr Yahya Winter who had declared his being a Moslem in the mid of this year and had his wedding to a Yemeni girl late in July of this year.

The association had on the 2nd of July this year organized on the occasion a musical gathering at the house of the association's vice chairman attended by a host of friends and family members of the groom. Among the prominent attendees were Mr Khalid al-Roaishan, Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh, the poet Sulaiman al-Issa, Dr Sullan al-Surimi, Mr Ali Abdulah al-Salal, Mr Abdo al-Aoudi Mrs Laila Al Othman a Kuwaiti writer and other poets and intellectuals. Mr Yahya



Mr. Peter Helmeuth, Chairman hands with Mr. Amin Dirhem, Vice Chairman of YGFA

Winter is a student at Sana'a University preparing for his Ph.D. of the Al Soliehi Regime and a teacher for the German language at the Sana'a University and the German House for culture and Development. He had come to Yemen in 1999 to study the Arabic language and during his living with the Yemenis, he liked Yemen and decided to settle in it . He has embraced Islam by his own conviction and that was also concerning his marriage to the Yemeni girl.

Q: What are the most important future projects of the association ?

A: There are many future project of the association, mainly the publishing of the Association Magazine. on the first Thursday of the coming month of Holy Ramadan, the association is scheduled to give a break fasting party, invited are the German friends, in the forefront will be the German Ambassador to Yemen, members of the embassy and other Yemeni German friends. It would also be in celebration of the German national day (the day of German Unity).

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Prisoner of conscience Scholar Yahya al-Dailami to the Yemen Times:

“Cruel regimes are the reason behind terrorism!”

Interviewed by Nadia al-Sakkaf
Yemen Times Staff

He is a dead man walking. He has been sentenced to death for an ambiguous crime and has not even been given a chance to defend himself. Shiekh Yahya Hussein al-Dailami and his colleague Mohammed Miftah were imprisoned almost a year ago. Although he is a well-known scholar respected in his arena he is not very respected by the state that governs this country, or so he says:

Q: What is actually the crime that you are accused of?

A: It is a feeble accusation of communicating with Iran. In reality there is no real case -otherwise why wouldn't the general attorney or the court give our defence lawyer a copy of the case file? All there is to my issue is that the system needed to invent this accusation in order to reach certain political objectives and to escape its own problems. What I know is that since we have been kidnapped by the political security apparatus and today all that my colleague Mohammed Miftah had been interrogated about were our teaching activities in mosques and our call for a sit-in against the Sa'ada war as well as questions about Sana'a Youth's activities in the events created in support of Iraq and Palestine. No communication or accusation was directed to us unless we were in court. Which tells me that this is only a cover for attempts targeting our beliefs and our scientific, political and academic activities.

Q: Why Iran? And do you really have a relation with Tehran?

A: I have no relation whatsoever with Iran in the sense that is portrayed. All that there was is that I was invited as a social figure to one of the national occasions of the embassy and there were many others present including diplomats and even

Yemeni figures. I had visited Iran at one time in the past participating in a cultural conference. I was a part of the Yemeni delegation headed by Mr. Abbas al-Shami of the GPC. The delegation consisted of Mr. Hatem Abu Hatem one of the prominent leadership figures of the Nasserite party and I as a religious scholar. My participation in these two events, the national celebration in Sana'a and the cultural conference in Tehran were the pillars that the general attorney based its accusation on. The irony of this all is that there is an existing cooperation between Yemen and Iran in both political and economic domains and it is a known fact that all of the Iranian activities in Yemen have been

indirectly.

The followers of the Zaidi sect are a victim of a political game as they have been forced to dwell into intellectual and religious conflict with no purpose. The so called activists of al-Ithnaashariya of the Zaidi sect have created conflicts within yet none of them you find in the prisons or shot dead during the Sa'ada war or in Hajja, Sana'a or Dhamar for that matter. I am talking about reality here and I do not want to be taken as bias against any Islamic sect, especially the Ithnaashariya. I criticise the double standards and divide and rule method of dealing with the various sects in Yemen. The government uses these conflicts to arrest many people, sometimes even children under the pretext of conspiring under the Ithnaashariya sect are imprisoned.

Q: In your opinion, why Ithnaashariya - Zaidia sect is the most targeted and why now?

A: For the very reasons that drive the political system to create problems based on intellectual and religious differences. The system embraces fundamental religious groups and uses those in endorsing many of its desired issues especially issues relating to the systems conflict with the previous system in the south that reached its peak in 1994.

Q: The Zaidi imams and preachers, don't they have a stance towards this issue?

A: It is a well known fact that the Zaidi imams since long were not so interested in politics. They used to focus their attention to dealing with the social and intellectual problems more than political events. However, we found that many of these imams rushed into blessing the Yemeni Unity and the constitution and the treaties that were agreed between the two partners and have issued a number of supporting declarations and statements, because they want the Yemeni society to be a peaceful stable one.

However, the Zaidi followers do not have organised groups in the sense of organisations and so they are the weakest

The defense lawyers resigned the case because the court is unconstitutional and because of the ill treatment they received. Now there is no one to defend al-Dailami in his trial.

More than 14 organizations including Political parties, non governmental organizations and many intellectuals came to support al-Dailami in his fight for freedom

canalised through the Yemeni government who signed many agreements with Iran. All of this indicates the stupidity of this case altogether.

The real issue in my view is that the ruling system has a problem in affiliating everything of the Zaidi sect to Iran. This is a problem targeting the scholars, students,

politicians, and Zaidi centers in general because they are Shia and the system in Iran is also Shia. What has been rumoured in this regard in spite of this similarity is that the creation of these centres in Yemen was triggered by the Yemeni investigative police and Yemeni authorities directly or



“There is no space for freedoms in this country, and this is why I call on the international community to help me defend my case and survive!”

link in the system's eyes and this is why they are the most targeted. The system needs a target to blame terrorism in Yemen on especially with the increasing international pressure to combat terrorism around the world. Therefore creating the Sa'ada conflict and hence sacrificing the Zaidi sect in this drama because they are the easiest target. The scientific Zaidi sect movement is still weak today because it is living in the past studying the history of this sect and has not been able yet to build future dimensions on that knowledge. There are many reasons why this is the case now of which is that this movement does not have a concrete system, else it would have been able to produce a clear transparent picture to the world about the Islamic thinking and theology. Many of the fundamental Islamic movements fear the immersing of serious reform movements and hence the extinguishing of such initiatives and the ridding of their scripts and limiting of the religious education of such sects has been exercised by the system continuously so as to forbid this movement from growing and maturing proving that there is no space for freedom in this country.

Q: In many of your statements you exposed many human rights violations that you suffered from, did you get any international support?

A: I was kidnapped at five o'clock in the morning from the gates of al-Filahi mosque on ninth of September last year. A number of armed men wearing civilian clothes picked me up and took me to the political security prison where I stayed in an isolated cell for two and half months. They took everything away from me and left me with only the clothes I was wearing and while blind folded they questioned me for many long nights. They threatened to kill many of my teachers and distinguished scholars like scholar Mohammed bin Mohammed al-Mansour and scholar Hamod bin Abbas al-Mouyed. They also threatened to kill my family and brothers, and asked so many provocative and unreasonable questions. Then the attorney took hold of me and interrogated at the political security premises me without allowing my defense lawyers to attend the interrogation and they were stopped at the gate of the premises. The Penalty Court right from the first day of trial and until date would not give us a copy of the described case. The

defense board of 12 volunteer lawyers were prevented from exercising their role in my favor to the extent that pushed them to resign the case in more than one occasion on the pretext that the court is unconstitutional and that they don't want to be a part of the fools game played by the Yemeni jurisdiction, especially with the significant violations of the laws and international conventions. In all of the sessions we reject what is taking place and instead we busy ourselves with reciting Quran, which is the main source of the constitution.

Q: How do you view the issue of terrorism in general aside from your individual case?

A: This is a term that had been used and carried through media instruments and politicians...etc. However, this term does not have a fixed clear definition as there are many concepts used such as state terrorism, group terrorism, a terrorism group and so on. The truth is that ter-

work of international media that serves the interests of a few. They do not want to understand that Islam as a theology and intellectual thought is able to deal with humanitarian issues if it is rightly understood and not misused. These few forces that take it upon their shoulders to destroy the image of Islam, of which is the global Zionism from one end and the extremist Islamic fundamentals from the other who claim that they are the only ones who should talk on behalf of Islam are a result of dictatorship systems. The fact is that Islam is a religion for all humanity stating that if one man was wrongly killed it is as if the whole humanity was murdered. Islam is a religion that wants peace for mankind where the rich and strong does not overcome the poor and weak.

Q: The how do you explain the terrorism and violent actions that take place in the Islamic society?

A: If you are talking about the terror or violence not created by either the politics or investigative police then there are many reasons for it to occur. The most prominent reason for people to become violent is a reaction to the cruelty and misconduct that is exercised on the people. Oppressed people tend to blow up in different directions, and when even the basic rights are not fulfilled then you should expect a reaction. The irony of this is that the so called democratic systems in the west that made up international conventions for human rights and so forth are the very ones that encourage the oppressive systems and regimes in the rest of the world to serve its own interests.

There is also poverty, and if poverty was a result of natural consequences such as lack of resources then the society should be able to accept it and try to change its reality through peaceful means. There are poor communities in the world that do not suffer from such terrorism but if the reason behind poverty is cruelty and the abuse of resources by a minority of the society then there must be a reaction. Especially if the people perceive that they are being wronged and that there mere survival is in question. And such societies do not find a way to express them selves other than violence because other means don't help to stop corruption. This means that the cruel regimes are the main reason behind violence and terrorism.

Appeals from the al-Dailami's family

Just because he dared to say the truth!

It is sad when I think of it and it is driving me insane. My husband was one of well-respected people and was a loving man. He took care of his family and me and always made sure that we are happy. He took us in picnics and journeys and always took us out to lunch or dinner every week.

He was the problem solver to all who knew him and mediated between people and solved disputes. He encouraged me to continue my university education and I owe it to home that I am an

accredited pharmacist today. He used to help me both inside the house and outside. I just can not understand how such a beautiful human being could be treated this way. Just because he dares to say the truth?

Today my husband awaits the death rope and I await God's mercy and justice in this world. If there is at all any truth to organizations that work for the sake of freedoms and justice please come forward and stop this tragedy.

Dr. Amal Hajjar
Wife of Yahya al-Dailami

Daddy please come home!

Why did they take my daddy? I just want my daddy to come home. He is a good man never hurt anyone, we are waiting for our father to come home.

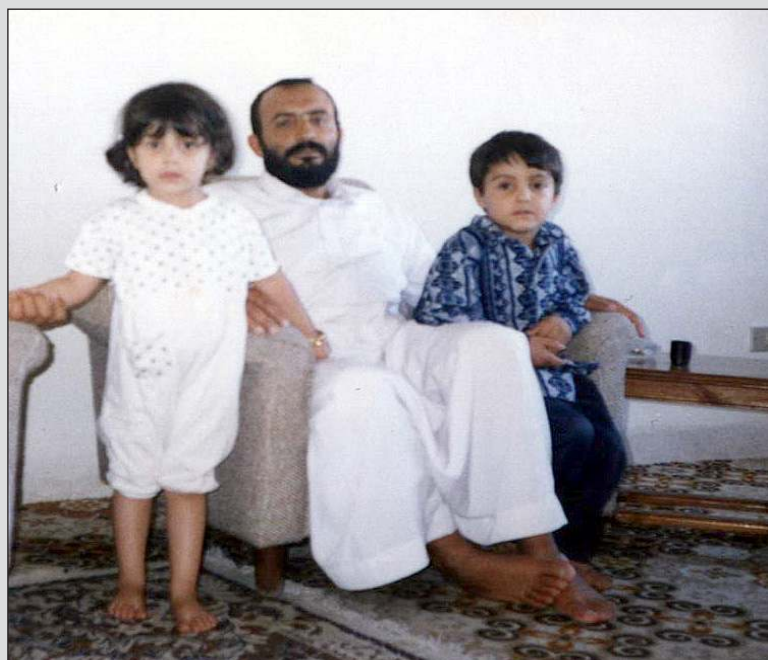
Miriam (8 years old) daughter of Yahyah al-Dailami

Dailami the man

I am writing to you about my brother Yahya al-Dailami the man and not the religious scholar now in prison for political reasons. He used to be a role model and in my youth I always went to him for questions that wondered me, and he always had the answers. In many times instead of telling me what he thought about a certain topic he would direct me to sources and ask me to form my own opinion. One day he asked me to read a book about Linen and I did not understand his point until I finished the book.

