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Women's rights: From words to deeds

SANA'A, Dec. 4—A conference on the Women Rights in the Arab World: From Words to Deeds, concludes on Monday. The conference, which lasted for three days, involved 300 Arab and world women personalities interested in women and human rights. Among the attendants were ministers, MPs, civil community women leaders and representatives from academic institutions.

Women leaders from the European Union and the U.S. took part in the conference, which was also attended by Arab and European countries and ten European and western non-official organizations. The conference involved participants, women workers in the political or voluntarily works at the official and private levels.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Ms Amatalalim Al-Soswa confirmed that the conference was held in coordination with the Yemeni Minister of



The conference aimed to focus more on the status of women in the society.

Human Rights, the United Nations Development Program and some donor countries such as the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The conference aimed to focus more on the status of women in the society and convey a picture about the nature and reality of women's situations in the Arab region, as well as enabling women to obtain their rights.

The conference covered three main themes, the first of which discussed women's political participation and the barriers that hinder the full participation of women in drawing identities of policies in the Arab world, whether this matter is related to elections, everyday life or issues of violence against women and how such violence can be stopped.

The second theme focused on legal support for women's participation in the judiciary as lawyers, judges, prosecution officers or beneficiaries of serv-

ices of law and judiciary and how they can get these services easily. More emphasis was placed on greater barriers in the Arab countries that deny women the right of equity.

The third theme concentrated on the enhancement of women rights in the development process and economy and discussed the role of the Arab League in supporting and consolidating women rights in development and economy.

From the three themes, participants recognized the current situation in Yemen and the other Arab countries and how women's empowerment can be enhanced to obtain their rights. "By the end of the conference, we expect the issuance of the Sana'a declaration on woman rights, which is due to advocate empowerment of the Arab women to obtain their rights", al-Soswa added.

Continued on page 3

AIDS' World Day observed

SANA'A, Dec. 4—On the occasion of the International AIDS Day - 3rd December, the UN Information Center in cooperation UNICEF organized a symposium on AIDS last Saturday in Sana'a. Under the title 'Unite against AIDS, We are all responsible' the symposium aimed to promote awareness concerning this disease. Dr. Fozia Ahmed Gharama, General Manager of AIDS Combating Program stated that the total number of registered AIDS cases reached 1769 up to September 2005. Some of these cases were discovered by chance.

She added that Yemen is considered of the countries with the least number of reported AIDS cases; however the World Health Organization estimations indicate that the cases will reach 11227 by end of next year. There is increased concern regarding the spread of the virus because of the illegal influx of refugees coming from the African Horn. Apparently, sixty percent of the reported AIDS patients had come originally from these countries. Reasons attributed to the lack of compliance with precautionary measures at the refugee camps. Estimations reveal that there are about 14 thousand refugees infiltrate illegally



into Yemen. The statement of the UN Information Center on this occasion conveyed that the world has achieved progress in fighting AIDS. It said that an \$ 8 billion fund is now available for combating AIDS in developing countries. This used to be only \$ 300 million a decade ago. World leaders are exerting efforts to combat AIDS in 40 countries, according to their message last September in the World Summit to fully carry out their 2001 pledge towards the HIV virus. This will include providing life saving medicines, treatment and precautionary measures for all without exceptions.

These efforts are dedicated to covering all areas where the disease is spread to stop it from spreading further. The goal is to have an AIDS free environment by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

On the same context, the Family Protection Society Taiz branch, had organized a similar symposium on the

29th of last month. It was titled 'Fighting discrimination against AIDS patients'. Dr. Saeed Sofian Alhamedi, coordinator of the National Program for Combating AIDS and other sexually transferred diseases, presented a detailed report on the AIDS patients' rights. He confirmed the government's interest in creating partnership with the civil society organizations to fight AIDS. Dr. Abdulhameed Altieb from the Guidance office in Taiz reviewed Islam's perspective on AIDS patients and those of other sexually transferred diseases. He said that Islam had established methods for protection by prohibiting forbidden sexual relations. He called for fighting AIDS through peaceful means.

Colonel Abdurrahman Shamsan, deputy commander for planning, information and research in the Ministry of Interior, talked the relation of security men with the AIDS patients. He also talked about the role of the Interior Ministry in provision of safety and health security especially for refugees.

Dr. Nasser Alkabab general manager of the Health Office in Taiz, spoke of the importance of such symposiums in fighting AIDS publicly and officially.

Al-Dailamy sentenced to death

SANA'A, Dec. 4—The verdict of Yahia Al-Dailamy and Mohamed Ahmed Miftah cases was issued last Saturday by the Penalty Court upholding the judgment passed by the Primary Court. The two were accused of stirring sectarian tumult and corresponding with a foreign country namely Iran. The court compelled the prosecution to refer the case to the high court. The court also accepted Miftah's appeal formally and refused it substantially. The two suspects had already refused the appeal petition that was submitted by their lawyer last June, dismissing the court as being illegal.

The Primary Court had sentenced Al-Dailamy to death on the 29th of last May, and sentenced Miftah to eight years in prison for instigating unrest and establishing a group affiliated to the so called terrorist "Faithful Youth Organization" headed by Hussein Badrdeen Alhothi. They were also convicted for illegal correspondence with Iran to destabilize public security.

A number of civil society coalition members organized a peaceful sit-in at the Penalty Court on Saturday, in remonstrance against the Al-Dailamy and Miftah convictions. The coalition described the trial as unconstitutional and considered the court itself to be illegal. The civil society coalition expressed their grave concern over the procedures of the court, which deprived defense rights.



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Solar system course concluded

ADEN, Nov. 27 — The Eskwa regional course on the Solar system for rural areas was concluded in Aden on Wednesday November 30th. The course was organized by the UN Financial Committee for west Asia in cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Electricity and the German Establishment for International Cooperation GTZ. 38 Arab and international Eskwa members have participated in this course, along with 28 Yemeni delegates from the General Authority for Electricity, Water and Sewage System and their branches in the governorates.

The course aims at acquainting the participants with the solar energy technology, design operation and

maintenance, it also aims at creating new jobs using the new technology. The trainees were fully informed about the design and maintenance of the technology, they have also visited a solar project in Sheikh Salim village in Abian in order to identify the problems that the beneficiaries meet and study them.

The course have also adopted a number of recommendations, such as encouraging authorities to use solar energy to pump water to remote areas, promoting awareness and to reduce or cancel customs and taxes on renewable energy products. They also recommended the manufacture of some of the renewable energy parts locally.

Training of trainers course in citizenship and democracy

SANA'A, Dec. 3 — A course on the first project of training of trainers in the field of citizenship and democracy was concluded in Taiz on November 16th. Thirty trainees from Taiz University, in addition to several inspectors in Taiz Educational office have participated in the course.

The course aimed at acquainting the participants with the mechanisms of interaction with the community to study their problems. It also studied the methods of data collection and the official policy concerning civil

education.

Dr. Mohamed Aldorah, a lecturer of law in Taiz University, confirmed the importance of such courses that promote development through civil education. It activates human rights by putting civil values into actual practice.

It is worth mentioning that this course was organized by the Yemeni Civil Education and Democratic Center (CEDYC), in cooperation with Arab Network for Civil Education and the Women Forum training and studies.

AACO concluded

SANA'A, Dec. 3 — The 38th Arab Air Carriers Organization conference (AACO) was concluded last Wednesday in Sana'a, several arrangements were agreed upon in order to develop the services and networking of Arab Air carriers. In its concluding session the AACO approved the electronic ticket system which will start operation at the beginning of 2006. The AACO also approved selected booking systems, data technology strategies and marketing cooperation, which will be used among member countries of the organization.

In addition to that, a system for the admittance of new air carriers into the AACO conditional to having an international operational air audit in

application for the safety system of the new carrier.

Executive Director of Kuwait Airlines, Sheik Talal Al-Sabah, was elected to become the president of the next conference of the organization to be held next year in Kuwait.

Participants also discussed the challenges faced by Arab Air Carriers such as taxation and rise in fuel prices. Mr. Abdul-Wahab Teffaha, Secretary-General of the AACO, noted that the conference stressed on the challenges Arab Air Carriers face at the organizational and operational level. Mr. Teffaha also said that the AACO has renewed its agreement with the International Air Transport Association on training fields.

UAE Red Crescent Save lives in Socotra

Sana'a, Nov. 29 — The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates had a dinner reception on the honor of the medical delegation of the UAE Red Crescent Authority in Tuesday, 29th of November. The team that arrived to Yemen on the beginning of November to participate in the third campaign for fighting malaria launched also a campaign to fight eye diseases in Socotra Island.

With the cooperation of the world health organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the medical team of UAE Red Crescent, consisting of 8 doctors, visited many governorates in Yemen to test and offer medical aids to those who undergo Malaria. In this regard, the team contributed in the construction of 16 centers to fight malaria, the distribution of 15000 net beds, 500 kg of insecticides, 21 microscopes and 3000 slices. According to Dr. Salah Musa Altay, head of the delegation of the UAE Red Crescent Authority, there are more than a million and half infections of Malaria are registered yearly in Yemen, whereas many neighboring countries managed to get rid of this disease.

The medical team, with cooperation of Ministry of Public Health and Population, visited Socotra Island to launch a campaign for fighting eye disease. The campaign aimed to test the patients, offer medicines and operate surgeries if required. "We diagnosed and test 2100 patients and we operated 155 operations, mostly were for glaucoma, cataract, transplantation of lenses, and curettage of cornea, in the campaign that was in the Hudibu Hospital" Dr. Altay said. He added that the hospital had a shortage of equipments and doctors, therefore the team was divided into



from the left head of the delegation of the UAE Red Crescent with the ambassador of UAE and the Yemeni health minister in the dinner reception in Emirate Embassy

three groups: one to test the patients, second to perform the operations, and the third to travel around the island to offer the aids to the patients. The team visited many villages like Srihan, Daishas, and Mumi. He added that "many times we had to test many patients that undergo different diseases that were unrelated to eye diseases". As an example, he referred to the car accident that occurred to the football team in the island during the existence of the medical team in the island. He said that the Red Crescent team shared affectively in treating the 19 people injured in the accident.

According to the press statement of the delegation, there were many difficult cases that couldn't be treated in the hospital of the island, so they were transmitted to the Red Crescent in Abu Dhabi for treatment.

Dr. Mohammed Alnumi, Minister of Public Health and Population stated that Yemen benefited from its joining

the medical sector of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), referring to the grants and the aids that are offered by the GCC in general and UAE in particular. Dr. Abbas Al-Motawakil, deputy Minister of Public Health and Population said to Yemen Times that it is not the first cooperation between the ministry and the Red Crescent of UAE. According to Dr. Al-Motawakil, the UAE Red Crescent offered 154 medical projects to the Republic of Yemen and keeps on cooperating with the ministry by sending medical delegations, and medical equipments. Answering the question of the reason of the campaign for fighting eye disease in Socotra Island, Dr. Al-Motawakil explained that the eye diseases campaign usually does not need a lot of preparations or expensive tools or equipments.