He always encouraged us to read international novels and well known stories such as "fathers and sons", "Les Miserables", "the three musketeers"...etc. During his college life he used to meet with people from various orientations and have dialogue with them. He cared for everyone and made every attempt possible to ensure they are fine and happy. He is nothing close to fundamentalism and he is a man with a big heart. The authorities might not see this because they are blinded by the anger at his opposition to blood shed in Sa'ada. But I hope that the rest of the world is not as blind.

Ali al-Dailami
Brother of Yahyah al-Dailami



Al-Dailami with his daughter and son

US predicts big Afghan turnout; 10 die in clashes

KABUL (Reuters) - The commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan said he expected a big turnout in Sunday's landmark elections, but guerrilla attacks on police patrols overnight underlined the security threat hanging over the poll.

Lieutenant-General Karl Eikenberry said on the eve of the vote that Taliban insurgents would not hesitate to attack unarmed election workers at thousands of polling stations around the country.

Three policemen were killed and two wounded in an ambush south of the capital on Friday night, police said. In a separate incident, seven guerrillas were killed after they ambushed a police convoy in Zabul province in the south, a hotbed of militant activity.

Security, especially in the south and east where the Taliban are most active, has been the main worry in the run-up to the parliamentary and provincial elections but Afghan and U.S. officials say they are confident polling can be held.

"I think that tomorrow what we are going to have with the elections here, we're going to have a record turnout," Eikenberry told Reuters in an interview at the main U.S. base in Kabul.

The Taliban, who have denounced the polls and called for a boycott, have claimed responsibility for killing several candidates, the latest shot on his doorstep early on Friday. They have vowed attacks on foreign troops over the election period.

Eikenberry said security for the \$159 million U.N.-run elections was good but he expected more trouble.

"We are up against an enemy that will not hesitate to attack unarmed election workers ... to try to attack innocent Afghan citizens trying to express their will in a representative government," he said.

But Eikenberry said the insurgents



An Afghan man carries ballots into the grand mosque which will be used as a polling station in Herat Sept. 17. The commander of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan Lieutenant-General Karl Eikenberry said he expected a big turnout in Sunday's landmark elections, but a guerrilla attack on a police convoy overnight underlined the security threat hanging over the poll. REUTERS

would not succeed.

"Tomorrow that election is going to go. There will be some violence, but it's going to go," he said. "Tomorrow, when you think about this, in a country of 26 million, we're going to have over 10 million people that go out and

express their will to put a representative government in place."

Eikenberry commands a mainly U.S. international force of about 20,000 troops battling the Taliban and Islamist allies, mainly in the south and east.

Ruling Labor draws level in NZ vote count

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark's ruling Labor Party clawed its way back in election counting on Saturday to draw level with the conservative opposition National Party.

National, under former central bank governor Don Brash, had streaked to a clear early lead but the two main parties were both level on 40 percent with 89 percent of polling places counted, official figures showed.

That would translate into 49 seats each in what would likely be a 122-seat parliament, making coalitions with minor parties crucial in forming government, a process that could take weeks.

Opinion polls in the past week had suggested the vote was too close to call but Brash's National had taken a strong early lead after New Zealand's 2.9 million electorate finished voting at 7.00 p.m.

Brash had campaigned strongly on promises of personal income tax cuts during a hard-fought campaign, and that looked to have struck a chord in the countryside.

However Clark's Labor party steadily closed the gap as returns came in from the major urban centers like Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, and the capital Wellington.

Party officials resisted calling a definitive result.



National Party leader Don Brash talks to the media after casting his vote in Auckland during New Zealand's general election Sept. 17. New Zealand voters began casting their votes on Saturday in a knife-edge election which opinion polls suggested was too close to call. REUTERS

"It will be a nose-to-nose, head-to-head result between the two major parties," Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Michael Cullen told National Radio.

Brash, a 64-year-old political novice had trailed Clark by as much as 10 percentage points in opinion polls before the budget in May.

Clark had warned voters the election

was a choice between stable government and the economic gains of the past six years, and the likelihood of increased debt and cuts in social spending under National.

New Zealand has averaged 4 percent growth over the past five years — the longest period of economic growth in half a century — and unemployment at a near 19-year low.

Six-party talks in deadlock, to continue Sunday

BEIJING (Reuters) - Six-party talks aimed at defusing a crisis over North Korea's nuclear ambitions will enter a sixth day on Sunday after failing to a break a deadlock over Pyongyang's insistence on its right to atomic energy.

Delegates from the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and host China decided to hold a plenary session at 0100 GMT on Sunday to make another attempt to break the impasse, a South Korean delegate said on Saturday.

The talks remained deadlocked despite a meeting of chief delegates and a flurry of bilaterals during the day. Japan's representative was pessimistic about the possibility of reaching any solution.

"No breakthrough has been

achieved at this point," Kenichiro Sasae told reporters. "The prospects are not bright. We are not satisfied with the present situation."

On Saturday evening, China is expected to treat delegates from other countries to a banquet to mark the Mid-Autumn Festival. The festival is known best for moon cakes — traditional round pastries with fillings like lotus seed paste and salted duck egg yolk to symbolize the moon.

It is celebrated in China on Sunday and runs from September 17-19 in North and South Korea with families gathering for reunions, paying respects to ancestors and feasting.

It was not known if any talks would be held during the banquet.

During the day, delegates were discussing a revised draft statement pro-

posed by China on Friday, which Russian chief delegate Alexander Alexeyev described as balanced and said acknowledged Pyongyang's right to the long-term prospect of a light-water nuclear reactor that the North has been demanding.

But Russia's Interfax news agency quoted a North Korean source as saying China's draft was unacceptable and "practically repeats the position of the United States."

Failure to reach an agreement on dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons programs in exchange for aid and security guarantees could prompt Washington to take the issue to the U.N. Security Council to press for sanctions.

Pyongyang has said sanctions would be tantamount to war.

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Beirut car bomb kills one and wounds 23



Lebanese soldiers surround the scene of a car bomb explosion in the Ashrafiyeh district in Beirut Sep. 16. A car bomb exploded in a mainly Christian neighbourhood of the Lebanese capital Beirut late on Friday, killing one person and wounding at least 23, Red Cross and security sources said. **REUTERS**

BEIRUT (Reuters) - A car bomb exploded in a mainly Christian residential neighborhood of Beirut late on Friday, killing one person and wounding at least 23, Red Cross and security sources said.

The bomb exploded near a branch of Lebanon's Byblos Bank in the area of Achrafieh and was heard throughout the capital. A senior security source said it consisted of 10 kg (22 lb) of TNT.

"What we lived this night was like hell," Eva Nashleklia told Reuters as she wiped blood off her arm.

The blast shattered windows and set two cars ablaze. Ambulances ferried

the wounded to nearby hospitals. One was in a serious condition, a Red Cross source said.

Lebanese security forces sealed off streets leading to the blast site and investigators began collecting evidence.

"We were asleep and woke up horrified by the blast," said 40-year old Hanna Botrous.

"We saw smoke billowing and were scared in the beginning, but we were expecting something like this to happen," he said.

A series of bombs had exploded, mostly in Christian-dominated commercial areas of Beirut, since the February assassination of former

Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, which many Lebanese blame on Syria. Damascus denies any role.

Hariri's death sparked mass anti-Syrian protests in Beirut that forced Damascus to bow to world pressure and end its 29-year military presence in Lebanon in April.

Four pro-Syrian generals, have been charged with murder in connection with the February bombing, which killed 20 other people as well as Hariri.

Syria agreed on Monday that Detlev Mehlis, who heads a U.N. team investigating Hariri's murder, could question Syrian witnesses as part of his inquiry.

Sharon threatens to disrupt Palestinian vote

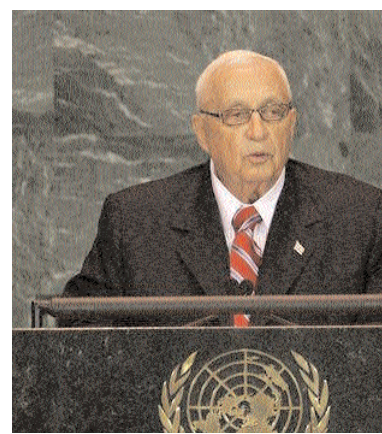
GAZA (Reuters) - Israel could hinder voting in the occupied West Bank during a Palestinian legislative election in January if Hamas candidates take part, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in remarks published on Saturday.

"We will make every effort not to help (the Palestinians). I don't think they can have elections without our help," Sharon was quoted by The New York Times as telling journalists at a meeting in New York.

Sharon said Israel might not remove roadblocks in the West Bank, making it difficult for Palestinians there to vote, if Hamas, which calls for the destruction of the Jewish state, runs in the January 25 ballot, the newspaper reported.

Hamas is widely expected to do well at the ballot box at the expense of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' mainstream Fatah faction. Abbas hopes to move Hamas into the political mainstream and away from confrontation with Israel.

Sharon's threats have caused deep



concern within the Palestinian Authority, which is eager to demonstrate that it has embraced democracy on the road to statehood.

"We urge Sharon to stay out of our internal affairs," said Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"We hope these elections will take place in the fairest and most honest

atmosphere possible," he added.

Hamas made a strong showing in recent municipal elections and has said it would participate in the parliamentary poll for the first time.

"The Israeli occupation will shoulder the consequences and the responsibility for any intervention on the ground to undermine the election," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said.

"Undermining the elections will not weaken Hamas. On the contrary it will lead to escalating resistance against the occupation."

Sharon made similar remarks on Wednesday during a briefing to reporters who traveled with him from Israel, but stopped short of mentioning specific steps that could disrupt the election.

"I announced as clearly as I could that we formally oppose Hamas' participation in the election as long as it is not disarmed and has not canceled the Hamas charter, which is a horrible document," Sharon said on Wednesday.

Iran to announce proposal in nuclear standoff

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Iran's new president will unveil proposals on Saturday meant to disarm international concern over its nuclear ambitions with Western powers poised to haul Tehran before the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

What President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad tells the U.N. General Assembly may determine whether the world nuclear watchdog moves next week to report Iran's secretive atomic program to the highest U.N. body, the diplomats said.

The United States and Europe suspect Tehran is trying to develop a nuclear weapons capability, but Iran swears its program, concealed from the International Atomic Energy Agency for 18 years, is purely for civilian energy purposes.

Iran last month spurned a European package of economic, security and tech-

nology incentives for it to abandon sensitive nuclear work and reactivated a factory converting uranium ore into gas, prompting the European Union to break off talks.

"We expect Ahmadinejad to propose some kind of complex internationalization of the issue, but if they stick to their determination to do uranium enrichment, they are heading for the Security Council," a European diplomat said.

On the eve of the speech, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw conferred on diplomatic tactics to increase pressure on Iran.

"They consulted on the ongoing diplomatic process concerning referral of Iran to the U.N. Security Council for its continuing violations of its international obligations," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters.

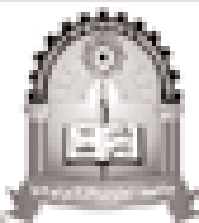
Rice, who prompted doubts about the timing of a referral vote with comments this week, is due to address the General Assembly a few hours before the Iranian leader speaks.

softer tone

European diplomats said the three European powers that have been negotiating with Iran — Britain, France and Germany — had adopted a softer tone to be seen to be giving Ahmadinejad a chance and to win over waverers on the IAEA board.

But they said the United States and the EU believed they had the support of at least 20 countries on the 35-member board, which meets beginning on Monday. One option being discussed was to put forward a resolution but hold off a vote for two or three weeks to give Iran a final chance to halt uranium conversion.

- A member of Arab Universities Union.
- Member of high Education Committee a
- Member of Islamic world Universities.
- Member of international Universities Union.



University of Science and Technology

announces that the registration for studying for the year 2005/ 2006 has started in many of its colleges and specializations

Announces

Medical college:	Human Physiology	Dentistry	Pharmacology	Medical Labs					
College of Eng. and Sci.:	IT and Computer Sciences	Electronic Engineering	Computer Engineering	Telecommunication Engineering	Architecture	Civil Engineering			
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE (Faculty of CMS, Faculty of Art & Design and Interior Architecture)		Networks	Software Engineering	BIT	BA Internet Technology	Computer Science			
	Financial Administration	Business Management	Marketing	Accounting	MBA & MIT	Graphic & Digital Media	Interior Architecture		
College of humanity and administration science:	Administrative Science	Accounting	Administration	Marketing	Information systems	E-Commerce	Arts	Education	Law science
National college of technology and science:	Two-year diploma		Pharmacology	Technician of dental	Labs Technician	Computer programming			
Special branch for girl students includes most specializations	Distant learning in:			Administrative Science	Arts	Laws science			

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University of Science and Technology

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-Saaqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

True practice of democracy

The elected parliament is an outstanding and most apparent phenomenon of democracy in any country adopting and deeply believing in democratic rule. People in various parts of the country choose members of parliament as they cast their votes in ballot boxes in selecting their representatives.

The MPs would carry on their shoulder as representatives and defenders of interests of the people they have taken oath to represent, a very heavy burden. However, parliament authorities in the Arab countries differ from one Arab state to another. The difference stems from the different laws of legislative elections in those countries and according to what is stipulated in constitutions concerning authorities of parliaments especially with regard of interpellation of the entire government or individuals ministers.

The most essential authority the elected representatives of the people must entertain is that of holding governments and their members accountable for failing in executing their policies declared in their formation program. Voting of confidence and non-confidence is a deterrent practice a parliament would perform against any government that does not fulfill syllabus of its program. Such parliamentary authorities and many others are in the core of structure of a democratic rule of the state. Otherwise, parliaments cannot be considered as representatives of their peoples' interests.

Most frequent problems and questions parliaments would face in the work are those pertaining to executive power practical performance because this power is very closely related with daily affair and woes of the people. That is why parliaments usually set up various committees specialized in considering and watching various aspects of a government's practices.

What brought this topic is that last week there was a session at the parliament where our government was summoned to answer for queries raised by about seventy-seven parliament members on some very serious matters connected to the people interests and sufferings. All cabinet members, headed by the prime minister, were present. The prime minister gave explanations on the matters raised by those MPs and then gave the representatives the right to question the concerned ministers, in case they were not fully convinced in the explanations he had presented. From the news of the proceedings of the government interpellation session, it seemed that some ministers were not comfortable to some comments given by some MPs in reply to the prime minister's explanations, forgetting that they were comments by 77 representatives of the people. Government members have to understand that members of parliament are representing the people and the people are the highest authority in the country, and thus they should not feel uncomfortable. It seems, as Arabs, that we have not yet used to the culture of accepting and respecting others' opinion as long as it springs from the people general and high interest.

We have to have fully empowered parliaments, truly representing their peoples; otherwise, we cannot say we are democracies with true practice of democracy we aspire for.

The Editorial Board



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At this age of reform,

What should the Arab World do?

From the address of the revolution at one time to the address of development and reconstruction at another time, now we have just arrived at the time of reform. Has the Arab world stepped into the phase of reform? How could we win this stage and not lose it, as we had lost promises and expectations at the previous stages?

To win this stage we have to know and realize what we want in order to gain wisdom and clear vision. We have to determine the terms and requisites at the level of action to obtain the will and resolution.

In this regard there must be dealing with the following facts:

First, it is certain at this sensitive and complicated stage we are in need of radical and comprehensive re-examinations of our situations and conditions in all dimension. These reconsiderations must stem from daring and courageous willpower, prioritizing the people and homeland interests to any other interest pushing towards genuine reform. It should not be merely a demonstration of superficial reforms, not depending upon deep and solid foundation.

Second, the reform we intend must be expressive of our will, visions and necessities, not imposed on externally, but the question is 'Where is the reform that we want and talk about?' Therefore, we have to begin with the actual reform before it is imposed on us without our will, in consequence of which we would be then regretful. We are in confrontation of situations that that would not bear the postponement of reform, it has become at a position of obligatory necessities.

Third, Where should the reform begin? Some would say we have to



By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

begin from the political reform, others believe it should begin by the religious reform. The truth is we need reform in those two areas of political and religious and in other areas such as the cultural reform. The political reform deals with authority and political institutions and organizations "political parties and NGOs", the religious reform is connected with those perceptions and concepts tending towards fanaticism, excessiveness, charging others of infidelity, refusal of the right of pluralism and difference, the right to express opinion and those concepts that visualize religion as not in harmony with civilized life and does not keep pace with changes and contemporary life. They try to indicate as if religion is positioned in villages, countryside, mosques, caves and desert communities.

The cultural reform tackles ideas and viewpoints with the intention of renewal and development of our branches of knowledge towards issues of heritage, history, the state and nation, pluralism, freedom, democracy, modernity and globalization and also to discern future with the wisdom of culture.

Fourth, The genuine reform begins from the state reconciliation with the people and return of the state to the people after it has become, as some rightfully believe, against the people. This is the state's problematic in our Arab sphere. The nation, in the legal custom, history and law is the source of legitimacy and source of authority in the state. The meaning of the state return to the people is that it should become for all the citizens. The citizen in this regard becomes treated with dignity and he can get his rights without any fear through justice

and under the law. This necessitates the reformation of judiciary that re-grants the right to his owner by justice and equality.

Fifth, It goes without saying that reformation needs an organized and carefully studied program. The problem here does not always lie in the ability to working out the program, but rather in the will and resolution that is capable of conveying the program from the phase of power to the phase of action. It also lies in supervision and monitoring the course and stages of implementation and this requires attention given to administrative reform in the government institutions and ministries.

Sixth, It is imperative that we prove there is no contradiction between Islam and democracy, and between Islam and advancement. We have to prove the possibility of establishment of democracy in the Islamic societies and under the existence of the religion of Islam. Islam, in fact, is in possession of the strongest motives towards progress and consequently the Islamic societies are capable to advance under the Islamic religion and it can push forward these societies towards advancement. I emphasize this lest Islam should be brushed aside, as some would like to promote under claim of reform, or that reform could be contradictory of the religion with regard to identity or ethics and values.

We have stepped into the age of reform and the actual fear is that we would depart it without having reformed our condition. The companies and institutions that Yemen and other Arab countries have paid are willing to reconsider this study or that strategy as long as we would pay, i.e. ready to reconsider the strategy of wages, as I modestly have learnt in more than one Arab country, to restore the smile to the employee citizen's face. Would the government listen to one of its sons?

Treated like a war criminal

30 hours in custody

BY KHALED AL-HAMMADI

The thirty hours I spent in the Military Intelligence detention, part of the Air Forces in Sana'a, demonstrated material evidence that this authority has begun the complete terrorization of journalists in Yemen.

My detention is not the first or the last of its kind committed against a journalist in Yemen for publishing the facts. It is the first process of detention committed illegally by a military authority, which is not the party concerned.

The scene of the military detention was more dramatic as I received a call on my mobile saying "there is an officer who needs you". I answered, "I am in a journalistic mission in the city of Marib and I told the person who was calling me about the address of the hotel I was in. As I tried to convince him that I am outside Sana'a, he spoke to me in an angry tone; "do not attempt to escape, you have to come now".

After a long time argument, the unidentified person gave me an ultimatum of three days to allegedly meet a military commander. Three hours later, I was shocked to see some Air Forces troops aboard two military vehicles; one was carrying an anti-aircraft gun, entering the hotel. Seeing the scenario, I thought there was an arrest campaign to capture some war criminals or terrorists.

After a few minutes, I heard some people knocking on the door of my room saying "we are Air Forces troops and have been given orders to arrest you and take you to the house of the commander in Sana'a." I used a variety of means to persuade them to give some time to finish my duty in the city of Marib which I reached only a few hours ago, but all my attempts have gone in awry.

Eventually I gave in and went with them on board one of the two cars amidst a crowd of residents who watched the scene as spectators. It was a dramatic scene similar to a police operation displayed in an Indian film.

The old military vehicle driver drove at high speed and for me it was the first time to be in a car driving at such terrible speed. I thought this speed is used as a

mean for the military troops to get rid of me. As we entered the city of Sana'a, the officer who was given orders to take me to the commander received a call to drive me toward the Air Forces instead of going to the house of the commander.

Reaching the Air Forces, the officer was thanked for handing me to another officer on watch who said to his colleague, "thank you, your task was finished and you have to return to Marib", but he said, "no I have been ordered to take him (Khaled al-Hammadi) to the house of the commander and then to return to Marib. The officer on watch told him "that was an old subject and we have received new orders"

I was put in the room of the officer on watch. My Jambbia along with my mobile was taken away, the telephone numbers saved on my mobile were all erased. I was shocked to receive such a kind of treatment and I felt difficult to look at people surrounding me.

In the room were four people chewing qat and smoking, turning the room into a chimney. I was about to stifle because of the intensive smoke. A singled minute had been passing as if it was an entire day, particularly as I found myself like a calm mass having no work except for counting minutes.

I had expected to be called to meet the commander, to be investigated or to be throne in an isolated cell when they were whispering. Being in pensive thought, people around me were laughing and making jokes without paying any attention to me as if I were a worm in the floor. I was anxious since my mother is suffering from hypertension, I feared there her condition might go from bad to worse when she learns of my ordeal.

I was deprived of making contact with my family except for once to tell them that I am with a group of people and that my stay with them may take a long time.

I tried to sleep, but my eyes refused to close. I waited until the noontime of the second day to be called to a neighboring office. Then I was interrogated by two officers whom I told "you want to quiz me after I have been deprived of food and drink for a long time; do not you believe that I can not utter even a single word as my mouth has become dry because of

hunger and thirst.

Listening to me, my interrogators felt ashamed of their behavior and gave me water and biscuit; one of the officers accepted my request to bring me lunch. On repeated points, I was interrogated from different corners; one question was shared among interrogators that was; "Who is the source that gave me information about my report published two weeks ago? I was interrogated with some gesture to reasons behind the crash of warplanes in Yemen, which caused trouble to the Air Forces. My captors asked whether I have a hot dog in the Air Forces or in the army.

The question that irritated me is that "How much money the newspaper granted you for publishing the report? I replied that "I never get any thing for my writing since I am a patriotic man like you claim yourself to be for dealing with negative aspects against the regime and disclosing corruption and corrupt individuals. Through the interrogation process, I perceived there was a wide gap between the intelligence military organization, the political activities, the press freedoms and the democratic conduct experienced in the country of belief and wisdom.

My captors were dealing with me in the mind of the pro-democracy era, the time before the national unity. I explored their view dealing with a foreign newspaper as a kind of spy in favor of a foreign party. They claimed that publishing reports about the army in foreign newspapers is more harmful than domestic publication as it may harm its reputation of the Yemeni constitution abroad.

What was absolutely strange is that all my interrogators never read my report and everyone wanted me to give him some information about the article I published. One of them started to investigate me and never knew who I am and why I was arrested.

By the end of the investigation, my captors had attempted to force me to confess of what they registered. They were treating me as if I was a war criminal or a soldier who escaped from the battleground. I requested them to treat me as a journalist and it is persistent for them to understand the nature of the journalistic work but "a leopard can not change his spots."



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

In Yemen, can reforms reinstate values? (3/3)

In essence, we have seen that the problem of reforms in Yemen can be explained as follows: 1) Reforms are intended to correct previous mistakes of the Government, by means of issuing legislations or canceling rules or decrees that were previously and mistakenly issued by the Government without studying the consequences of such decisions.

2) Reforms are not fully undertaken, when they tend to interfere with some well placed narrow interests or which could dilute some of the authorities enjoyed by well-placed government officials.

3) Reforms do not take into account fully getting mechanisms in place that deal with the horrible corruption that has been allowed to evolve over the last three decades and thus one seldom hears of any government official facing charges and indictment for corruption or misuse of public assets or funds.

4) Meaningful and positive reform efforts, such as the unity agreement and the Document of Reconciliation and Accord signed by all the political factions in February 1994 were shelved or not given the chance to be implemented, which could have truly set in sound procedures and measures for good governance and a real democratic orientation for the future of Yemen.

5) Continuous internal political squabbling and violence has often hampered the ability to establish stability that is very essential for implementing any reform agenda and led to further squandering of public funds.

Accordingly, it would seem difficult to believe that under the present circumstances any reforms can be effective since the political will is really not there to get meaningful reforms in place. Moreover, the public has become farther away from influencing political decisions, as the government continues its tight control of the political arrangements in the country, and vested interests have become further entrenched in the influence of political and economic decision-making levels of authority. Thus, one cannot expect that any reform agenda will really have an effect on improving the lot of the Yemeni people in general, or providing the suitable environment needed to re-stimulate the economy and attract investments.

On the other hand, with out the stability and law and order that are essential for any economy to vibrate, tourism and other viable economic sectors will not be able to generate the economic growth that will help create jobs and attract investments. With so many Yemenis overseas ready and willing to funnel a significant portion of their earnings for investments at home, one really should be wondering why Yemen is finding it so hard to even attract this important potential source of capital and expertise that is now lost to the nation. The obvious reason for this is that no one, even if Yemenis are ready to put their money in high risk investments that do not have sufficient guarantees to insure that the capital can be retained, let alone be assured of achieving substantive returns.