The ambassador of UAE, Mr. Ali Sif Sultan in Yemen said that the cooperation between Yemen and the

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

The High Court upheld the death sentence against cleric Aldailamy for being Iran agent. Do you think that he would be executed or would the president grant him amnesty?
Yes
No

Last edition's question:

Do you think that major Islamic personalities instigated Jarallah Omar's assassination as his lawyer alleges?

Yes 49%
No 29%
I don't know 22%

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UAE Red Crescent Authority would continue. He confirmed that Shaikh Hamdan Bin Zaid Al Nahyan, the chief of UAE Red Crescent, has called for medical reports to be prepared in order to enable the authority to evaluate the medical and humanitarian fields in which Yemen needs support. In particular, the support of cancer centers, handicaps' centers and heart operations centers.

The UAE Red Crescent authority was established in Yemen in 1996. It aims at offering humanitarian and medical help to Yemeni people. According to the statistics of the UAE Red Crescent authority, there are 1252 projects that adopted by the UAE Red Crescent Authority in Yemen.

Following unfair trial

Amnesty International denounces al-Shahari's execution

SANA'A, Dec. 3 — Amnesty International has greatly deplored the execution of Mr. Fuad Ali al-Shahari by firing squad in Taiz a few days ago. Mr. Al-Shahari was a lawyer and former member of the opposition Socialist Party and he was sentenced to death nine years ago as he was accused of deliberate murder in 1991 and suffered an unfair trial as a consequence.

The execution was carried out despite many appeals by the Amnesty International and others global bodies including the European Union and the Yemeni Human Rights Ministry. Fuad al-Shahari was

sentenced to death in November 1996 when he was found guilty of the murder of Captain Mohamed al-Ameri, a security official and a member of the ruling People's General Congress Party, in an armed conflict that year.

Soon after his arrest, Fuad al-Shahari declared that he was tortured and forced to confess of the killing, an act which he said he had not committed. However, the court failed to investigate these allegations of torture and prospective defense witnesses were said to have been prevented from testifying before the court.

The Appeal Court has upheld the death sentence in May 1996 while further appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court in March 2004.

Al-Shahari, who was tried in a commercial court, presented the case of his charge to the Amnesty International and complained that he was subjected to abuse and torture in order to confess to the crime: He was deprived of the right to a fair trial.

In his letter to the Amnesty International, he said: "I am sure that I am innocent and there are many witnesses who testified in my favor. I never expected that I will be tortured, witnesses will be threatened and the

documents will be forged."

As many as 150 letters and appeals were forwarded to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to grant al-Shahari his right to face a fair trial and humanitarian treatment with a dead end.

For its part, Hood Organization appealed to the President to the Republic to return the commercial verdict to the Supreme Court to finish the case, cancel the decision of the Supreme Court Chairman and oblige the court not to violate the law. However, all those attempts have failed in saving al-Shahari's life.

Yemeni organizations demands the truth about Saada

SANA'A, Dec. 3 — Parliament Member Mr. Yehya Alhothi has attacked Yemeni, Arabic and International media for what he called 'their continuous support for the oppressive authorities'; Alhothi said that the fighting in Saada was fueled by the president's speech in the military college on the 29th of last September. He added that the president's half-brother Ali Mohsen Alahmar has marshaled artillery vehicles equipped with catyusha missiles immediately after the speech, and selected officers were secluded from this 'vulgar war' as he describes it. He also requested the international community to take serious actions in order to stop this massive genocide.

In a separate address, Al-hothi called the Yemeni people not to respond to the ethnic cleansing and sectarian call of the regime; He added that the previous peace initiatives had the intention of appeasing public opinion not sorting out the issue. He also alleged that the authorities did not live up to their commitments.

According to Alshawa-yemen.net, which is run by the Islah opposition party, 18 have died in Mazra'tain area, Saada, in the confrontations that took place in the last few days; ten of these were from the military forces and the remainder were claimed to be Alhothi followers.

In a related issue, the Yemeni expatriates in each of Canada, Britain, USA, and Egypt voiced an appeal to the president asking him to implement the amnesty resolution as the armed conflict has affected the women, elderly and children of Saada, considering the economic, political and social costs of this armed conflict.

On another front, Presidential candidate Abdulsalam Alhakaimi, who is currently residing in Egypt, has requested president Saleh as the General Commander of the Military and Security forces to stop this war which he described as a 'struggle between conflicting powers within the regime.'

Alhakaimi said in a release to Al-Tagheer.net that violence will only fuel the problem, and there is no acceptable justification for the military and civil losses'. On the other hand The London based Yemeni Organization for Human Rights Watch (YOHRW), which is headed by Lutfi Shatara, requested all international humanitarian organizations to pressure the Yemeni government to stop what it labeled as the genocide of Saada. They warned of the grim consequences, because of the usage of heavy artillery by the military forces, he demanded that an international committee should be set to investigate the conditions there.

The organization said in what it described as an urgent call that the death toll reached 150, including women, children and elderly in addition to a considerable number of serious injuries, while Health and other services in Saada are deteriorating.

In a communiqué which the organization distributed last week, it said that the army carries out arbitrary bombardments on civilian homes with the intention of chasing Alhothi followers out of the houses either to fight back or surrender. It said that they use all sorts of heavy weapons such as air missiles, artillery, and Katyushas. The organization expressed concern over massacres being committed against opponents in Saada governorate, amid a media ban to prevent leakage of information of photos and videos.

YOHRW insisted in its call to the International Red Cross, The Red Crescent, Amnesty International, UNHCR, the Arab Human Rights Organization in Britain, that a fact finding committee should be formed to stop fighting, and 'Make sure that no genocide was afflicted on the civilians, due to arbitrary bombardment.' The organization also requested the authorities to stop the military operations, so that innocent women and children could evacuated'.

Aviareto and the International Registry of Mobile Assets

SANA'A, Nov. 29 — Aviareto, a joint venture between SITA and Irish Government interests, has a contract with the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) to design, build, and manage the International Registry of Mobile Assets (Registry) for the benefit of users. The company draws on the joint strengths of SITA and the Irish aviation industry. As part of the implementation process for The Cape Town Convention, the Secretary General of ICAO issued a global tender in January 2004 for an organization to establish, and act as Registrar for, the International Registry of Mobile Assets. Aviareto, based in Dublin, was selected for the undertaking.

The Registry, which has passed final acceptance testing by ICAO, provides a central repository — an electronic database — that will record ownership and financial interests in mobile assets (airframes, aircraft engines and helicopters), establishing priority of interest in such holdings. As a result, the risk of lending can be better assessed allowing financial institutions to reduce the interest rates they currently charge.

The Registry will be a central vehicle in helping parties understand the extent to which they have legal rights in aircraft equipment. For the first time interests in aircraft equipment involving transactions in Cape Town Treaty contracting states will be accessible electronically in one place. This information is vital to the world's airlines, financiers, leasing companies, manufacturers and governments.

Professor Ingo Walter of the Stern



School of Business, New York University and Professor of International Management at INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France led a recent study* on the economic benefits of the Cape Town Convention and the Registry to the aviation industry. The study covers a 20 year period from 2003 until 2023 and identifies economic benefits in five key areas:

- Access to more favorable international financing rates
- Access to secured financing
- Improvement of sovereign ratings
- Improvement of airline ratings
- Benefit to airline shareholders in the form of increased stock prices

According to the study, savings from access to more favorable international financing rates would save the industry billions of dollars in financing costs.

Many AACO member airlines continue to suffer from undercapitalization and tight liquidity. Consequently,

financing and leasing costs are of particular importance for carriers looking to expand their operations or to replace ageing aircraft. Aviareto will benefit Middle East and North Africa's carriers and the global aviation community. Oman has already ratified the Cape Town Convention.

The Registry will go live on March 1st, 2006 as Malaysia recently became the 8th country to ratify the Cape Town Convention effectively bringing it into force.

Interested parties can go to www.aviareto.aero to learn more about this exciting community initiative and add their name to the mailing list to receive updates on the progress of the Registry.

* Taken from an independent study by New York University, Leonard N. Stern School of Business, published February 22nd, 2005. Authors: Anthony Saunders, Anand Srinivasan and Ingo Walter.

Higher education and scientific research in focus

SANA'A, Dec.3 — Under the slogan of "Distinction and Creativity in the Higher Education, the tenth round of the conference of higher education and scientific research officials in the Arab world is being held in the Yemeni Capital, Sana'a, in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science.

Yemeni Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh has chaired the conference during the first sessions and have confirmed that the institutions of higher education and scientific research need to be reformed so that its outputs can fulfill the demands of development and labor market.

Dr. Mailoud Habibi, Manager of the education unit at the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science ascertained in his speech that the con-

ference will be a station for allowing creative initiatives to develop the higher education in the region.

For his part, Dr. Mohamed Bin Mohamed Mutaheer, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and head of the Yemeni delegation in the conference told the Yemen Times that "the strategy of higher education concentrates on matters related to distinction and creativity in higher education institutions and how they can be achieved in the areas of education or in the scientific education.

Concerning the reality of higher education and scientific research in the Arab world, he said that it is still limited and the contributions of the Arab world to the global body of knowledge in the areas of research and development are still limited. He attributed



such shortcomings to the weak policies of scientific research and the limited spending on the scientific research.

The weak relationship between universities and scientific research institutions, as well as the weak relationship between universities and the productive and service sectors in the Arab community is responsible for the deteriorating status of the scientific research, he added.

Prof. Ali Ismail, Rector of Dhi Qaz University in Iraq affirmed the conference is of great importance as it focuses on the scientific research and on how to confront the world challenges faced by universities in the Arab region.

He said the postgraduate studies in the Arab world lack the modern techniques and resources, as well as the advanced means of communication with their counterparts in the developed world

Prof. Ismail has also mentioned that ministries of higher education have to specify the courses of scientific research in every Arab country and to assign the priorities in this matter.

The conference will continue its sessions discussing a number of areas related to the development of scientific research, in the presence of a large number of representatives from scientific research institutions in the Arab world are partaking in the conference.

Sheikh Moayed complains of US oppression

SANA'A—Sheik Mohammed Al-Moayed expressed his fears that he would be forced to undertake physical labor as a part of his sentence after he leaves the hospital, where he is now being treated.

NewsYemen.net has stated that Sheik Moayed called his family last Wednesday from the hospital, assuring them of his reviving health condition.

Khaled Al-Anesi, lawyer of Moayed and head of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, said the date for Sheik Moayed to leave the

hospital has not yet been set. However, he mentioned that the American lawyers appointed for his defense would submit appeal documents within a month, and after that a date for the trial will be set.

Al-Anesi added that Sheik Moayed's companion, Mohammed Zayed, has not contacted his family since he was brought to a Colorado prison two months ago.

Sheik Al-Moayed was sentenced to 75 years in prison and Mohammed Zayed to 45 years in prison due to terrorism-related allegations.

Impediments of inter-Arab investments



SANA'A, Dec. 5 — The participants in the mechanisms of funding and guarantees for exports and investments forum have confirmed that there are several impediments facing an increase in inter-Arabian trade. Among these is the high rate of export insurance costs, high bank guarantees, in addition to the restriction of capital transfer. This deprived the smaller and medium companies of the facilities and the right to acquire data of the funding programs. There are also other problems that face exporters such as the high costs of export, customs exemptions, and the restrictive procedures. These reduced inter-Arab trade to 10% of the international trade.

These problems among others were tackled by the participants in order to come out with solutions.

Mr. Fahd Rashid Alibrahim, is the General Manager of Inter -Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, indicated that it is established in order to achieve the aims of the Arab investments. It secures insurance and cover for the inter-Arab investments against trade risks. These constitute confiscation, nationalization, lack of funding, armed conflicts and riots. It was confirmed that Yemen comes in the fourth rank among the beneficiaries in the region, as it has received about \$24 million up to the end of October 2005 as a recipient of investments and

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Honour of the Pakistan School

Zeb Rashid is one of the brilliant students of Pakistan School Sana'a. She scored 5 A's in IGCSE University of Cambridge, UK.



She believes, "I thank all my teachers for their help and giving me confidence and overall credit goes to the school." She says, "My family also supported me a lot and gave me courage." Arsalan Rizwan also scored 4 A's in the IGCSE and now a days he is continuing his further studies in Canada.

exports, constituting 0.95% of the total benefits of the exporting countries.

He insured that their organization supports Yemeni economic strategies to attract foreign investments and to increase its exports. Mr. Alibrahim confirmed that the establishment will help in building a national Yemeni authority for guarantee of exports. In his speech Mr. Khalid Rajih, Minister of Industry and Trade had called the Yemeni banks to establish this authority. He pledged that his ministry will furnish support and facilities, for the guarantee of Arabic investments, and to serve the national exporters. He confirmed that the European Union had agreed to import Yemeni products on condition that they meet the European quality standards; he also added that Yemen is an optimum location for Arab investments.

The forum which started last Sunday in Sana'a, had discussed the Arab system for investment guarantee, the covered risks and the general conditions of the systems feasibility. It also tackled the compensation rates in addition to Arab system for guarantee of exports, the investment environment and the investment prospects in the Republic of Yemen.

Continued from page 1

Women's rights: From words to deeds

Papers presented in the conference discussed a number of important issues concerned with the development of women and tackling obstacles that hinders women's participation in everyday life. They also reviewed successful experiences of women development in Europe, how these experiences can be utilized and how the concerned parties can bring more comprehensive relationship for enhancing woman rights.

Some of the papers focused on education in Yemen, the development issues and the indicators that lead to women's involvement in development.

One of the conference papers was presented by Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazalah, Regional Manager of the United Nations Woman Development Fund. In her paper on women's security and safety in the Arab region, she pointed out that the human security includes security, human rights and development. In the Arab region the human security falls into the political, social and economic securities, and that the political security requires the provision of safety at the national level and providing wider scope for the freedom of expression and women's participation in the political life.

According to Ms. Haifa Abu

Ghazalah, women's political participation in the judiciary helps overcome discrimination against women and create a suitable climate to push women to the status of decision making. The millennium development goals stressed on gender equity and the empowerment of women through increasing representation of Arab women in parliaments and involving them in the political work as an integral part in the political reform process, she said.

The current situation includes a number of problems and obstacles that hampers improvement of women's situations, in addition to the conventions that restrict women's participation in the political life and the negative view born in the minds of party leaders on women's effective participation, poverty and the daily economic pressures. Overcoming these obstacles requires the integration of woman rights in different areas, and not only on the level of democratic countries.

The paper emphasized the social security is one of the human security components and it is not merely the provision of basic services for people, and it is insuring the ability to get these services. The researcher affirmed that the eco-

nom security was subjected to several risks, one of them is the influence of globalization on the unequal economic opportunities, which have their impacts on women. Poor women suffer a lot due to the rapid economic changes.

The Arab region suffers from a shortage in the basic financial resources (oil and development assistances). The region also suffers from the falling demand for workforce, and the policy of privatization in the Arab countries at the expense of the public sector that cannot provide jobs for the increasing numbers of women workforce, and that women usually pursue activities, which are not lucrative.

The work paper made a mention of economic challenges that face women, such as the shortages of job opportunities and the weakness of women's participation in the public workforce despite the fact that there is a new generation of educated women. Additionally, lack of equity between men and women has its effects on the production of successful projects.

In her work paper on the role of the Arab League in supporting and enhancing the Arab women rights, Ms. Wadoda

Badran, General Manager of the Arab Woman Organization in the Arab League, stressed the Arab League works, through several institutions and parties, on deepening women rights and empowering her.

She mentioned the Arab League has the view that achieving the comprehensive reform and suggesting solutions to social and economic issues in the Arab society stipulates the participation of women in different areas of development. She added there should be a number of suggestions, strategies and plans to upgrade the status of women, activate their role and make them equal to men. There should be coordination with a number of governmental, international and regional organizations and civil community organizations to specify the work mechanisms and improve their performance.

Many activities for activating women role have been implemented such as the issuance of a unified Arab report to record the situations of Arab women. This report is due to have the function of a database on the Arab woman and efforts pursued by the Arab countries to implement the Arab work plans and international work requirements.

which is attributed to the influence of the traditional culture based on the discrimination between the two genders. This culture separates females from the everyday life, particularly in the rural areas.

The high illiteracy rate among women is attributed to numerous factors, among them the depriving Yemeni women of their rights, the spread of poverty among women in the rural areas, the pursuit of social traditions, conventions and concepts that hinder women progress in education, early marriage and housewifery.

Researchers explored that the sector of agriculture is the most important one to women, and that factors, which affects women economic contribution are reflected in the high fertility rate. Early marriage has its effects on woman's participation in the economic activities.

The conference has been regarded as an important step for discussing the issues and problems that face women in the Arab world, while some donor countries hold the view that their help will be confined to key factors such as the empowerment of women in different areas and respect for rights and freedoms.

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The next generation: Where to?

BY HAKIM AL-MASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

As years of suffering for the Yemeni people pass one after another, many tend to give hope on themselves, and wonder how the next generation lives will turnout to be. Education is striving like never before in this once mostly illiterate Middle Eastern country. Parents raising their children having the ambitions that one day their children will be successful and live a prosperous life.

Developed donor countries have given a special attention to improve the everyday life in Yemen. Only little of accomplishments have been seen in this country over the past two decades. Comparing Yemen to countries that started their development strategies in the early 70's, you will notice that the majority of those countries out duels Yemen dramatically in almost every aspect of life. Countries like India, Malaysia, and the Gulf States in general, Jordan, and many other countries are only examples to compare with. These countries are now living the success and bounties of their hard work.

In Yemen for example, the government occasionally announces horrific news like the one that mentions that our oil resources are vanishing, and could dry out by as early as ten years. In addition, mentioning hard-hitting news for instance, the shortage of water in the capital Sana'a, while in return does not do enough to solve this phenomenon before its occurrence. This in return gives us little hope for seeing a better future for our children, for hope is being destroyed and taken away before even being thought of.

In the early nineties, Yemeni's in general did not expect life to be as difficult as is seen today, where the poverty rate increases on a yearly basis. The latest report of Transparency International mentioning Yemen as one of the eight most corrupted nations, and in the same time poverty rates reaching an unbearable 43% this year.



A young child working on a curb of a street around midnight.

This number is only seen growing for the rich are only getting richer and the poor getting poorer, therefore erasing the middle class from the face of our society. "I just can't believe how sudden my life has changed! It was never this bad, I just can't imagine how the situations for the next generation will end up like", said Ammar Saleh, a Yemeni living well below the poverty line. "I lost everything. My wife, children, and friends when I couldn't find a job to live of", he added angrily.

Going back to the topic, many parents have a negative image of the future of their children if the situation continues as is. They use themselves as a good example who when growing past through the great victory of the revolution. They realized then that success has just opened there door. "Using ourselves as examples, we never thought that our life will turn out how it did. I hope this will reflect on our children, for its enough that we have suffered greatly", said Mohan Nasser, a father of three.

Recently I conducted a survey with middle age teenagers in the capital Sana'a, concerning the issue of the future being brighter. Shockingly, the

stats were almost identical as 47% of the surveyed had a negative thought about the future, while 42% had a positive impact for the days that lie ahead.

A little over 10% admitted that only time can tell how the future will turn out to be, and are currently undecided. The following is heartbreaking when you realize that many of the new generation have lost hope even before starting to build a future of any kind. This will definitely have its negative impact on the country in the end.

"We just have to try. Effort is the only thing we possess", said Samar Ali, a newly registered university student. "At least when we try, we will not have our selves to blame", she added. Quotes such as Samar's, is what's heard on a usual basis when mixing with teenagers. They want to believe that there is a chance for them, but the corruption they see around them takes them steps in the wrong direction. Situations must to change immediately if a bright future is a priority. If not, expect the next generation to live a life of dreams and fairytales, therefore losing hope for change and delaying a new era of successful Yemeni for at least another generation.

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Iraqi bomb kills 10 U.S. Marines

FALLUJA, Iraq (Reuters) - Ten U.S. Marines were killed by an Iraqi bomb in one of the bloodiest incidents of the war for Americans, a day after President George W. Bush laid out a strategy he said would defeat the insurgency.

And in a videotape message shown on Friday, Iraqi insurgents holding four Westerners hostages threatened to kill them if Iraqi detainees are not released by December 8.

Thursday's attack on the Marines, two weeks before Iraqis vote for a new parliament, struck a foot patrol near Falluja. Eleven Marines were wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED), the military said on Friday.

"The patrol was attacked with an IED fashioned from several large artillery shells," the Marines said.

Seven of the wounded had returned to active duty.

U.S. commanders have expressed concern in recent months at the increasing use of more powerful and sophisticated roadside bombs. The high death toll on Thursday indicated an extremely powerful blast.

Typically, U.S. troops keep themselves well spaced out when on foot patrols to avoid the risk of mass casualties.

Local officials in Falluja said they were aware of a bomb attack on U.S. troops overnight near Amiriya, 30 km (20 miles) south of Falluja. U.S. officials declined further comment, however, and it was unclear if this was the same incident.

In August, 14 Marines were killed when a land mine destroyed their armoured vehicle near Haditha in western Iraq. Other heavy tolls have been inflicted on Americans when helicopters have been brought down and when a suicide bomber devastated a U.S. army mess hall last December in Mosul, killing 21 people.