Furthermore, one is rather surprised that the donors have really been ineffective in getting the real effective reforms that will get the country out of its present abyss, and it is not clear whether this comes out of a poor knowledge of what the real situation is like in Yemen or political arithmetic that, for the most part, does not take into consideration the effects of the present conditions in Yemen on the overall population of the country.

For all intents and purposes, one can surmise, that in Yemen, the people at large have lost all the avenues that could have allowed them to have an effect on stimulating the economy, either by means of participating in the drawing up of plans and strategies for development or in accumulating savings that they could use to invest in their own private enterprise schemes. Yemen is still without an effective broad based financial securities market, although there has been talk about it for decades. The economy is still under the control of family trading operations that have their niches in the decision making process and they are not keen on really releasing some of the monopolistic hold they have to broader based private companies that a stock market can help to evolve. On the other hand, it is no secret that many leading officials have also established controlling interests in many of the investment and trading establishments that are active in the economy. This could be one of the major obstacles to real reforms getting beyond the glossy reports issued by the various government agencies involved in the reform process.

An important area that was supposed to have helped stimulate the economy was the Aden Duty Free Port. But to date there has been no significant accomplishments in terms of its effect on either attracting investments or creating job opportunities for large numbers of people. Political and security factors may have been at play in hampering the results expected from the port, although much investment has been channeled there. But there are other underlying issues, such as bureaucratic procedures and lack of attractive facilities that can truly make the port an important promising economic stimulant.

In the end, the reforms in Yemen will not boil down to anything unless there is a real strong political will to bring back some of the participatory elements of governance to the people, facilitate access to the resources and facilities that will allow people to find their right niches in the economy, whether as productive employees or investors. In summary, this means the government will simply have to start relinquishing some of the awesome powers it has accumulated over the years at the expense of hampering the people's absolute right to enjoy the fruits of the once bountiful resources that are available, but they now have no access to. This also means that the Government will have to start assessing itself by means of evaluating the tangible results of its past mistakes (after of course admitting them). The major area of attention should be to determine where does the country stands now on values, which have become so diluted that they are almost out of place in all the levels of the society, especially in government, which is supposed to set the ground rules by which the society is functioning. Accordingly, it appears that reforms in Yemen will continue to revolve in a vicious circle.

Yemen Press Review

Review By Mohammed Khidhr

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed forces, 15 Sep.2005.

Main headlines

- Receiving Bahrain's interior minister,
- The president emphasized depth of relations between the two peoples
- Kenya's foreign minister to visit Sana'a soon
- Vice-president opens a number of sports facilities
- FM: No deal in al-Mouyad case during the president's visit to Washington
- Diplomatic source: consolidation of measures on coasts to prevent smuggling of African migrants
- Yemeni-European dialogue discusses developmental cooperation
- Liquefied gas exportation project to begin in two weeks

The newspaper's editorial is devoted for talking about the Yemeni revolution on September 26. It says the Yemeni revolution is considered one of the great national and humanitarian revolutions in contemporary age because it has ended for good a despotic tyrannous rule and destroyed a reactionary backward system. What the Yemeni revolution has faced of challenges and dangers cannot be compared to those faced by contemporary revolutions and it has overcome them. Nevertheless, the battle of development and renaissance remains to be the more expressive phenomenon of the essence and core of the Yemeni revolution and the accomplishments of 43 years of its age. It has effected changes in life of the people in aspects of development, services, education, health, industry and agriculture. Added to that are thousands of kilometers of roads built across the country as well as huge networks of electricity and pure water, reaching the remotest villages. Those accomplishments denote the greatness of the revolution of Yemen and it is not possible to compare with what Yemen was living four decades before.

As-Sahwah weekly, 15 Sep. 2005.

Main headlines

- Tension between parliament and government escalates
- Islah parliamentarians hold ministers accountable
- PM Bajammal questioned at the backdrop of oil ministry corruption
- Islah marks anniversary of its establishment

- Politicians: GPC majority paralyzed the parliament
- Al-Zandani asks the president and parliament members to hold government accountable
- Islah Shoura discusses political reforms and education deterioration
- International reports confirm Yemen retreat to the worse
- Civil society organizations condemn assault on journalists

Abdulmalik al-Shaibani says in his article that America and its tailpieces in Iraq everyday kill and destroy in a ferocious way and at the same time America yells and wails of terror and terrorists, who are really the majority of the free men of the people of Iraq. America did not stop in its screams within what happens in Iraq but went further in its screams in the media by renewing its accusation of Hamas in occupied Palestine as a terrorist organization and it would not deal with any elected members from Hamas in the Palestinian legislative elections. In doing so the United States is condemning itself and its history as terror especially at the stage of its national struggle against the British occupation of its territories moa than two hundred years ago.

The struggle and strife of any people against any usurper of their lands, like Israel in Palestine, is a matter guaranteed and approved by heavenly legislations and international norms and all peoples in the entire world recognize it, even the UN charter stipulates that clerklly.

The American accusations against the Iraqi resistance and against Hamas as medals conferred on the chests of those because they fight the occupiers of their lands.

An-Nahar weekly, 15 Sep. 2005.

Main headlines

- Parliament incapable of holding PM Bajammal and his cabinet accountable
- Negotiations for formation of coalition government fail
- Third batch of al-Houthi followers, among them financiers of the rebel, sent to court
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate condemns the attack on Arabiyah Channel correspondent
- The government plans eradication of illiteracy of seven million people including two million children
- Sana'a to host conference on Arab democratic changes
- Yemeni-American workshop on technical aspects of WTO membership
- Citizens from Aden: A director-

general behind Sairah fire

Mohammed al-Ghubari wrote commenting on the parliament subpoenaing of the government, saying some parliament members have a few days ago tried in vain to confirm the saying that our parliament has a parallel authority and become capable of holding the ministers accountable and even voting non-confidence against them. He says after a delay of around a week the prime minister and his cabinet attended the parliament hall. The atmosphere surrounding the session was giving the impression that he session would be difficult as if the government was expecting a battle may end in a vote of non-confidence against the government or some of its members. What happened had surprised all.

The prime minister took the floor, a piece of paper in his hand, replying some of the questions that were the axis of a demand by seventy-seven MPs to summon the government. He had read out justifications and answers to the questions on certain topics in defense of his government's policies. The writer says the justifications offered by the government reflected disdain of the government towards those parliament members and the people in general.

Al-Wahdawi, weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 13 Sep.2005.

Main headlines

- Clashes between Hamdan and Shawlan and escalation of confrontations between Arhab and Naham
- Renewed confrontation between al-Houthi supporters and government forces in Saadah
- Security members practice acts of attack and plunder of citizens' possessions in Ibb
- Ministers violations arouse disputes between the parliament and the government
- Human development report for 2005: Yemen is the least Arab country regarding the individual per capita of domestic product

The newspaper's political; editor wrote saying the Egyptian military forces did not go to Palestinian Gaza borders under a request from the Palestinian authority to be close to what is happening in the Strip and to help offer any assistance he Palestinians would need under the situation the Zionist enemy withdrawal has left behind. It should be taken into consideration that building the structures and apparatuses for administration, security and rebuilding the Strip

would need some time. This makes the situation in Gaza open to all possibilities with the multi forces and arms existence. Egypt has not gone to Gaza borders because it is its legitimate or natural right to its homeland. It has been deprived of that right by the treaty it had signed and according to which the Zionists had withdrawn from Sinai. The situation, from the Zionists point of view, has needed the deployment of some Egyptian force to relieve the Zionists in encircling the Palestinians and that needed a new agreement increasing imposition of restrictions on Egypt and the Palestinians and also needed approval of the Zionist parliament as if it is the owner of the land and sovereignty. The question is has the Egyptian parliament approved that? One could wonder what would make Egypt secure from the Zionists accusations of conspiring with the Palestinians in leaking weapons and terrorists and the complications that might entail in the future.

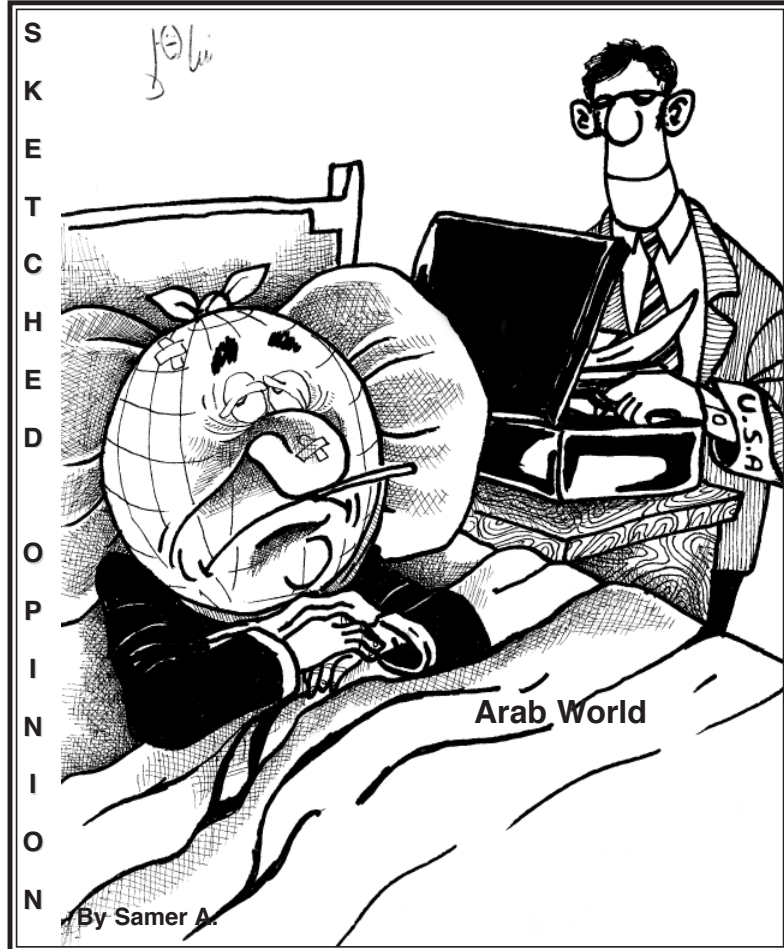
Al-Wasat weekly, 14 Sep. 2005.

Man headlines

- International reports accuse Yemen of arms chaos and its leakage outside its borders
- Al-Burkani (GPC MP): The additional appropriation, we approve it, the parliament does its job properly
- More than 20 civilian and trade unionist organizations demand disclosure of kidnapers of Amer
- American embassy representative attended Al-Kuhlani trial; the court decided bringing Al-Sayani
- Fighting between Shawlan and Hamdan renewed, Arhab sheikhs demonstrate

The newspaper's editor in chief writes about priorities of the opposition saying sometimes we blame the opposition and be harsh on it when we perceive it has given in its rights to express its rejection of the government policies that harmed the people. All that is without anything in return except for what it has termed as the policy of calming down, which usually comes up after understanding with the head of the state.

The difference in what we understand on the role of opposition is its absolute bias to the side of the people, compared to that what its leaders understand of the existence of internal priorities. Those leaders consider those priorities as a necessity that should be begun with before moving to the square of effective opposition. The writer says those priorities are still in suspension and have not been real-



ized for fifteen years. On the contrary, those priorities are increasing until they have become the brake to effectiveness of the opposition party.

Leaders of opposition, the writer adds, believe among their priorities is the work for building their parties and endeavor to solve all their problems in attainment at financial and psychological stability. When they are sure that

the opposition would be safe, then they seriously would think to practice opposition. It is actually problematic. We are before leaders who have changed their parties to merely a décor the existing system benefits from in proving itself as democratic. On their part, they are unable to realize any success in even one national issue.

SILVER LINING
By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

The Headache of Armed Escorts

Our colleague Hamoud Munasser, correspondent of al-Arabiya TV survived an attack by one of the armed escorts of a Parliamentarian. The guy attempted to kill the journalist who was covering the summoning session of the prime minister Abdulqader Bajamal. Although we do not know the motives behind the gunman but the incident will not be the last in a series of harsh attacks journalists are going through at the moment.

I will not discuss the incident in the light of the plight we journalists are facing. However, it should be discussed in the light of the chaotic situation of arms proliferation and the question of armed escorts which helps exacerbate the problem of firearms carrying and possession in the country at large. There is no exact figure of how many firearms the Yemeni citizens do possess. According to non-official estimates, there are almost 17 million pieces of weapons in the hands of the country's 19.7 million population of last March census. However, former minister of interior Yahia al-Mutawakil said in 1995 that the light and heavy weapons the people own range between 50-60 million pieces. But, others doubt the actuality of this figure and think it is an exaggeration. This is still debatable and is left just for estimations.