Falluja was the site of the biggest battle since U.S. forces toppled Saddam Hussein in April 2003 -- dozens of troops and hundreds of Iraqis were killed in the city, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad in November last year.

Relatively quiet

Since then Falluja has been relatively quiet but the wider province of Anbar, comprising much of Iraq's western desert, has remained a stronghold of



Iraqi Army soldiers raise the Iraqi national flag during a ceremony to restore Iraqi border security in the restive city of Kusaiba, near the Syrian Iraq border, Nov. 30. REUTERS

Sunni Arab groups opposed to the occupation and the Shi'ite-led government it helped install.

Some guerrilla forces are loyal to the Islamist goals of al Qaeda and the movement's appointed leader in Iraq, Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, but many are more secular in outlook and owe loyalties principally to tribal or nationalist leaders or to Saddam's Sunni-dominated Baath party, now outlawed.

Arabic television station Al Jazeera showed a tape of what it said were two Canadian hostages receiving food from their captors. An American and a Briton were shown speaking in what the channel said was a call for detainees to be released.

It was not possible to hear what the men were saying.

"They gave those concerned with the hostages until the 8th of this month before killing them if their demands are not met," the Arabic broadcaster said.

The four, seized in Baghdad, are members of the peace and humanitarian organization Christian Peacemaker Teams, one of the few remaining aid groups operating in Iraq.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin called the threat "... a callous act of ter-

ror against innocent people."

A State Department official strongly condemned the actions of those holding the humanitarian workers.

"We call for their immediate and unconditional release and for the release of all hostages in Iraq," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Separately, the mother and sister of a German woman, Susanne Osthoff, taken hostage in Iraq called on her kidnappers to show mercy and release her in an appeal shown on Al Jazeera.

More than 100 foreigners have been seized by insurgents in Iraq in the past two years. Some kidnappers demanded foreign forces quit Iraq, others sought ransoms and some both.

In Ramadi, Anbar's regional capital to the west of Falluja, about 500 U.S. and Iraqi troops launched an operation they said was designed to disrupt guerrilla activity before the election.

Insurgents staged a show of force in the city on Thursday, firing mortar rounds near a U.S. base and official buildings. Letting themselves be filmed by news cameramen, masked men wielding rifles and grenade launchers distributed leaflets saying al Qaeda was in charge of the town.

Within hours, however, the gunmen had gone from the streets and there was no sign of them on Friday.

Bush and his Republican Party are under pressure at home over the rising American death toll -- which the Pentagon put at 2,125 on Friday -- and the president has embarked on a new series of speeches aimed at shoring up support for a project which he says will bring peace and democracy to Iraq through an election on December 15.

Faced with widespread resentment among Iraqis at the U.S. presence and mounting calls in the United States to bring the soldiers home, Bush said on Wednesday he would set no timetable for the withdrawal of the 160,000 or so U.S. troops.

"I will settle for nothing less than complete victory," he said, adding that some reduction in troop levels might be possible as Iraqi security forces assumed a bigger role.

Candidates register for Palestinian election

GAZA (Reuters) - Candidates began signing up on Saturday for a Palestinian legislative election next month at which President Mahmoud Abbas' restive, ruling Fatah will face an unprecedented challenge from powerful Islamist faction Hamas.

Beset by violence and allegations of voter fraud during its primaries, Fatah did not yet have a full candidate list ready. Hamas, in its first parliament race, initially also held off registering but then said it would file a list later in the day.

That left dozens of Central Elections Committee offices that opened throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip dealing with smaller factions and a slew of independent candidates who had mustered the required 500 signatures each from supporters.

"I consider today the beginning of a new era in the life of the Palestinian people, a new era in making democracy," Zaynab al-Ghunaime, a former Labour Ministry official, told Reuters after filing as an independent candidate in Gaza City.

The January 25 election is seen as a test for Abbas, both in terms of internal reform and peacemaking with Israel.

Israel and the United States are worried at the prospect of a parliamentary sweep by Hamas, which is sworn to the Jewish state's destruction and has spearheaded a 5-year-old revolt.

Hamas is not alone among hard-liners vying for a say on how negotiations with Israel should be pursued -- if at all.

The militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said after registering candidates that it



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas looks on during a meeting with Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi at the Quirinale Palace in Rome Dec. 2. Candidates began signing up on Saturday for a Palestinian legislative election next month at which President Abbas' restive, ruling Fatah will face an unprecedented challenge from powerful Islamist faction Hamas. REUTERS

would work to rescind 1993 interim peace accords that Fatah backed.

Fraud charges

A kindred faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), called for loosening Fatah's grip on power.

"We hope the democratic process will lead to democratic change that will end corruption and the dominance of one party," DFLP frontrunner Saleh Zidan said.

The Palestinian political opposition has been helped by the disarray in Fatah, whose primary vote this month has been marred by fraud charges and violence. Abbas set up a review board to finalize a candidate list to submit by the December 14 deadline.

But the violence, including the storming of polling stations by Fatah

gunmen, has undercut Abbas' drive to rein in chaos in Gaza, seen worldwide as a testing ground for statehood after Israel ended 38 years of military rule there in September.

Fatah's younger generation is challenging a dominant old guard, many of whose members are widely seen as tainted by corruption. Hamas, which has already made a strong showing in municipal polls, is popular for its charities and transparency.

Sources close to Hamas said it would field candidates including Islamist leaders, the widow of a top militant assassinated by Israel, military commanders held in Israeli jails, and even a few allied Christian Palestinians.

Hamas would begin registering candidates later on Saturday, said the group's spokesman, Mushir al-Masri.

U.S. executions milestone spurs fresh debate

RALEIGH, North Carolina (Reuters) - A double murderer on Friday became the 1,000th prisoner executed in the United States since the reinstatement of capital punishment, triggering renewed national and global debate about the death penalty.

The execution of Kenneth Lee Boyd in North Carolina was followed by that in neighboring South Carolina, also through lethal injection, of Shawn Paul Humphries, who killed a convenience store owner during a robbery.

Through the symbolism of its number, Boyd's execution cast a fresh spotlight on U.S. capital punishment, which the Supreme Court brought back in 1976 after a nine-year unofficial moratorium.

It also came as executions in Singapore and Saudi Arabia sparked international concerns.

"God bless everybody in here," Boyd said in his last words from the death chamber to witnesses at Central Prison in North Carolina's state capital, Raleigh.

Boyd, who was 57, was a Vietnam

War veteran with a history of alcohol abuse. He was executed for killing his wife and father-in-law in 1988, in front of two of his children.

"This 1,000th execution is a milestone, a milestone we should all be ashamed of," his lawyer Thomas Maher said.

Boyd was wheeled into the death chamber, strapped to a gurney and injected with a fatal mix of three drugs.

He seemed "sort of resigned," said witness Elyse Ashburn.

About 100 death-penalty opponents gathered on a sidewalk outside the prison. They held candles and read the names of the other convicts who have been put to death.

In Columbia, South Carolina, where WYFF4 television said Humphries was put to death shortly after 6 p.m. EST (2300 GMT), a handful of demonstrators protested outside the penitentiary.

Critics of the death sentence imposed on Humphries say his crime was not premeditated. He killed Mendel Alton "Dickie" Smith during a bungled rob-

bery in 1993 with a single shot after the shopkeeper apparently reached for his gun.

With polls showing that a declining majority of the American public backs the death penalty, the White House reiterated U.S. President George W. Bush's support.

"The president strongly supports the death penalty because he believes ultimately it helps save innocent lives," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters.

Bush is a former governor of Texas, which has accounted for 355 of the 1,001 executions so far -- more than three times as many as any other state.

World reaction

World reaction to Boyd's death was swift.

The European Union said it considered the death penalty "cruel and inhuman."

"It does not act as a deterrent and any miscarriage of justice -- which is inevitable in any legal system -- is irreversible," the 25-nation bloc said in a statement issued by the EU president, Britain.

Bush believed it was important that the death penalty be administered "fairly and swiftly and surely" with expanded DNA testing to make sure convictions were secure, McClellan said.

Thirty-eight of the 50 U.S. states and the federal government permit capital punishment, and only China, Iran and Vietnam held more executions in 2004 than the United States, according to rights group Amnesty International.

Improved DNA testing that has led to several criminal convictions being overturned has fueled doubts about the fairness of capital punishment.

Singapore, which has the world's highest execution rate relative to population, also carried out an execution on Friday with the hanging of Australian drugs trafficker Nguyen Tuong Van despite Australian government pleas for clemency.

In Saudi Arabia, murderer Ahmad al-Shaater became at least the 78th person put to death this year in the conservative kingdom.

G7 seeks free trade revival, upbeat on growth

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain sought to break a deadlock over world trade liberalization at talks among finance ministers on Saturday, but prospects for anything more than a declaration of good intent looked slim.

In a move that troubled the French in particular, Britain's Gordon Brown, chairing the London meeting, called for an end to subsidies for farmers in rich countries -- aid and tariffs that are worth about \$280 billion a year according to the OECD.

That is one of the stumbling blocks in negotiations which come to a head when trade ministers from the 148 countries of the World Trade Organization meet in Hong Kong on December 13-18.

"Agriculture is not the only dossier," French Finance Minister Thierry Breton said, restating Paris's line that the trade talks also covered services, industry, and intellectual property.

Brown, chairing the meeting of ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrial powers plus envoys from countries such as China, India, Brazil and Russia, kept up the pressure, although the forum he chose is not one where people go into detail on the complexities of trade negotiation.

"We have shown that the world wants to see the trade talks in Hong Kong come to a successful conclusion," he said.

Brazilian finance minister Antonio Palocci said his country was ready to give ground on industrial tariffs as long as the United States and European

Union did the same on agriculture, and Brown said India was willing to compromise too.

Proposals for changes to farm support were "insufficient", Palocci said. In one of many trade disputes, Brazil is demanding compensation from the United States for subsidizing cotton exports, which depresses prices and squeezes Brazilian farmers.

Happy about growth

The ministers and central bankers also discussed the outlook for the world economy and the high cost of oil at Friday's meeting.

"Everyone stated the global situation was encouraging in 2005 and 2006 despite oil prices which have weighed on growth in 2005," Breton told reporters.

Exchange rates were not discussed in Friday's session of the G7 -- the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and host country Britain -- but a Japanese official said there was no significant change to be expected in any case in the language the G7 uses in its communiqué on currencies.

Turning to the affairs of the less well-off, ministers met Palestinian finance minister Salam Fayyad, who said the Palestinian Authority needs \$200 million just to meet basic needs from now to February.

Trading blows

Brown's main aim on Saturday was apparently to secure some kind of political statement of support for a deal

in Hong Kong on the so-called Doha Round of further trade liberalization in the world.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office went as far as floating the idea on Friday of calling an emergency meeting of world leaders if needed ahead of the Hong Kong deadline and a White House official said Washington would consider such an idea if it was asked to.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow said the United States signaled that it is ready to do a deal as long as others are.

"We have to focus on a spirit of reciprocity," U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow said after meeting Brown on Friday.

Trade ministers from some of the main economic regions were meeting separately in Geneva.

France in particular is unhappy about concessions being made on the European Union's behalf in the run-up to Hong Kong and Breton is on a tight leash in London with President Jacques Chirac set on protecting his country's farmers.

The G7 meeting was also devoted to discussing risks facing the world economy, such as huge U.S. deficits, weak growth in Europe where the European Central Bank has just raised interest rates and China keeping its currency too low, making cheap Chinese exports even cheaper.

Snow urged Beijing to let its yuan rise versus the dollar to ease pressure on American exporters but would not comment on a report that China would revalue by 7.2 percent in the New Year.

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Israeli navy kills Palestinian off Gaza: medics

GAZA (Reuters) - An Israeli navy vessel opened fire on a Palestinian boat off the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing a 22-year-old man, Palestinian medics said.

The medics said the Palestinian killed in the incident had been on a fishing trip. An Israeli military source said the boat had entered pro-

hibited waters, ignored warning shots and orders to stop and then fired on the Israeli vessel which shot back.

Israel's navy has largely blockaded Gaza's coast during much of a five-year-old Palestinian uprising, forcing Palestinian boats to stay close to shore.

Israel says it is a security measure to prevent weapons smuggling by sea and attacks on Israelis. Palestinians say it is collective punishment that has crippled Gaza's fishing industry.

Most of the restrictions have remained in place despite Israel's Gaza pullout in September.

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وأن نتقدم بأزكى التهاني والتبريكات ونرفعها مقرونة
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شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج

Safer Exploration And Production Operations Company (SEPOC)

British Ambassador visits SEEDS centre in Sana'a

I'm impressed by the work being done by SEEDS Education in English language, Computer and Management Training Programmes
SEEDS: Capacity building with tailored training programmes

His Excellency Mr Michael Gifford, the British Ambassador, visited the SEEDS (Skills Empowerment and Enterprise Development Solutions) Education Centre in Sana'a where he met the students and their teachers in their classrooms, and was briefed on the educational services being offered. Mr Gifford spoke about his impressions of the work being done in Sana'a by SEEDS Education in English language training, computer and management programmes.

The Ambassador said, 'I am pleased to see this example of growing links between Yemen and a British educational and training company like NCC Education. The British Embassy and British Council look forward to working with SEEDS and NCC in the future.'

Affordable courses in education

Dr. Abdul-Qawi Radman the Chairman of SEEDS Education said he was proud to see the concern and support reflected by the Ambassador's visit. He expressed his confidence that NCC Education programmes represented one of the most reputable international British educational establishments.

Dr Abdul-Qawi said, 'We believe that the mentality of our people here in Yemen is just as good as that of others living in the most developed countries. We have a problem of lack of resources in Yemen, which is the main reason we offer NCC Education's International programmes and Qualifications with affordable fees.'

As evidence of our seriousness and the quality of our services, we have established a special department, formed by consultants, whose regional and international experience enables us to analyse the needs of our clients and provide them with tailored programmes suited to their needs'.

The benefits our society can gain from SEEDS Education

Wael Abdullah Hashim, Marketing Manager of SEEDS Education said: 'No-one can deny that British educational services are still No.1 worldwide in terms of flexibility, service quality and international recognition. All these factors are attractive to our customers. We are of course aware of the various obstacles and challenges that our customers face in a developing country like Yemen:

- **The Government** is working hard to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and preparing the infrastructure for the e-government.

- **The Corporate sector** must meet future needs regarding Yemen's bid to join the World Trade Organisation, including strengthening and modernising its management; establishing a policy-capable and skilled workforce so that the private sector can not only survive but compete nationally and internationally.

- **Students and Individuals** want to improve their skills and obtain international qualifications to enable them to meet the requirements of the Yemeni job market.

is now studying some programmes at SEEDS Education. She expressed her pleasure at joining NCC Education, saying, 'Although we follow an international curriculum I find the contents are so comprehensible and useful to me in my future career. I hope the Ambassador's visit will increase the credibility of the Centre and lead to future cooperation between the UK and Yemen.'



Ali Ali Al-Wazir, another student, said, 'I cannot deny my pleasure at being able to study an international qualification while I am living at home in my country with my family.'

Nada Fahmi al-Wahashi: "The opportunity of joining such British Educational programs and obtaining international accredited qualifications is pondered upon as a precious opportunity that has to be exploited by any ambitious girl who works hard to activate her role in building the society."

Mona Abdulbasit, who is a student in the educational preparatory year in SEEDS, expressed her pleasure over teaching this program in Yemen. "This is a great achievement that helps one avoid obstacles associated with traveling abroad, mainly on the part of ladies, to be conferred such qualifications."

We'am Fuad Abdulghani, a high school graduate from the Yemeni Modern School, emphasized the attention paid to her and her classmates by the administration of the center. She said that she is happy for obtaining such international qualifications in her homeland and among her relatives.



Usama Fahmi al-Wahashi, a preparatory year student, pointed out that he has benefited a lot from the services offered by the center. He said he had the intention to continue his university studies in Malaysia, but when he heard of such international qualifications offered by the center, he gave up his thoughts of traveling to Malaysia in order to get the IFY certificate that helps him save time and avoid obstacles bound to face him if he went to study abroad.

British Educational services are still No.1 worldwide, and IFY is one of its evidences

Wael Abdullah Hashim, Marketing Manager of SEEDS Education

My study to International Foundation Year (IFY) in SEEDS gave me the opportunity to study in one of the universities abroad and, at the same time, it contributed to save time and expenses

Usama Fahmi al-Wahashi, IFY student

- **NGOs** need to carry out their functions properly as they are in direct contact with international donors. They need to improve their skills in capacity-building and Information Technology, and can do this by joining our tailored training programmes prepared for this purpose.

As well as providing fully-accredited international programmes and qualifications from NCC Education in the UK we design short and intensive courses that meet the needs of different audiences in our society.

I would like to thank both the British Ambassador and the Director of the British Council for their continuing efforts to support and encourage us since our centre was established.'

The views of the students

Miss Saher Sheikh, a SEEDS student, finished her secondary school education in the Pakistani school and



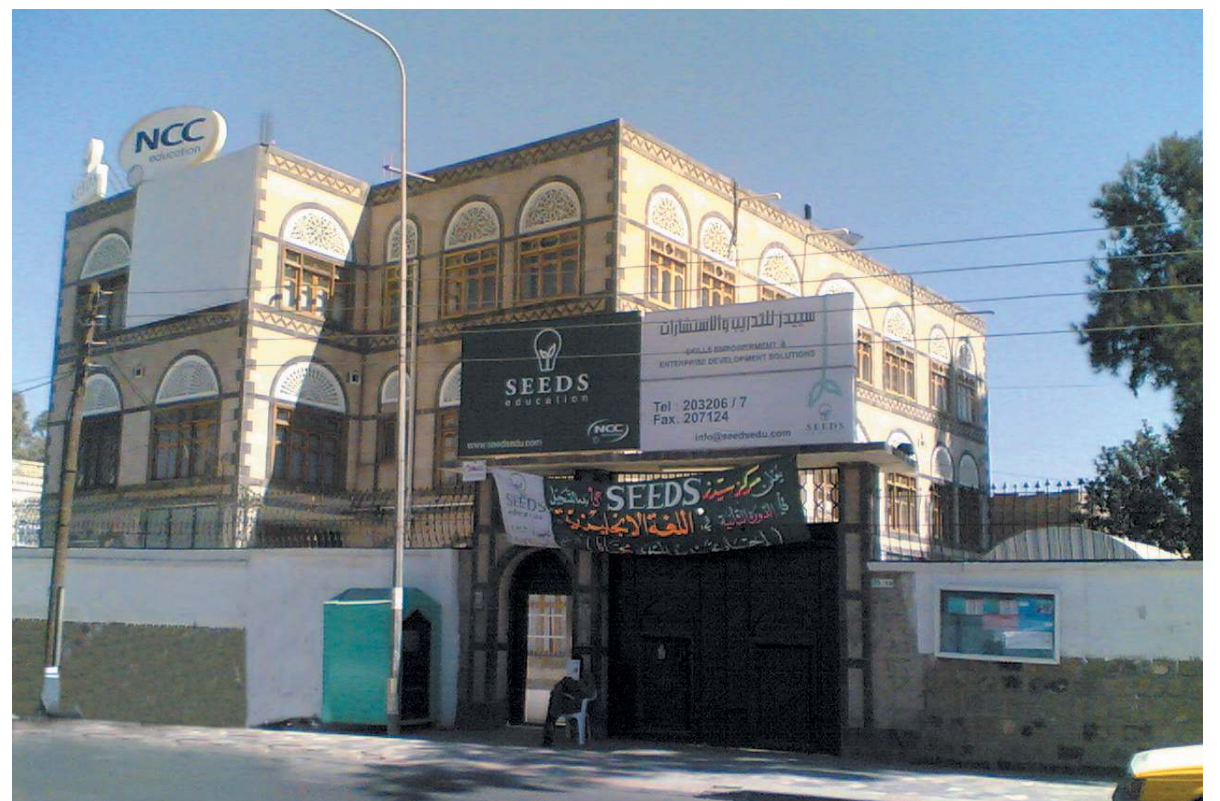
His Excellency Mr Michael Gifford, the British Ambassador



Wael Abdullah Hashim, Marketing Manager of SEEDS Education



Dr. Abdul-Qawi Radman the Chairman of SEEDS Education



SEEDS premises



The ambassador with the SEEDS's students and management staff



SEEDS: State-of-the-art training classes

Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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



OUR OPINION

Women leaders in Yemen

Women's movement in Yemen has witnessed several changes throughout the years. The movement's history differs between South and North Yemen and more recently in the united Yemen. This difference is due to several factors such as the British occupation and the socialist regime in South Yemen. Yemeni women in the south have gone through a much wealthier experience than women in the north. The generations of Yemeni women raised in the southern parts quarter a century ago have had the opportunity to enjoy a relatively good education and role in the society even more substantial to the role Yemeni women have today. That was the time when a real women's movement was formed and one that was much more effective in participating in the public sphere. Although at that time political freedom as such was non-existent, yet women's ability to participate and produce made them the pioneer women we see today. Yemeni women in the north did not have an equal chance, yet there had been a few names of women who struggled and carved the first few miles against all odds. These women, both southern and northern, are the ones in the limelight today representing women's movement.

However, there is a critical mistake that has taken place historically in women's movement in Yemen. There had been no preparation for a second and third line generation, the ones who will carry the movement forward. This is not a problem limited to the movement only, it is a common mistake in the political and intellectual arenas of this country. The people who are in the front line today, have been the same people for the past twenty years almost. And when they go, there will be a vacuum, or worse a space filled with under experienced youth. It is the narrow view of the country's strategy makers, only I had hopped that Yemeni pioneer women knew better.