Any way, this is not my point now. What I want to say is that one of the factors that helps promote the culture of weapons carrying in the country is that phenomenon of heavily armed escorts that important social dignitaries, tribes leaders and government officials do care to have. According to media reports, there are over 75,000 armed men working as escorts, including 1500 armed men you can not fail to see them standing at the gate or venue of the parliament, waiting for the MPs. This situation has increased the weapons spread without control as the law No. 40 for 1992 has exempted presidents of the republic and their deputies, current and present ministers and MPs, officials appointed by republic

lican decrees, police and military officers, judges, prosecutors and diplomats working in Yemen from having license to carry weapons. Hundreds of millions of Yemeni riyals are spent of those escorts who have no skills but that of carrying firearms.

What is this chaos? And how come that the political regime shrugs off its shoulders in pride that we are all gifted with a stable security situation. It is so ridiculous that our MPs are legislating laws for everything expect for firearms control. The tribal figures have proved they are stronger than the state which has been weak enough to face the tribal chiefs and force a law to control weapons. They succeeded in halting any attempt to pass the draft law which is collecting dust at the parliament for some years. What is more ironical is that fact that even those parliamentarians elected by the people need protection. Why should an elected person have a group of armed men protect them and from whom? I wonder why university rectors or deans should have armed escorts standing at the door of their offices or accompanying them while moving around in the campus. This is disgusting and awful and shows how even intellectuals care to show their importance through a group of armed men to protect them. We should be able now to get rid of such a culture that promotes and encourages firearms which many do still look at as a symbol of dignity and manhood.

To drive the point home, Yemen will never be stabilized or see the light of real investment and development at large as long as this disorder of firearms and the concept of escorts do still exist. If the people in charge are serious enough to push ahead the realm of development, they should start first with this headache of firearms and put an end to its carrying and possession. I know some people will say I am utopian and is heedless to the reality. But, that is not true guys. I do know it is a challenging task and demanding but not impossible. We just need a political decision and will. Great deeds always require hard work and sacrifice. Don't you think so?!

Sana'a Int'l Book Fair, activates bookshops & publishing houses trade

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

I recently learned something interesting: American international finance economists and American domestically oriented macroeconomists have very different – indeed, opposing – views of the likely consequences of America's huge current-account deficit. International finance economists see a financial crisis as likely, followed by a painful and perhaps prolonged recession in the United States. Domestically oriented macroeconomists, by contrast, see a forthcoming fall in the value of the dollar not as a crisis, but as an opportunity to accelerate growth. Domestically oriented macroeconomists look at the situation roughly like this: at some point in the future, foreign central banks will become less willing to continue buying massive amounts of dollar-denominated securities in order to prop up the greenback. When they cease their large-scale dollar-purchase programs, the value of the dollar will fall – and it will fall hard. But, according to this view, as the

dollar's value declines, US exports will become more attractive to foreigners and American employment will rise, with labor re-allocated to the newly-vibrant export sector. It will be like what happened in Britain after it abandoned its exchange-rate peg and allowed the pound to depreciate relative to the Deutschmark, or what happened in the US in the late 1980's, when the dollar depreciated against the pound, the Deutschmark, and – most importantly – the Japanese yen.

International finance economists see a far bleaker future. They see the end of large-scale dollar-purchase programs by central banks leading not only to a decline in the dollar, but also to a spike in US long-term interest rates, which will curb consumption spending immediately and throttle investment spending after only a short lag.

To be sure, international finance economists also see US exports benefiting as the value of the dollar declines, but the lags in demand are such that the export boost will come a year or two after the decline in consumption and investment spending. Eight to ten million people will have to

shift employment from services and construction into exports and import-competing goods, implying that structural unemployment will rise.

Moreover, there may be a financial panic: large financial institutions with short-term liabilities and long-term assets will have a difficult time weathering a large rise in long-term dollar-denominated interest rates. This mismatch can cause financial stress and bankruptcy just as easily as banks' local-currency assets and dollar liabilities caused stress and bankruptcy in the Mexican and East Asian crises of the 1990's and in the Argentinean crisis of this decade.

When international finance economists sketch this scenario, domestically oriented macroeconomists respond that it sounds like a case of incompetent monetary policy. Why should the Federal Reserve allow long-term interest rates to spike just because other central banks have ceased their dollar-purchase programs? Should not the Fed step in and replace them with its own purchases of long-term US Treasury bonds, thereby keeping long-term interest rates at a level conducive

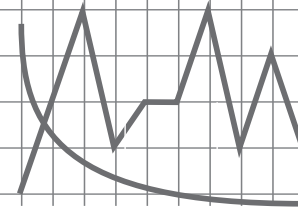
to full employment?

To this, international finance economists respond that the Fed does not have the power to do so. When forced to choose between full employment and price stability, the international finance economists say that the Fed will choose price stability, because its institutional memory of the 1970's, when inflation ran rampant, remains very strong. Therefore, since a fall in the value of the dollar raises import prices, and thus functions as a negative shock to the supply side of the economy, the Fed will have to raise, not lower, interest rates, and sell, not buy, bonds.

Serious economists whom I respect enormously find themselves taking strong positions on opposite sides of this debate. I'm not wise enough to say which side is right, but I certainly know which side I hope is wrong.

J. Bradford DeLong, Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley, was Assistant US Treasury Secretary during the Clinton administration.
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YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	192.5500	192.8000
Sterling Pound	347.4800	347.9300
Euro	237.7900	238.1000
Saudi Rial	51.3400	51.4100
Kuwaiti Dinar	659.4200	660.2700
UAE Dirhem	52.4200	52.4900
Egyptian Pound	33.3400	33.3900
Bahraini Dinar	510.7400	511.4000
Qatari Rial	52.9200	52.9900
Jordanian Dinar	271.7900	272.1400
Omani Rial	500.1400	500.7900
Swiss Franc	153.7000	153.9000
Swedish Crown	25.4800	25.5100
Japanese Yen	1.7388	1.7410

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Dubai Company undertakes operation of Container Port

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Deputy President of State Authority of Free Zones, the chairman of Aden Free Zone Dr Mohammed Hamoud al-Wathn has affirmed that Dubai World Company for Ports scheduled to undertake administration and operation of the Aden container port next month would invest \$ 370 million in development of its infrastructures.

Dr al-Wathn has elucidated that the company would develop the essential services of the infrastructures of the industrial zone and building a village for air freight at Aden airport in addition to contribution to evolve and modernize administration of the free zone and building a shipyard for ship repair.

The Yemeni official told the weekly newspaper 26 September that the

ongoing negotiations with the company were progressing very well and the two sides have reached an identical vision about most of the pending points.

He added that the company has pledged to bring the number of containers reaching the port to 1.5 million containers by the third year following the beginning of operating it, pointing out that terms have been fixed for reconsidering the contract to be signed in case the company failed to attain a percentage of 80% of the agreed upon contract.

Mr. al-Wathn also said there were natural characteristics in Aden port distinguishing it from the region's ports, mainly its proximity to the international navigation route, but he ruled out entering in competition with Dubai port at the present time despite the presence of privileges making it preferable than Dubai port.



Higher Council for expatriates

To develop care services to economic & development tasks

By Mahyoub al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

The ministry of Expatriates Affairs has lately presented the council of ministers of Yemen a study devoted to and suggested for the establishment of a Higher Council for Yemeni Expatriates whose membership is composed of various relevant parties. He study has come out of the state's interest in Yemeni expatriates and for invigorating their role and engaging them practically in the process of development in Yemen.

The study has also contained a diagnostic vision of the present situations of expatriates' sector and future horizons for its development and modernization of its institutions and mechanisms. It has pointed out that the diagnosis has disclosed short-sightedness in visions, legislative policies and structural forms as well as weakness in mechanism of coordination and persistence and duality and repetition of care tasks.

Existing regulations pertaining to

rendering care for the Yemeni expatriates have been in enforcement for a long time and longer can cope with regional and international changes and variables in this respect, as well as changes and needs that have emerged in this sector. This situation dictates to effect developments and changes in this regard in order to keep pace with great recent developments that occurred to those tasks to cope with and meet the expatriates' needs for social care and vitalize their role in taking part in development inside their country.

The study aims at the creation of a qualitative leap surpassing the current situation by reformation of the structure, modernization of regulations, enforcement of expatriates' welfare law and adoption of its executive laws and accommodation of all that is related to the expatriates' affair.

The study also aims at changing the tasks of the relevant ministry from ones devoted to offering purely service tasks to economic and developmental tasks as well. Thus it has focused on attraction of new financial revenues

pouring into the national economy provided by the Expatriates' Welfare Fund and Securities and others. The council of ministers has therefore submitted the study to a ministerial committee chaired by deputy premier the minister of finance and composed of the membership of the ministers of expatriates, the foreign affairs, the civil service and securities, and social affairs and labour. The formation of the committee and entrusting it with the study was meant for studying what it contains of suggestions and to develop them into an executive program aimed for all structural and institutional reforms and to treat all present disorders. The objective is to guarantee activation of the role of this sector and to activate laws of welfare in that of developing its tasks and modernization of its establishments, proceeding from the fact that those reforms are considered integrated system including the central, local, external and the ministries levels and the relationship of the expatriates ministry with them, in a way those relations would realize a sort of coordination and integration of roles. That, according to the study,

would enable the expatriates sector achieve targeted aspirations and ambitions in reforms and changes.

The minister of expatriates' affairs Abdeh Ali Qubati has made it clear that the study did not mean the complete

cancellation of the existing offices of the ministry but rather to effect full structural reforms including the central and local levels with the aim of achieving the study's strategic goals. He said what had been published about the branch offices was meant not to

open additional ones. As for the existing offices they would be connected to the central level, and that are of the committee's duties that was set up by the cabinet and it would take the necessary relevant decisions in this regard.

Investment...chronic impediments vs. possible solutions

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite of all reforms and amendments introduced on the law of investment in Yemen, hindrances still exist in the face of investors because of the absence of a unified mechanism in offering necessary facilities to investors, non-implementation of laws and maintaining the duality in specialties of the parties responsible for granting investment licenses.

In the view of businessmen and capitalists, opportunities of investment process in Yemen has been facing failures due to frustrating factors that steered direction of investment towards accumulation of richness at the expense of investors.

In order to acquire and ensure trust of businessmen in this regard, there must be a unification of mechanisms and enhancing of measure aimed at fighting corruption as well as enforcement of the laws. The is to activate stagnation in investment and put an end to administrative malfunctions. This could not be real-

ized but through drawing up a future plan to what should the investment process be in Yemen.

Among the goals of the proposed plan is the allotment of pieces of land for industrial, oil and gas and mineral, residential, commercial, tourist and agricultural projects as deemed vital projects for investors create job opportunities and contribute to serving goals of development. The plan also include future orientations of investment process embodied in speediness in building of industrial zones already decided in the cities of the main ports in Hudeidah, Aden and Mukalla in order to prepare them for industrial investment and also to be factors of attraction of local and foreign capitals to invest in them by building various productive projects.

It is apparent that the recent presidential directives in this regard have drawn up a complete system for uplifting the investment process through obliging local authorities in the governorates to follow-up the issues pertaining investment under their authorities and in coordination with concerned parties within domain of the law.

The presidential directives have diagnosed the hindrances that slacken the investment process through emphasis on reaching two major goals. The first is the granting of plots of land to investors under contracts in return for encouraging token prices. The second goal has stressed the importance of following up finishing licensed projects for investment. The main point is the actual implementation of projects and not to be satisfied with mentioning the number of licensed projects to imaginary investors.

The state shoulders many responsibilities supporting investment process through providing the necessary infrastructure for the establishment of investment projects. Such responsibilities are mainly the building of roads, providing plots of land and important services such as electricity, waters and means of communications in addition to exempts mentioned in the law of investment. The directives have also included instructions to officials in the central apparatus for audition to undertake their national and responsible role and to send violators to judiciary authorities for accountability.



مدارس الملكة أروى الدولية

تعلن

عن فتح باب القبول والتسجيل للعام الجديد ٢٠٠٦/٢٠٠٥ في مدارسها المعتمدة بالنظام البريطاني والنظام الوزاري في مراحل الدراسة المختلفة

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Sana'a 22nd Book Fair opened

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The functions of the 22nd Round of the Sana'a International Book Fair kicked off on Thursday September 15, 2005. It was inaugurated by Vice-President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Lasting until 28 of this month, the Book Fair has been contributed to by some 358 publishers and cultural organizations from all over the world in comparison to 320 ones last year.