The conference on Women's Rights in the Arab World "From Words to Deeds", is a typical manifestation of this issue. A common scene in many of such conferences is to find the list of participants repeated again and again. Having the same names indirectly leads to having the same agenda and consequently the same speeches. I am not undermining the experience of the Yemeni women leaders, it's just that they have forgotten to pass this experience to the younger generations so that progress is created. There hasn't been much space given to younger generations, and development opportunities had not been distributed fairly. Yemen has not planned for the future, and that is a big mistake, a very big mistake.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor-in-Chief

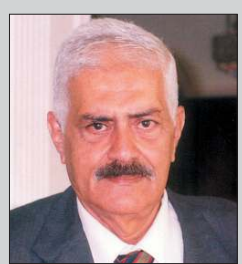
The government's contradictory stances

It might be Yemen in its contemporary history has not had a government whose words and actions were as contradictory as it is the case nowadays with the present government.

The president of the republic, in such a situation, has to speedily intervene to protect the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) against anger of the people who are severely harmed as consequence of exaggerated rise in prices, lack of security as well as application of wages strategy with temperament not keeping rights acquired through high-ranking decisions, such decisions as those taken by the presidency or the prime minister.

Issuing futile pledges and unleashing promises and slogans contradictory of actions are of the characteristic descriptions of the present stage at a time we are at the threshold of the local elections, as well as the presidential elections in September 2006.

For instance, it is supposed that the Ministry of Civil Service should not tackle the situation of those appointed under presidential decrees, or granted leading titles in return for their distinguished services and efficiency. In countries all over the world those people are dealt with through an office or a body affiliate of the presidency. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Civil Service, while implementing its stillborn strategy, practices a right it does



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

not possess but rather it has been one of its own judgments that would not serve the national unity and stability under the current state of inflation.

The question is which authority would appoint an ambassador of one of his rank and higher, is it the Civil service Ministry? Or are not they under presidential decrees? What then gives the Ministry the right to deprive a constellation of leaders, who served under difficult circumstances, of their rights, given the fact that their salaries ten years ago or at the realization of Yemen's unity were better than now? How can the Ministry deprive them of the increments taken pursuant to the government decision? They have not quitted their posts but rather the public interest had dictated the appointment of other persons instead of them. How would the Ministry pension many of those persons without waiting for settling their conditions and granting them their legal allowances?

As an expert in organization and administration, I believe in the necessity of the president's intervention and his giving clear-cut directives regarding those persons' acquired rights. I also suggest setting up a committee, from outside the Ministry of Civil Service, to study the issue of those people and to present appropriate recommendations so that the domestic form would be keen on adher-

ence with the ruling. Those persons should not find themselves forced by intervention of influential persons to guarantee justice for them in rights acquired under valid laws and the constitution.

All magnates of corruption who sabotaged and benefited want to lead the country towards the point of no return, as they did after the war of 1994 when they demanded cancellation of nationalization laws and the return of property to their previous owners. The president's interference and his intervention regarding a just compensation had deprived those beneficiaries and owners of the houses, who waged on a civil war, of their opportunity. Today, the president should interfere to restore esteem those who have served and are still serving in security, armed forces and civil service as well as to the martyrs and retired ones. The president is requested to give his directives to have their degrees adopted and accordingly grant them the decided increments. Those intended to be pensioned earlier should be given the privileges and the allowances they deserve.

It is to be admitted that all have paid expensively due to latest economic reforms. Would the president interfere to return the rights to their owners? Would he do that at a time he is running the forthcoming presidential elections and the GPC is facing an unenviable competition in the local elections and preparations for the parliamentary election? All that while taking into consideration that the GPC has not implemented the promises of its electoral platform.

More cooperation between Yemen and Pakistan

It is noteworthy that Yemen Pakistan relations have rooted to the early years of their foundations as independent states.

The current visit of President Musharaf to Yemen shall witness signing a number of agreements that pave the way towards more cooperations in various fields particularly in the small industries field which Pakistan has a good Experience in it. It also possesses a good experience in technical, vocational and some other fields.

This current visit shall open the doors towards more cooperation and understanding between the two countries. The Yemeni business men will get bigger opportunities through out such formal close relations with their Pakistani counter parts. Another point is that the Pakistani business men might possibly invest in Aden-Mukla-Hoddaidah Free Zone Areas. It is also possible to benefit from the Yemeni market which is a big market on the route to near by African countries. During the visit, we hope to exempt the Pakistani school from dues and taxes since



Sameer Aghbary Senior Specialist Prime Minister Office

it is an educational charity school which is a non-profitable establishment in Yemen, aiming to serve the Yemeni generations.

It is a grandeur to thank His Excellency, Ali Abdullah Salleh, President of the Republic of Yemen and his Excellency Prime Minister Abdulkader Ba-Gamal who gave instructions to stand side by side with the Pakistanis in their plight during their catastrophe of the earthquake that struck very wide areas of Kashmir. Thanking his Excellency, Prime Minister of Pakistan Shwkt Khan for his invitation to the Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Kader Bajamal to visit Pakistan in the near future. More than 300 Yemeni students of which the writer is one of them shall speak Urdu language in addition to English language.

The Pakistani School in Sana'a is regarded one of the best and famous of the foreign schools distinguished in its texts and methods of teaching that makes it equal to Cambridge level due to its certificate which is accredited and recognized in Britain and America for those students

who have the desire to complete their higher education.

God bless our great martyr poet Al-Zobairi who lived for some time in Pakistan as Mohammed Bin Al-Kassim who converted the Pakistanis to Islam in which it was called Pakistan, meaning the pure and blessed land. We are sure that it shall remain pure, noble and blessed with its decent men.

It is not worthy that Pakistan has not witnessed any tension or mal-relations with the Arab and Islamic Countries. Pakistan has a respect to all heavily religions.

The most important thing is that the trends of both Yemen and Pakistan in almost all political issues are compatible specifically the issue of Kashmir during the late meetings of Islamic foreign Ministers in Sana'a. In this sense, we ask His Excellency, President Musharaf to give his instructions to the Pakistani Embassy in Sana'a to make the arrangements towards establishing a Yemeni Pakistani Friendship Association to be a cornerstone and a shield to build up deeper relations between both countries and solve any issues or problems that might possibly face the Pakistani Community and the Pakistani School in Sana'a.

Letters to the Editor

The memorial of September 11 and one moment of silence

It has been 5 years since the tragedy in the U.S happened. It left a lot of innocent people and a lot of hearts bleeding. A moment of silence and a prayer for those who died will be a great thing. We ask God to protect all nations from extremists and make them repent to the right road. As a Yemeni citizen, I send my sympathy to all those who lost a loved one or a known one and tell them to be strong!

Emad Moqbel, U.S emadlord@yahoo.com

Hurricane Katrina

In this article you talk about the devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused and how the United States thought they were more or less "untouchable", you failed to mention how each of the 50 States pulled together to donate houses for those devastated by the storm to live in for FREE, or the several million pounds of food that each person helped collect to send these people, the numerous states that sent buses, doctors, nurses, supplies and other items to those affected by this storm. Also, each state opened up and took in tens of thousands of refugees offering them FREE housing. Free

travel, and countless other amenities that not ONE OTHER country would do for all of their people. Please note that the United States are just that, UNITED!

Michelle Aldaeri yemenwife@yahoo.com

Comment on Jennifer Lowenstein's article

I don't think you will publish this letter, because it does not follow your philosophy.

I am writing this letter just to point out what a typical Israeli would probably think of Jennifer Lowenstein's article.

Here it goes: Jennifer Lowenstein, even though she was born Jewish, is worse than the individual Arab Palestinian suicide bombers that perform their dastardly deeds.

The suicide bombers don't know any better. They are egged on by their leaders and peers to become suicide bombers.

Jennifer Lowenstein, however, should know better than to write such a vile, inciteful article. It seems like she is being paid by Iran, Hizbolla, Hamas or Islamic Jihad. If I were a young Palestinian living in Gaza, I also would want to become a suicide bomber after reading her article and not knowing any better.

Was the plight of the

Palestinians not orders of magnitude worse in one month of the 1970 "Black September" by the King of Jordan, than in the past 5 years, of the Palestinian Intefada, by Israel? Where were the international journalists then? How about the many Arabs killed in Syria by Hafez Assad? How about the Arab insurgents, from Syria and Iran, killing Arab Iraqis in Iraq? Is killing of millions of Arabs by Arabs in the past 25 years (don't forget Muslims killing Muslims in the Iran-Iraq war Saddam killing many Shiites) not worse than killing of militant Palestinian Arabs by Israelis? If the Israelis are so monstrous and evil to the Palestinians Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank, how come over one million Israeli Arabs are citizens of Israel with a higher living standard than many Palestinian Arabs living Gaza, the West Bank and even in the neighbouring Arab countries? Those countries that never even made their Palestinian Arabs citizens of their countries?

Many more Palestinian Arabs have been killed by militant Palestinian Arabs than Israeli Arabs killed by Israel in the past 5 years.

Jennifer Lowenstein should write articles about how to achieve peace in the area, instead of incitement and hate.

Houses and Material things can be replaced, Checkpoints can be removed, prisoners can be released, and even the "wall" can be removed. But tragically the over 3000 Palestinians and over one 1000 Israeli dead cannot be brought back to life.

The Arab countries, in the Middle East, have been lucky to have a strong Israel to protect them from each other.

Instead of praising Jennifer Lowenstein, you should praise Sharon for taking the painful step of ethnically cleaning Gaza of all Jews. He did that at the peril to his own life and political career. He is the only Israeli leader that is strong enough to do that, since he really was the one that started and the proponent the settlement movement for 30 years. Now he will wait before taking any additional painful steps, until Abbas take the first step he is required to take under the Road Map peace plan that he signed. President Bush will support Sharon in that, since he also experienced terrorism, with 9/11 and the terror now caused by the Arab insurgents in Iraq. I am sure Bush wished he had a "wall" around Iraq to protect Iraqis and Americans from the insurgents infiltrating from Syria and Iran.

Don dsheliko@comcast.net



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The heretics in Iraq do it, again why Palestinian peace activists?

The kidnapping of four Christians for Peace in Iraq continue to demonstrate that Iraq, thanks to the Bush Administration, with the gentle prodding of the International Zionist Establishment has been turned into a messy open field of violence, terror and sheer bloody madness of inexplicable proportions. We have a land where supposedly Moslem fighters are engaged in the fight for the liberation of Iraq, yet we have Moslem men, who claim to be among the liberation fighters ready to await the mass exit of fellow Moslems coming out from prayers in mosques and detonate themselves along with scores of other Moslem brothers.