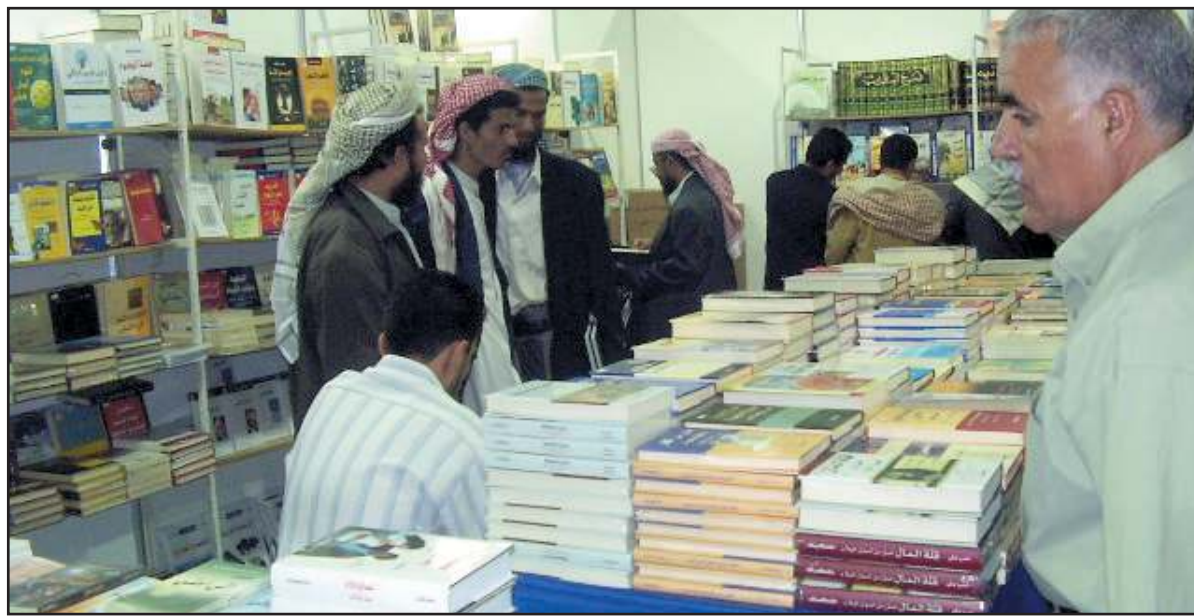
Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Book Fair includes about 132 thousand titles on different realms of knowledge, religious, philosophical, scientific, human, theoretical and practical.

On the sidelines of the Fair, a number of intellectual celebrities will be introduced such as Palestinian poet Mahoud Dorwish and French Muslim thinker Roget Jaroudi. According to the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Dorwish shall conclude the activities of the Fair with a recital of his poetry.

Other prominent guests are critic Kamal Abu Deeb, Sudanese novelist Al-Tayib Saleh and Saudi writer Abdullah al-Jafri, in addition to many other writers. Kuwaiti story writer Laila al-Othman is expected to autograph her book on Yemen, "Days in Yemen," in which she spelled out her admiration of Yemeni people and nature.

Figures reveal that national publishers mount to 37. Egyptian publishing houses are on top of the list of Arab and international participants in the Fair with one hundred publishing houses, libraries and private and state-owned organizations a number higher than last year by 16. Lebanon comes second with 57 publishing houses, then Syria with (37) while Jordanian are 34. Saudi publishers number 30, and those from UAE are nine, and the first Palestinian participation includes five publishers. Kuwait has offered four, Sultanate of Oman three, Sudan and Libya two each, and Tunis one.

The Fair also features the production of some twelve publishers from Britain, eight from the USA, two from India. France and Greece offered one publisher each.



While the catchment of the current Book Fair is not yet known, that of last year is estimated to have drawn in some 1.3 million visitors with total returns of half a billion riyals.

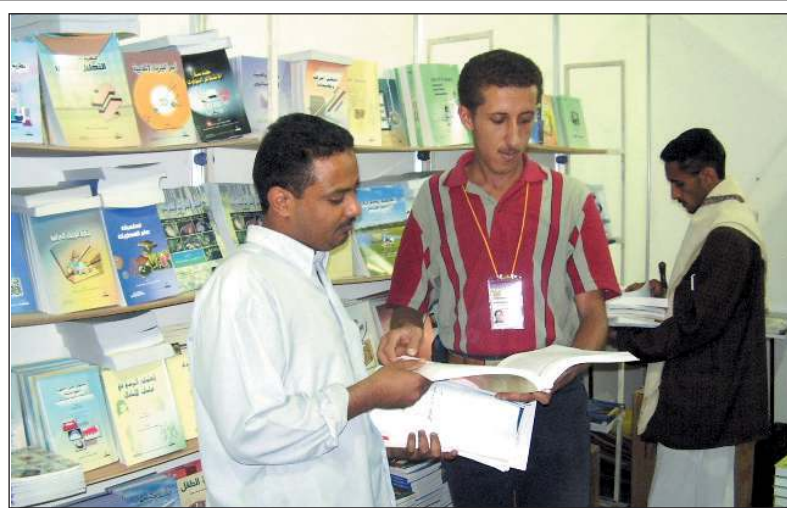
On the sideline of the Book Fair, the Ministry of Culture is planning to mark the launch of the full works of some Yemeni writers, thinkers and poets. Among these are late revolutionist poet and thinker Mohammed Mahmoud al-Zubairi, known as *Father of the Free*, and late poet Abdullah al-Baradouni.

Other names include renown Yemeni literary figure Dr. Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh, Dr. Abdu Othman, and poet Hassan Abdullah al-Sharafi.

Khalid al-Ruwaishan has said about 7% of books exhibited are recent publications meeting scientific, social, literary and religious demand of readers, beside children books and electronic chips to be sold with acceptable prices.

Students visiting the Fair told Yemen Times they were unable to buy scientific books in the fair because of their high prices. Selling of books in the first days was mainly to establishments, organizations, and little individual purchasing.

Yemen Times visited the Book Fair at Expo canvassing and recording peoples impressions both publishers and readership.



Notable censorship:

Ali Hamoud, carrying five books in his hands, said this year's Fair is quite good except that it has a little bit higher price. "This year, books are manifold and are similar in price to last year's except for a slight rise in price. We can also notice the disappearance of certain titles which means that there is censorship although we live in a free globalized world." He confesses that the number of people visiting the Fair is lower than last year. "Comparing the flow of public into the

exhibition, I can infer that the number is less than last year. Price hike is the reason, I believe."

Inadequate advertisement:

Hisham Mohammed Diab, of Alexandria-based al-Isha'a House, said that the Fair is "good." However, he thinks that advertisement is not sufficient. "The Fair lacks in adequate advertisement and publicity. Many people don't know about the Fair. This year, the public flow is not that much in comparison to previous years." This is his third participation. Yet, he is hopeful that the coming days of the Fair will see more new visitors and "profits". He admits that the number of books has increased but that some titles have disappeared.

Abdullah Ibrahim, representative of the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education and supervisor of the Saudi wing, said that 14 entities contribute to the 90-square-meter wing such as the King Fahd Complex for Printing the Holy Qur'an, which distributes editions of the holy Qur'an for free, and which has produced some 208 million editions of the Holy Qur'an translated into a variety of languages. He added that people gush over the Saudi Wing because it provides reliable books at affordable prices. "The Wing also helps improve the fraternal relationships between the Yemeni and Saudi peoples and governments," he concluded.

Mohammed bin Salman, of Hadhramout House for Studies and Publishing, said that this year's Fair is better than the previous ones because new houses have partaken. "So far, it is acceptable," he said.

Debut Palestinian appearance:

"This fair is distinctive," said Mohammed al-Asmar, manager of the Palestinian wing in the Fair. "This is the first chance for the Yemeni reader to see Palestinian creation in different fields from criticism, science, politics, .etc."

Literary Corner

An Anthology of Arab Humor In Arab Literature (2/3)

Subject Book: An Anthology of Arab Humor In Arab Literature
Author: Ali Mroueh
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Riad El-Rayyes Books Ltd, London
Year Published: First Printing 1947, Second Printing 1991
Number of Pages: 8 volumes; Volume 1 - 182 pages

The eight volumes that make up the Anthology of Humor and Arab Literature are:

- 1) The Peculiarities of Poets and Literary Writers
- 2) The Peculiarities of Egyptians
- 3) The Peculiarities of Driven Away Personalities
- 4) The peculiarities of Judges
- 5) The Peculiarities of Women and Concubines
- 6) The Peculiarities of Geniuses and Fools
- 7) The Peculiarities of Administrators/ Workers
- 8) The Peculiarities of Odd People

In this corner we will cover the First Volume, which has seven chapters or parts: 1) An Introduction; 2) Poets and Authorities; 3) Poets and Needs; 4) Poets and Delight ; 5) Poets and Employment; 6) Poets and Mood.

The introduction explains humor in general and the importance of humor in life and that without it there can be no real enjoyment in life. Humor is viewed by the author as a phenomenon of stature of a culture and stimulates genius. Then he brings out instances where great men of history had their moments of humor, even the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) was one to enjoy a laugh or two every now and then, notwithstanding the seriousness of his mission. He told his followers that people should not shun humor but should, in life opt for some of the innocent delights of the hereafter as well. He also said: "Take pleasure and play. I would hate for people to see in your religion severity or harshness".

Then he goes on to give the history of humor going to the Greek philosophers and later thinkers and philosophers spanning the ages of history.

Most of the Arab literary personalities in the pre-Islamic history were poets, who occupied themselves with the glories of tribal warfare and other aspects of chivalry. However after Islam became entrenched in the Arabian Peninsula and a state became the dominant institution that governed most of the territory that fell to Arab/ Islamic rule, poets shifted their attention to other aspects of social life. Most poets busied themselves with trying to win the favor of rulers or senior government officials, who would generously pay out gratuities to poets who would compliment them and praise them.

The book starts off with the story of Abu Dalamah. Abu Dalamah was a black slave, but he had a fiery tongue

that was feared or sought after, depending on how Abu Dalamah would look at the subject of his poetry. In the post Islamic period, many slaves did rise to social prominence either by their cultural attainments or artistic achievements. Abu Dalamah first appeared in the final days of the Umayyad Caliphate about 120 years or so after the Prophet Mohammed's (PBAUH) death. However his prominence was at its height in the days of the Abbasid Caliphate. In one of his poems, he pleads to Bu Ja'afar Al-Mansour to relieve him from the awful poverty that his wife has caused him, because of how she never gets enough:

No, Commander of the Faithful, who God has set for you the esteemed Caliphate,

I still give her all my earnings and she eats it, without anything for me and my children then she sleeps...

I reminded her of the book of Allah, but she was never guided by the Book of Allah;

She told me: You want to tell me about the Book of God, you vile one you!

Go out and fetch us money and a farm like that of our neighbors.

Con our Caliph with a request (for a gratuity), the Caliph will easily oblige!

The Caliph then ordered two hundred lots of land swamps and arable, but Abu Dalamah was not satisfied and said "I will give you four Thousand lots of swamps from Al-Hira to Al-Najaf!" The Caliph laughed and ordered all the land to be arable without swampland.

Then Abu Dalamah fell in love with a beautiful concubine. He sent a poem to Al-Abbass Ibn Al-Mansour, one of the Abbasids describing his love for a concubine, who was sold to him by a "terrible greedy merchant, for two thousand Derhims, who threw the amount as a loan on my shoulders,

... so how can I enjoy my delight with this beauty, with such a heavy debt?

Al-Abbass read the poem and was pleased by the eloquence of Abu Dalamah in describing his love for this woman and ordered the amount be awarded to Abu Dalamah.

There are many stories like this of poets other than Abu Dalamah, who whiled away their lives going from one prince or governor to another selling their poems of praise or sometimes giving news of what the public is talking about them.

However not all dignitaries succumbed to this kind of pleading. A poet wrote to Abu Sulciman that he dreamed that a great prince was going to give him a big gratuity. The Prince replied: illusions and dreams, we have no knowledge of interpreting dreams! (This is what Pharaoh's advisers told him in the story of Joseph, about his dream of the seven good years, etc.)

**Generation After Generation...
Better Taste .. Impossible !**

Al-Qahirah Castle refurbished

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

There, it stands proud of itself, at an elevation of 1500 meters above sea level, al-Qahirah Citadel perches at the foot of Sabir Mountain and overlooks the dreamy city of Taiz giving it a feeling of security perpetuated since ancient in history when the citadel was the most invincible stronghold in the area. Currently, al-Qahirah citadel is undergoing maintenance and ramifications are introduced. It is being refurbished and ameliorated into a status typical of a unique historic

icon in the city of Tazi which testifies to the craftsmanship of old Yemenis and their mastery over the art of construction and warfare.