Where is the spiritual or even human logic in this? We have four valiant Christians, two of whom have had a long record of engagement in supporting the Palestinians in their struggle for survival as living human beings let alone for the right of statehood, who have now been put at the mercy of so called liberation fighters in Iraq. What gives here, these people have no inkling as to how to really serve the cause of Islam, or the cause of Iraqi independence and certainly are not convincing to the prudent Moslem that they are doing all this madness for us. How can they claim to be followers of the last of the Great Prophets of God, whose life was a vast testimony of tolerance, respect for the rights of followers of other faiths and the master of a society of brotherhood unequalled in history.

The Prophet Mohammed never sanctioned the abduction of anyone, nor sanctioned assaults or acts of aggression on anyone, who has not shown any animosity to Islam or aided enemies of Islam. In fact most of the wars that eventually led to Islamic armies spreading far and wide were instigated by the victims of the Moslem conquests in one way or another. But that is history and it is where we are today that counts.

The kidnapping of four sincere Christians, whose mission is more humanitarian than any of the humanitarianism that the wild mobs of blood have shown as they depict the antithesis of Islam in every way, while claiming to uphold its banner. No, we are not fooled by the corny videos showing the superficial images of Islam on the walls but neglecting the core principles of sanctity of human blood and tolerance of all who desire to coexist with Moslems in peace.

Nor do we find any glory in the intolerance shown on those who actually came here to help mitigate the sufferings of Moslems delivered by the hostile war machine of Tel Aviv and Washington. Where did these morons of death get their Moslem teachings from? It certainly is not from the Qur'an or the traditions of the Prophet Mohammed that all Moslems know are the exact opposite of what these fanatics of death and sadism have displayed in the last five years of this Millennium. How terrible that Moslems now must deal with an even worse enemy inside than the enemies who are outside the faith, if we are to assume that they are truly genuine in their faith, which is very doubtful.

What good have these monsters of death shown that can in anyway be attributed to Islamic teachings? None whatsoever. Kidnapping four people, who have come to show their sympathy for those who are suffering from lethal bombings and artillery barrages against innocent people looking for a peaceful night of sleep, is beyond human logic, let alone Islamic teachings.

I have often suspected that much of this madness has a mysterious evil hand behind it that is masterminding all the gory business we are seeing in Iraq, just so the real evil monsters of the epitome of western imperialism: American arrogance with Zionist chauvinism, can have their field day anywhere in the Moslem World and make sure that control of the vital energy resource remain in the hands of the deadliest war machines in the world, that of the United States and Israel.

How could the timing of such a kidnapping be so unrelated to the desire of fulfilling the wishes of the Israeli persecutors of the Palestinian people, who also killed Rachel Corrie and have beaten and "mistakenly" killed or wounded so many activists. Now they do not need to do that, because they have these heretics of Islam to do all their bloody business for them. Tom Fox and Harmeet Sooden have actively been engaged in activating for the rights of the Palestinians by demonstrating against the apartheid wall that Ariel Sharon is constructing to tighten the stranglehold on whatever remains of Palestinian habitations in the West Bank. These are people, who are risking their lives against the mobsters, who come from the Israeli "mainland" to release their hatred against the children of Hebron.

They bravely walk the children of Hebron to and from school as Israeli curse them, spit at them and harass them with all kinds of rudeness and insults. Yes, it is people like Tom Fox and Harmeet Sooden, who deserve the praise of Moslems everywhere and not the 'Zerqawi' sadists, or whoever they are, who are responsible for the death of hundreds of innocent Moslems in cold blood.

It is clear to the prudent Moslems that such kidnappings are in no service to the cause in Iraq and certainly do not do Islam any honor. No one can say why such madness will not end in Iraq, but for the love of God, please release these four Canadians, if you truly have any genuine feelings for Islam. Otherwise, we are sure you are working for the Zionists and their American friends and seeking to make a mockery of our religion of peace, brotherhood and tolerance.

What such so called fundamentalist extremists have clearly shown is that they are the Fifth Column that is out to serve their masters in Washington and Tel Aviv by sending their brainwashed misguided "followers" to their own death and eventually land themselves a comfortable place in hell among all the hypocrites and evil Moslems, who have turned religion into a commodity for sale to the highest bidder.

Yemen Press Review

Review By Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Sahwa weekly, 1 Dec. 2005.

Main headlines

- JMP announces national reform initiative.
- Leaders of JMP: We would struggle to achieve the initiative peacefully and constitutionally
- Establishment of parliamentary democratic system
- Politicians: JMP's project the best achievement by Yemenis in the 20th century
- GPC's leader stresses the ruling party's right to change the republican regime to monarchic
- Parliamentary fears from the government's measures regarding HUNT lawsuit
- Killer of martyr Jarallah Omar executed
- State-owned press accuses the JMP initiative of deception
- The parliament cancels decision on banning motorcycles inside the capital
- Clashes in Saadah
- Registration of Somali refugees stopped

Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes in his article that the JMP, a grouping of Yemeni opposition political parties, has recently announced its initiative for the political and national reform. It is an initiative long-awaited by all political forces including the ruling party that has been demanding the JMP for apperception to solve problems of the country and accuses it of inability to offer an alternative. Now as the JMP presented its initiative the ruling party denies it and expresses fears from it.

The ruling party, more than any other, knows how bad the situations developed and what its unwise policies have caused in making crises, generating seditions, loss of stability, aggravation of corruption and absence of justice and equality.

As a result the General People's Congress was forced to call for a national dialogue in an attempt to come out of the dilemma. It has been discovered later that the GPC was not serious in listening to the other opinion. It was clear it was looking for justifications to its policies to be sanctioned by he political forces.

The JMP initiative has come as a vision submitted to study issued out of a national feeling of the importance of contributing to reforming the situations and facing causes of corruption.

All are in the same boat and any destruction done to it all would be drowned. It was expected that the initiative would be studied with a scrutinizing eye and sense of responsibility. We should have listened to objective discussion instead of angry replies. Nevertheless such reactions indicate that the initiative has diagnosed where the ills lie.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 1 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- Severe campaign against the JMP YSP secretary-General: Reform document does not target the president
- MP Mohammed Saleh Ali questions education minister on embezzlement of YR 99 million
- MPs: State budget for 206 deepens corruption, lacks scientific planning

The newspaper political editor writes that reactions expressed by the government newspapers against the initiative of the national and political reform launched by parties of the JMP do not reflect maturity in political performance.

They confirm that there are some who could not live without crises or producing them. The national sense of responsibility versus the decline in various political, economic and social situations themselves that called on the national forces to play their role and to diagnose the problem and suggest the solutions and cures.

Nevertheless, they opened the door for all parties to discuss the initiative and hold dialogue on it to reach a common vision on building the homeland and leading it out of the tunnel it is in.

As was expected, some GPC leaders have said that by its comprehensive initiative, the opposition has targeted the president of the republic, a matter refuted by leaders of the JMP from the very beginning. Others said contents of the initiative have been prepared at cafes of Washington and London. What arouses resentment is that these sides which appear unable to face the corruption and squander of the country's wealth rush ferociously to attack the JMP draft instead of studying it, evaluate it and benefit from it. Official policies did not see in the initiative but imaginary dangers to their immediate interests.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC) 28 Nov. 2005.

Main headlines

- Yemen people celebrate the 38th anniversary of independence amidst great changes in various fields
- Pakistan president visits Yemen, Yemeni-Pakistani summit discusses bilateral relations and international developments
- America hands over 13 of its citizens imprisoned in Guantanamo
- Security source: 3 security men killed and 15 others wounded in an ambush in Sahar, Saadah

- Yemen takes part in conference on dialogue and Gulf security in Manama
- Strategic plan to establish free zones in a number of Yemeni governorates
- Specialized committee at the Shoura Council begins discussion of Press law

Columnist Nassr Taha Mustafa writes on the JMP recent statement on reform initiative saying at last after a long dialogue the JMP parties announced their program for political reform.

Mr Mustafa there is what deserves to think about and ponder in the program and he admits that those parties have the right to adopt what they believe satisfies their ambition and ideas.

Frankly speaking I do not support the clear excitability and sharpness that characterized introduction of the reformatory program of the opposition. I do not understand how there would be a dialogue between two parties on a paper including all that amount of spasmodic phrases and severe descriptions, unless the JMP parties meant by that to absorb resentment of their bases to their performance and to prove they are still able to stand up to the authority. Or in other sense if those parties are not interested in holding a dialogue with the ruling party on their program.

I think there are several political conclusions that can be read from the opposition reform program. First the program has, in my opinion, ended any possibility of government coalition in future between the ruling party and any party of the JMP. Second is that the parties of the JMP have been ken on appeasing one another in the program like the ambiguous indication on removing negative impact of previous disputes and wars and their results, including those of the events of 1978.

The third conclusion lies in wondering about the difference between the JMP program and that of the ruling party and its government regarding practical issues pertaining to administrative reform, fighting corruption, economic and financial reform, reform of cultural, social policies as well as reforming the foreign policy.

They appeared identical in many aspects. This leads to ask about the new things the JMP program has brought forth. The fourth conclusion is that the program has discarded one of the contradictions that appeared in an earlier program pertaining to a parliamentary regime and presidential elections.



Al-Wahdani weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 29 Nov.2005.

Main headlines

- JMP launches a program for comprehensive political and national reform
- Clashes between military forces and



By Samer A.

- the "Believing Youth"
- British foreign ministry: Saudi Arabia faces high terrorist threat
- Following the president's return from abroad tour, American and French military visit Sana'a
- Tagamou weekly newspaper closed down

Columnist Ahmed Said writes saying the majority of the people of Yemen have been hoping for years for reformation of the political system through drying up springs of corruption and the establishment of a state of order and replacing the law of force by the force of the law.

The successive governments of the General People's Congress have not produced but more poverty and suppression, economic and social collapse, expansion of the area of unemployment, spread of diseases and total failure in offering services. I think marketing the illusion of gains and accomplishments and projects accompanying any formed government has become an exposed matter.

This has produced non-confidence in this party. The ruling party refuses any serious attempts for national and political reform. Those who followed up the shock that befell the GPC and the government media after publication of the JMP program for political reform, realize fragility and weakness of the regime.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC) 28 Nov. 2005.

Main headlines

- New reforms adopted by the GPC
- Development of legislative, executive and judicial powers' performance
- Formation of a national body for fighting corruption
- General secretariat of the GPC says project of the JMP ignores the national political reality
- Parties of the National Council of Opposition: Society does not tolerate new congestions or additional wounds

- Sana'a embraces Arab Woman Movement
- Yemeni society for protection of consumer proposes a plan for encountering birdflu

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article after finishing its latest accomplishment in holding the preparatory conference for Iraqi national accord and the unprecedented efforts it has exerted, it has become imperative for the Arab League to take rest. It is in need of long rest during which its officials should re-read its history and

reconsider all its stands towards the major Arab issues, starting from fall of Palestine under the Zionist occupation, invasion of Iraq and the abortive wars some Arab countries have fought under the umbrella of the Arab League.