The maintenance work covers the reconstruction of the walls as well as the grain storages, paths and water courses. Restaurants, waterfalls and clubs are planned to be built in the vicinity of the Citadel to add to its glamour and provide a convenient and ideal place for recreation and sightseeing. The maintenance cost of the Citadel has reached so far about eight hundred million riyals.

The historic citadel of al-Qahirah dates back to pre-Islamic ages . It was restored and rehabilitated in the

time of Rasouli state, eight centuries ago. It was the palace of the Rasouli Sultan King Mudhafar Yousuf bin Omar bin Mohammed Ali Rasoul.

Archeological studies conducted at site have revealed that the Citadel was taken over by many states throughout its long history. The archeological finds prove this fact, contrary to the claim that it was built under the reign of Medieval Sulaihi State. Of course some books tell us that Sultan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Sulaihi, brother to king Ali bin Mohammed al-Sulaihi, used it as a fort. At this time, it was utilized as a storing facility for grains, ammunition, and war equipment.

Save biodiversity in Yemen

By AMEL AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Modern populations and the pressures of urbanization have reduced both the abundance and habitat available to the myriad species with whom we share the planet. Many species face extinction (50-200 species are lost to this planet every day - 20,000 to 70,000 per year). The implications of our myopic and ecologically ruinous patterns of behavior are not easily understood and their effects may not yet have been realized.

Biodiversity, is a term that is now commonly used to describe the variety of living things and their relationships to each other and interactions with the environment. According to that, we cannot expect to find deer or ducks in the wild in the absence of the interconnected web of other plants and animals

The biodiversity in Yemen

Yemen exists in proximity to three major bio-geographical regions of the world: the Paleo arctic, the Orient and the Afro-tropical. They overlap in Yemen and as a consequence the country has many species representative of each. There is a spectacular range of habitats: from the mountain plateau and terraces down to the plains of the Tihama and desert, to the biologically very rich coast and its numerous islands.

The array of plants and animals in Yemen is greater than in any other part of the Arabian peninsula. Yemen is described as having a "mixture of African and Arabian wildlife in one country", for example there are over 360 bird species have been recorded. Among these are seventeen species (thirteen on the mainland and four on Socotra) which are found nowhere else in the world except in some cases

plants like mangroves and algae whereas coral are covering 75% of the regions in Arabian sea. There are also amount of phyto plankton, zoo plankton molluscas crustaceas sea grass and seaweeds that provide appropriate environment for sea birds, fish, turtles, and marine mammals.

Socotra is one of the best environment in where many rare species of birds and animals are living. Socotra Island is filled with plenty of medical plants e. g. Dragon's Blood tree, Adenium abesum Roem which is used to reduce the Malaria fever, Jatropha Unicotata Balf, which is used to heal wounds Frankincense trees, Socotra Aloe and many other medical trees and plants, some reports indicate that there are about 277 different kind of medical plants.

The high mountains block of the north Yemen are considered a suitable sitting for migratory birds become concentrated on their long journey between



on which their lives depend.

The notion of biodiversity encompasses several different levels of biological organization, from the very specific to the most general. Perhaps the most basic is the variety of information contained in the genes of specific organisms, be they petunias or people. Different combinations of genes within organisms, or the existence of different variants of the same basic gene are the fundamental "stuff" of evolution. At the next level is the variety of different species that exist on the Earth: a concept that includes the relationship of different groups of species to each other. Biodiversity also describes the varied composition of ecosystems, and the variety of different sorts of ecosystems that are found in regions of study that biologists call landscapes or environments.

neighboring areas of south west Arabia. For these so-called 'endemics'. Yemen, especially the island of Socotra, houses a wide variety of endemic plants that can be used for medicinal purposes For example, the Dragon's Blood Tree on Socotra island can be used for colic treatment and cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

According to the international assessment of World Wildlife Fund WWF in 2000, there are four regions in Yemen have international concern and must be protect from the risks of human activities:

- 1- Red Sea
- 2- Aden bay and Arabian sea
- 3- Arabian forests
- 4- Socotra

The environment in the red sea is considered a regional center for growing fish, turtles, coral reefes, rarely

their breeding grounds in Asia and their wintering areas in Africa. These highlands are formed homeland for many threaten extinction animals such as Gazella Arabic (bilikis) actionyx jubatus , and panthera pardus nimer . the different species of amphibians and reptilians are plenty and can be found in the sands of the islands or the sands of the Empty Quarter Desert .

Yemen is characterized by large diversity of native species, varieties and soil types adapted to different agro-ecological zones. Crops such as wheat, lentil millet tomatoes grapes .etc are examples of local varieties.

The importance of biodiversity

Our lives depend on biodiversity in ways that are not often appreciated. For example . historically Yemen was known as " Green Land " because it

was a good example of economical and sustainable use of the available natural resources, where conservation of crops, soil and rangelands were part of the traditional system and terraces were mainly built for conserving water and preventing soil erosion. Producing systems have already approached their maximum potential with the full use of limited resources such as water and natural vegetation .

Nowadays agriculture is considered an important economic sector that shares in 23% of national income and 2% of exports. It is the main source of foodstuff for the population in Yemen. 54% of population are working in agriculture.

In Yemen, populations depend upon fishing both for food and for their economic livelihood. They derive about 16 percent of their total animal protein from marine fisheries. besides that, fishes are considered the most important exports. In 2001 the total cost of exporting fish reached to 70,000,000 \$ in many Yemeni regions, people dependent on wild resources such as the wood for fuel and the animals hunting for food and clothes.

In spite of the lack of medical and pharmaceutical researches, many Yemeni people had discovered many medical uses to some of the plants, such as Socotra's Aloe whose leaves are used for recovering of constipation, TB, and anemia. It can also be used in healing wounds.

Other economic gains derive from our interaction with the natural world, of which the best known example may be the economic value of tourism. Much, although obviously not all vacation travel comes under the rubric of "eco-tourism," driven by a desire to see and experience the natural world. Even on regional and local scales, the revenue generated by tourism can be substantial, and a major component of local and regional economies.

There are additional benefits from biodiversity that are not so easily included in commercial market analyses, and that come under the name of ecosystem services. These are the results of natural biological processes that either improve the overall quality of the environment, or provide some benefit to the human users of the landscape--such as improvement of water quality and reduction of flooding. The concept of ecosystem services is unabashedly tilted toward human uses.

The study of ecosystem services is relatively new, but what is known points consistently in one direction: maintaining diversity on a variety of levels of ecological and biological organization--within forests, or among the trees that are there, or even within the genes of a single variety--is critical if services are to be maintained on a sustainable basis.

Ecosystem services can be provided in a variety of forms. One example is



the purification of water that generally occurs by flowing through forested ecosystems and wetlands, which is an extremely important function from the standpoint of human populations that live downstream. The presence of living vegetation provides an efficient sink for many atmospheric pollutants as well. The regulation of stream flow by vegetation in the upper reaches of watersheds has long been recognized as an important ecosystem service, and watershed managers manipulate both the amount and type of vegetation in watersheds to help control sedimentation, floods, and sometimes stream flow.

The services that ecosystems provide often depend on the underlying physical structure of the habitat, such as the conditions for feeding and breeding that may be needed for the continued survival of an important animal species. What is often required is a diversity of habitats over an entire landscape. Ecosystem services may also depend on the presence of a particular species, as is the case in highly co-evolved plant-pollinator systems, or in highly managed agro-ecosystems that rely on specific pollinators, such as honeybees.

Biodiversity also plays an important role in maintaining ecosystem services over long periods of time, through the ups and downs of natural variations. Ecosystems that have lost either genetic or species diversity are less resistant to the effects of environmental perturbations, such as droughts, and are slower to recover when disturbed. Diversity is a form of ecosystem health insurance: those ecosystems that include several species that serve the same or similar functions tend to be more resistant to environmental stress and recover faster from perturbations.

The risks face biodiversity in Yemen The development policy in the past 40 years has been focused on short-term objectives which provided immediate economic befits, while the impact of this development process on the environment was ignored. As a result,

destruction and degradation of natural resources have reached a critical level. Pollution due to carbon dioxide emissions, pesticides and non-biodegradable plastic products (25.842 tons in plastic products were produced in Yemen from 1992 to 1996). unchecked cutting of trees and forests for firewood, random fishing and animals hunting, major declines in water tables, and massive erosion of the highland terrace ecosystems. Infrastructure development, especially rural roads and coastal construction, is also degrading the environment. Furthermore The population growth. All these activities make biodiversity of Yemen is being drastically reduced.

In 1992 Yemen signed the Biodiversity Treaty in brasil. In 1995 the Yemeni government approved this treaty. Therefore Yemen became commitment to save biodiversity as well as the fair and sustainable use of natural revenues. To achieve this aim biodiversity conservation projects must be included in the development and socio-economic plans of the government.

We need greater awareness and coordination of policies that affect biodiversity. Much more work needs to be done to put a fair and meaningful valuation on biodiversity. The service aspects of biodiversity must be understood, and market mechanisms put in place to include these very real factors in both policy and business decisions.

We need to learn more, and more quickly, about the role that biodiversity plays in the working of ecosystems. Gaps in our present knowledge of these connections now limit our assessments of the risks imposed when biodiversity declines, and preclude more complete economic evaluations. To do that requires an appreciation of the value of biodiversity--both what it provides for the natural world and the ways that we can use it--and a commitment to preserve it so that we and next generations will continue to realize the benefits of a biologically rich Earth. Surely such a challenge demands the attention of scholars and policy-makers alike.

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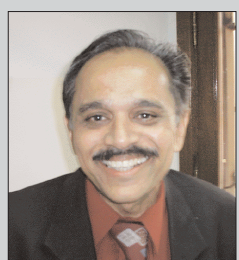
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Literature Textbook Series (LTS): A commendable work

Teaching and Learning English literature in the universities of Yemen have been handicapped by the non-availability of original texts in Yemen. With the publication of Literature Textbook Series (LTS) edited by Dr Ayid Sharyan, Asst. Professor of English in the Faculty of Education, Sana'a University, the vacuum has been filled up to a great extent. In the words of Dr Sharyan, "LTS aims at providing Yemeni students with local editions of textbooks in English literature, easily available at a reasonable price. Each volume of this series comprises a selection of literary text or texts with notes and explanations easily understandable to



DR. P.A. ABRAHAM
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
abbyraju@y.net.ye

Commenting on the series, Dr Sahu wrote, "Dr Sharyan has struck a fine balance between scholarship and practical pedagogic demands, fulfilling a long felt need of the students of English literature in Yemen who were earlier groping in the dark, hopelessly clutching on to 'handouts' as a desperate remedy." In his characteristic humility, Dr Sharyan doesn't claim

any originality to the texts and his sole aim in editing these series is to serve the large number of Literature students in Yemen and he welcomes comments and responses from all those concerned.

The series consist of titles like *Introduction to Literary Forms I: Fiction and Drama* which deals mainly with the important literary forms such as novel, short story, essay, drama and one act plays. While editing this text, Dr. Sharyan has taken into account the level of the students, and cultural appropriateness without sacrificing the quality of the materials. *Introduction to Literary Forms II: Types and Forms of Poetry* is a sequel to the earlier one and it is written with the aim of helping the students who begin a serious study of poetry at the undergraduate level.

Different forms of poetry like ballad, ode, sonnet etc are dealt at length, giving numerous examples and exercises that students may do themselves with the help of their teachers. *Poetry Up to the 18th century:*



Dr. Ayid Sharyan



Selected Poems with Explanations contains important poems written by Shakespeare and Pope and the explanations and the comprehension questions at the end are very useful. The text *Nineteenth Century Poetry* gives a vivid background of Romantic movement and poems of William Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats and Byron are discussed in a very lucid manner. This text also includes some of the 19th century American poets like Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.

The other literary texts edited by Dr Sharyan in the series are: 1. *20th century Poetry: Selected Poems with critical Comments* 2. *19th Century American Literature* 3. *20th Century American Literature* 4. *Great Expectations: A Critical Study* 5. *Emma: Text and Critical Notes* 6. *Literary Criticism* 7. *English Proficiency Tests with Answer Keys* 8. Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* 9. Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* 10. Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* 11. George Orwell's *Animal Farm* E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India* 12. Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (Book II) 13. Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* 14. Jane Austen's *Emma*, 16. Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* 17. Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* 18. Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield* and Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. Space does not permit to make separate comments on each of the texts. No doubt, all the selected texts in the Literary Texts series are written lucidly with clear understanding, combining scholarship and pedagogic needs.

of the literary models that he has presented; his efforts certainly deserve my appreciation and those who work in the same area.

5. Dr. Mahmudul Hasani, Head, Department of English, University of Science & Technology, Sana'a, says in his forward to Shaw's *Arms and the Man* 'It is heartening to know that Dr Ayid Sharyan is going to include this magnum opus in his LTS (*Literature Textbook Series...*) Dr Ayid deserves three cheers for this philanthropic enterprise and I wish him a happy which includes all the positive and pleasant aspects of the world and the hereafter.

6. He (Dr. Mahmudul Hasani) added in the foreword to *Introduction to Literary Forms II* that this book is 'a great leap forward in the direction of making literature easy for the Arab students ... Dr. Ayid deserves unreserved appreciation, applause and encouragement from teachers and students of English for taking an exemplary and inspiring step amidst uninspiring rather disconcerting circumstances. The book is as much a proof of his magnanimity and philanthropy as it is of his commitment to his calling. May Allah accept this enterprise which it is crazy and sinister to regard as something pecuniary or mercenary given the few, very few takers of books like these in Yemen. Ameen.

7. In his foreword to *English Poetry up to the 18th Century*, he (Dr. Mahmudul Hasani) added 'Dr. Ayid Sharyan's *English Poetry up to the 18th Century* is a big leap forward in the direction of bringing out indigenous books on English literature that are written with an eye to the background, needs and aspirations of the Arab students in general and Yemeni undergraduates in particular.

The author has kept in mind the psyche as well as susceptibilities of his clientele and has tried to sustain the interest of the readers by making the book comparative in its approach to the religious themes. He has not hesitated to present the Islamic standpoint alongside the biblical views expressed in the poems. This makes the book even more interesting. The Arabic counterparts of the various literary terms have been presented in parenthesis in order to drive the idea home straightaway without having to explain the same ad nauseam.

I believe Dr. Sharyan is doing a yeoman's service to the student community by bringing out the *Literature Textbook Series* (LTS) which serves the dual purpose of text and guide the kind of which is hard to find in local bookshops and libraries. I hope the book will be well received by students and teachers alike and Dr. Sharyan will carry on his efforts to elevate the academic standard of the students. It is also hoped that the students would not treat this book as an end in itself and not mug up the information contained therein just in order to regurgitate the same in the examination. Instead, the students are expected to allow the book to whet their intellectual appetite and prepare them for higher flights in the vast realm of knowledge.

Comments by Experts about Literature Textbooks Series

1. Dr Ramakanta Sahu, (The editor of the Educational Page in *Yemen Times* and professor of language and literature in Sana'a University), says Dr Ayid Sharyan's *Twentieth-Century Poetry*:

Selected Poems with Critical Comments in the *LTS Literature Textbook Series* is a landmark attempt to present the complexities and subtleties of the modern sensibility through an insightful selection of poems. It would certainly go a long way to familiarise the students with the vistas of modern poetry. ...I have no doubt that *Twentieth-Century Poetry: Selected Poems with Critical Comments* will be received well by teachers and students of modern poetry, not only in Yemen but also in the wider Arab world.

2. Prof (Dr) P.A. Abraham says in the foreword to *Waiting for Godot* 'I am glad that Dr Ayid Sharyan has taken up the venture of writing the *Literature Textbooks Series* (LTS), especially at a time when English literary texts and critical materials are not easily available in Yemen. I appreciate the attempt of Dr Sharyan which is indeed a great help to the undergraduate students of literature in Sana'a University.'

3. Prof (Dr) P.A. Abraham says in the foreword to *The Glass Menagerie* 'Dr Ayid Sharyan has edited the play keeping in mind the needs of the undergraduate literature students.

I appreciate Dr Sharyan's endeavour to make the important English literary texts available to the students of Sana'a University who have practically no access to the original books.'

4. (Dr) Mahmood Ali Shamsher, Vice Dean- Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University, says in the introduction for *19th Century American Literature that the book* 'introduces the students to models of the major literary achievements in American literature written during the 19 century. (Dr) Ayid has certainly exerted tremendous efforts in the collection, explanation, and the analysis

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situation and Expressions (81)
Goodbye and good luck wishes

Good bye and good luck messages sparkle with the speaker's sincere desires for the person who is given the send off. The idiom captures this spirit of warmth, cordiality, friendliness and earnestness of purpose.

- If you are looking for a big opportunity, seek out a big problem.
- Bidding you a pleasant and warm good bye. To meet and part is the way of life. May luck always favor you.
- As you move on, may life treat you with all the joys and also bring out the best in you, making your world more happy and truly worthwhile.
- Bidding you goodbye: As you prepare to set out on a different path, here's wishing you good luck in all that you do. Wherever you go, whatever you do, just know that you are close to my heart and I wish every happiness to be with you. Goodbye and good luck.

- water or other liquid): Immersion heaters are commonly used to heat water.
3. **aspiration** (n) (desire for something): He has aspiration to be a doctor.
 - inspiration** (n) (person or thing that inspires): His lady love was a constant source of inspiration for him.
 4. **death** (n) (ending of life): Better death than dishonor.
 - expiry** (n) (act of something which lasts for a period of time coming to an end): You should examine the date of expiry of a medicine before taking it.
 5. **inhibition** (restraint on an action for which there is an impulse or desire): He mixes with men of any background without any inhibition.
 - prohibition** (n) (order that forbids): There is going to be a prohibition against the sale of soft drinks in Indian train compartments.

- c. zodek
- a. rikerent
- c. recurrent
- a. preferential
- a. spontaniety
- d. zodiak
- b. recuurent
- d. rekurrent
- b. preferential
- d. preferential
- b. sponteneity
- d. spontaneity

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. resonance
2. spatial
3. Fahrenheit
4. coalesce
5. mathematician

(D) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. be rolling in money
2. stretch one's legs
3. lose one's voice
4. money is no object
5. eat like a bird

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **broad in the beam** (wide in the hips): His figure is disproportionate as he looks broad in the beam.
2. **make it one's business** (to do something): (to be determined to do something): -The detective has really made it his business to unfold the motive behind the crime.
3. **to do things by halves** (do things in a careless way): I don't like those who do things by halves.
4. **steal a march on** (some one): (to gain an advantage over some one): In the election campaign the opposition candidate stole a march on his rival.
5. **cap in hand** (humbly): Mohammed went to his father cap in hand and apologized to him for his misconduct.

IV. Grammar

(A) Grammar

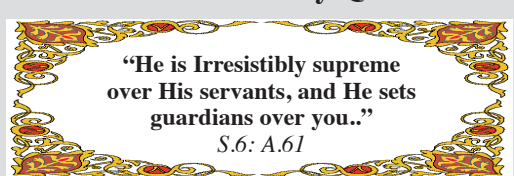
- a. If you mix the colors yellow and green, you get brown.
- b. If I can afford it, we'll go and have a pizza.
- c. If I were taller, I would join the police force.

- Which sentence suggests that something might happen?
- Which sentence is highly improbable?
- Which sentence tells you that something is always true?

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. I wish you wouldn't shout. I'm not deaf.
2. When I was a teen ager I used to sing in the school choir.
3. I haven't got time to waste standing here and gossiping about the neighbors.
4. Come and whisper your secret in my ear.
5. As the bus ran into the lorry all the passengers screamed.
6. I can speak three languages: English, Hindi and Arabic.
7. He told me a wonderful story about his adventures in Africa.
8. She said that she did not agree with all our proposals.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"The individual is capable of both great compassion and great indifference. He has it within his means to nourish the former and outgrow the latter."
—Norman Cousins

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Although I like chocolate, but I can't eat it because I'm allergic to it.
2. I like to eat raw eggs for breakfast and everybody else in my family too.
3. A hardware store sells tools and nails and plumbing supplies and paint and etc.
4. My mother asked me when am I coming home?
5. Do you know where is the nearest gas station?

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Even though I was sick, I went to work Or, I was sick, but I went to work.
2. Gold, silver and copper are metals.
3. I'd like a cup of coffee, and so would my friend.
4. I like coffee, but my friend does not.
5. Even if I'm very exhausted, I didn't stop working until after midnight last night.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. A person, thing or event that is mysterious and very hard to understand.
2. To make people or events more active, spirited, or cheerful.
3. To fill someone with great joy or delight.
4. A set of things that combine with each other to make a whole.
5. A friendly relationship between two or more countries.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Diseases found regularly in a particular place: **endemic** (adj)
2. The natural qualities that a person is gifted with: **endowment** (n)
3. An agreement to marry: **engagement** (n)
4. To cut words, pictures, etc. on wood, stone, etc.: **engrave** (vt)
5. To destroy by swallowing up: **engulf** (vt)

(B) Words commonly confused:

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

1. addicted, devoted
2. adhesion, adherence
3. afflict, inflict
4. ago, since, before
5. air, atmosphere, airs

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **interesting** (adj) (holding the attention; arousing interest): He is an interesting person.
- interested** (adj) (having an interest in): Aisha is interested in music.
2. **emulsion** (n) (kinds of milky liquid): We have painted the house with emulsion paints.
- immersion** (n) (putting under the surface of

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Word | synonym |
| 1. connive | instigate |
| 2. egregious | shocking |
| 3. immunity | tolerance |
| 4. mania | madness |
| 5. dredge | clear away |

ii) Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top

1. **extant**
 - a. destroyed
 - b. extinguished
 - c. forgotten
 - d. unheeded
2. **ephemeral**
 - a. spiritual
 - b. ethical
 - c. permanent
 - d. stable
3. **dwindle**
 - a. soar
 - b. elevate
 - c. raise
 - d. grow
4. **politic**
 - a. stupid
 - b. simple
 - c. tactless
 - d. unwise
5. **vilify**
 - a. comment
 - b. pray
 - c. practice virtue
 - d. worship

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Word | antonym |
| 1. erratic | regular |
| 2. endow | divest |
| 3. mundane | spiritual |
| 4. furtive | open |
| 5. turgid- | deflated |

(C) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

1. a. rumatic
2. a. zodiac
- b. rheumetic
- d. rumetic
- b. zodiac

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Al-ballah, Yemeni tribes folklore

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YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni folklore is unique among that of Arabia. It possesses a huge varied multicultural legacy that differs from one governorate to another.

Diversity in Yemeni culture is not confined to the differences of the particular regions traditions, but it could also be realized in the varied heritages of the regions, that vary from one occasion or event to another.

Ballah dance is an old traditional composing that is kept by most of the Northern and Eastern Yemeni tribes. It is a traditional habit often practiced in the evenings of marriage events.

The common practice of this sort of dance for most of the Yemeni tribes is to choose 12 dancers who face each other in a line in the middle of the entertainers, and start chorusing the ballah verses. Although this practice is common among Yemeni tribes, ballah tunes differ according to tribes and regions. A good instance of that is the wedding that we attended for one of the sons of bedwis' tribe in



Marib basin. During the dance, poets exchange short verses of their poetry in which they express solicitude. Their poems mostly don't exceed a stanza. This goes on all through the dance. The dance starts around 8 in the evening after the dancers have their supper.

Ballah performance changes several times through the concert. Dancers pause when the poet starts presenting his stanza, and then they resume their dance chorusing the new verses in a tone that could differ from the previous one. These pauses and resumptions of dancing and singing continue till the small hours prior to dawn, then everyone goes back home.

Poets tackle several subjects in their songs. It could speak about

love, politics, economic, social, and cultural or any other general conditions of concern to the community.

Balla is the public dance that spreads in most of the northern regions especially those of Marib, Jof and Shabwa in the East and extends to the central western regions of Dhamar Al-Bidha and parts of Sana'a.

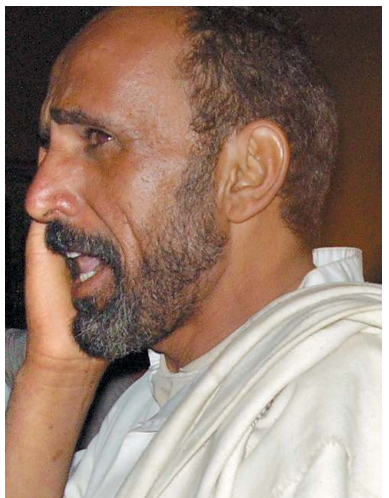
Performance of Ballah follows a certain rhythm called 'Alradfah' that differs according to Ballah kind and region. Audience and dancers spend their time deeply absorbed and impassioned by the varied merry poets' exchanges that eliminate boredom.

Traditional old ballah dance was based on the wavy movements of the dancers' bodies while raising

and stamping their feet. They stand in the middle of the circle singing and responding to the verses of the poet. Lately globalization laid its finger prints. Dancers adopted a different kind of performance that is aired by Gulf satellites.

Ballah prevails in the areas of Marib and Jof, because contrary to most Yemeni regions, drums pipes and lutes are considered as a disgrace and a violation to traditions.

Women also practice dancing ballah in marriages in the bride's house as strangely enough other sorts of dancing are considered a blemish in both Jof and Marib.



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