If the national necessity had dictated the establishment of such a failing and bankrupt organization since the very beginning, thee same national necessity calls now for this organization to a long rest abandoning during which the holding of conferences and meetings, whether at the levels of summits or lower than that.

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

Reform is a must to avoid collapse

I do not really find any reason for the exaggerated outrage of the political regime over the opposition's initiative for political reform announced last week. These parties have been accused of being agents for foreign forces, being opportunists, attempting to blackmail the regime and betray the country with the support of foreign agencies and many other ready-made long list of accusations we are all accustomed to.

These parties have done nothing wrong deserving such kind of attack by the ruling party and state-run media. As opposition, these parties have the right to produce such a document, presenting their views on how the current situation can be reformed.

I am not trying to defend these parties for their own sake because I do not belong to any party. However, I believe this is the first time that these parties do something good that concerns the people since a long time. I believe there have been a number of concerns raised by the initiative that most of the Yemeni citizens and international community share and this is the reason it outraged the regime.

The situation in Yemen is scary and we are truly in a fix that needs a real political and economic project to address. This is, of course, not just the unfavorable discourse of the opposition parties which are "blind to the reality" and the rosy picture painted by the state-owned and ruling party media. It is rather donor agencies and international community which are concerned about the deteriorating situation too. There is fear that the system might collapse if things continue this way and the result will be catastrophic.

The number of the poor and unemployed is soaring up every year. State institutions are not functioning properly and corruption is becoming the forcing drive of our life. The number of the influential and tribal figures enriched by the abuse of power is increasing. The sell-off of the natural resources underground is a clear example of how pervasive problem corruption is becoming.

Given the fact that the Hunt Oil company sought the international

justice in its dispute with the Yemen government over the Safer oil field, the government intends to set up a committee that will defend it before the international court in Paris. Members of this committee have been reported to be some of those officials who renewed the contract with Hunt without consulting the parliament.

The oil company is now asking for billions of US dollars as compensation for breaking the contract rejected by the parliament. Such officials who have been involved in such deals of commissions will not, of course, stand in the favor of the country and should have been prosecuted instead despite their positions. Now, the interest of the country is at stake because of nothing but the absence of accountability.

Criticizing the opposition's initiative without presenting its shortcomings is a kind of obstinate-mindedness which will not be in favor of the people being troubled by this status quo. The opposition leaders said clearly that their initiative is presenting the absolute truth and magic solutions to all Yemen's problems. They said it is a project to be debated and discussed with all the political players to come to a breakthrough. The political regime should have interact positively with and discuss any calls for reform, taking into accounts the overall fruitful outcome. Accountability, transparency, fair judiciary, decentralization, rule of law and other elements of good governance which were mentioned in the initiative are the most important factors of change that would keep the society in harmony.

But, the ruthless reaction towards the reform initiative and the claim that we have been pioneers in reform shows that the people in charge are not serious about reform and change. Reform is not just talk. It is an action that needs strong commitment for it is a difficult task that needs sacrifice.

To drive the point home, Yemen does not need political maneuvers or tactics any more form both the ruling party or the opposition coalition. It needs honest and competent people who can work together and breathe a new life into the country. Change is a must to stop an eventual collapse.

From Rome to Moscow

By ALEXEY BUKALOV

One of the late Pope John Paul II's unfulfilled dreams was to visit Moscow and forge a rapprochement with the Orthodox Church. But, although he was invited to Moscow by Russia's three most recent presidents - Vladimir Putin, Boris Yeltsin, and Mikhail Gorbachev - opposition to the visit by Orthodox Patriarch Alexi prevented the Pope from making the journey before he died. Will Pope Benedict XVI achieve the breakthrough that his friend and predecessor failed to realize?

Despite the recent return to Russia of the icon of Our Lady of Kazan that once hung in John Paul's bedroom, relations between the Vatican and the Patriarchate remain strained. So Putin, who usually seems omnipotent, remains wary of issuing an invitation to Pope Benedict. That wariness is reinforced by a new political factor: a defense of Orthodoxy has become a pillar of the national idea on which Putin seeks to base the legitimacy of

his regime.

This is one reason why Putin was one of the few leading heads of state to miss attending Pope John Paul's funeral. Although the Orthodox Church did send a delegation, immediately after the funeral Patriarch Alexi warned that the disagreements between the two branches of Christianity go much deeper than the former Pope's Polish nationality, which was always a particular sore spot for Russian Orthodox Slavs.

Russians saw John Paul's Polish nationality as linking him to a long history of perceived oppression of Russian Orthodoxy. No less a figure than Alexander Pushkin wrote in 1836 that "Orthodoxy has always been persecuted by Catholic fanaticism....Their missionaries cursed the Orthodox Church, with hypocrisy and threats tried to recruit into Catholicism not only ordinary people but Orthodox priests as well." Those Russians who continue to view the Catholic Church as a threat regularly quote these lines.

Pope Benedict, being from Germany, a predominantly Protestant

country, does not carry the weight of this bitter history. Perhaps this is one reason why Alexi responded positively to Benedict's first speech urging reconciliation, saying that he hopes that this will improve "Orthodox-Catholic relations on the post-Soviet territory."

This positive spirit can be nurtured by Russia's government, which usually has cordial relations with the Vatican. Indeed, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has many projects for which he thinks the Vatican can be of help, particularly in advancing the cause of reconciliation and creating a "partnership between civilizations."

Recently, another key Vatican figure, Cardinal Walter Casper, the head of the Council for Christian Unity, called for a Catholic-Orthodox high level meeting that would address unifying both branches of Christianity. Cardinal Casper is well regarded in Russia for being the man who returned Our Lady of Kazan to its homeland. In his public speeches, Casper more than once suggested that the Vatican considers Christian unification its main goal, and - most important from

the Orthodox perspective - that "unity does not have to mean sameness."

The fact that Pope Benedict and Cardinal Casper are both Germans is important, because Russian-German relations are perhaps warmer now than they have ever been. Putin, in particular, is at home in the German language, having spent many years in East Germany during his days as a KGB agent. Moreover, unlike Pope John Paul II, who, as a Pole, always saw communist Russia as an oppressor, Benedict carries the German sense of guilt stemming from the country's Nazi past and its brutal invasion of Russia.

In both Rome and Moscow, there is growing hope that a road to Christian unity can be built, but it is increasingly clear that the road can be completed only by passing through Berlin.

Alexey Bukalov, the ITAR-TASS bureau chief in Rome, has covered Vatican affairs for more than 10 years.

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Actros ... True values go far

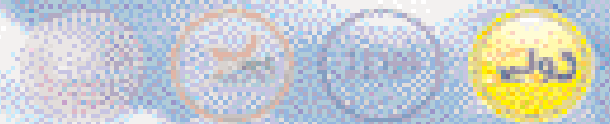


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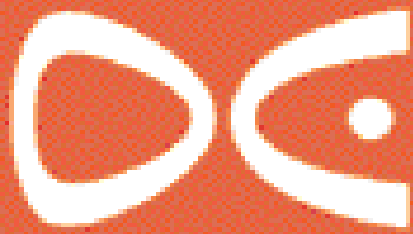
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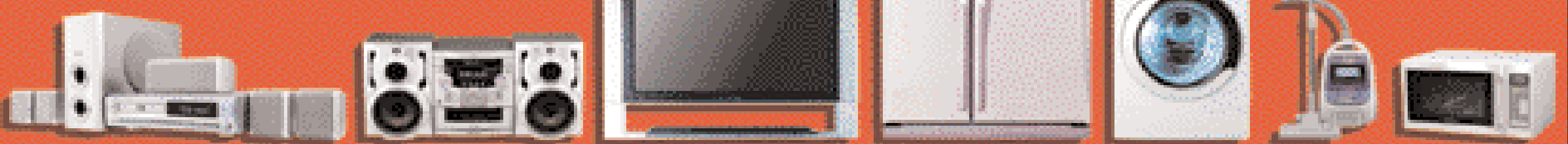
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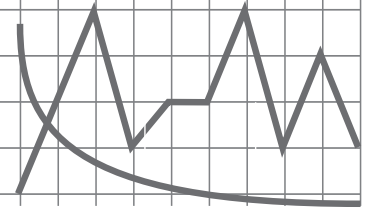


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YT Business



Yemeni opposition assesses economic reform

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Opposition parties in Yemen had on 26 November 2005 considered that phenomena of the economic crisis were heading towards expansion and taking horizontal and vertical rooting. In order to encounter the crisis and tackle its impact it has become necessary to implement a national project for comprehensive reform. The statement, signed by parties of JMP of Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), the YSP, The Nasserite Unionist Organization, The Arab Baath Socialist Party, the Union of People's Forces and Al-Haq party, contained a project for comprehensive economic reform.

The JMP parties mentioned in their project that the priority of political reform in Yemen represented an objective need, not just desires or whims or selective estimations. The statement has claimed that because of the nature of the existing regime, it has become not possible to reform all other life aspects before effecting reform of the political system and converting it from a tool of destruction to an instrument for construction and fighting corruption. The statement accuses the regime as practicing domination on the political, economic and social situations as well as poisoning the cultural and moral life. It says those practices cause failures in



A panel of JMP leaders.

all situations. It describes those practices a black hole, an element dominating movement of political forces and political, economic and social orientations. They subjugate them to their sweeping energy. This, it has become not possible to reform other aspects of life without or prior to reformation of the political system.

The statement adds that through the political reform, we can hold the practical keys for embarkment on realization of other reforms. Through it there could be available of a national will possessing elements of growth until the accomplishment of other

reformatory tasks, adding that via it national instruments can be built for fighting corruption and abolishing its destructive role in the political, economic, social and cultural situation in which corruption also plays the role of hindering the movement of development and reforms in them.

The parties of the JMP, says the statement, have concluded from the lessons of the Yemeni historical experiment that adoption of parliamentary system as a substitute for the existing regime, would represent a qualitative step and decisive one in the achievement of the

political reform and preparation for reforms in other areas.

The JMP projects has considered the parliamentary system as guarantor for ending the autocratic rule that constitutes a historical crisis for the Yemenis, adding that ridding of it has always been a goal of the reformatory demands of the Yemeni national reformist movement since the thirties of the last century up until now. The existing regime has led to concentrate authority in the hands of head of the state, marginalize institutions.

It has changed corruption into an organized practice with which the

country is run and an instrument for monopolizing authority, guaranteeing the keeping it and later bequeathing it to the sons. The existing system also has formed the ideal cover for development of forces and interests of corruption and spread of chaos at the expense of sovereignty of the law.

Consequently there exists an increasing deprivation of all sectors of the society and there existed tightening of their vital interests, as well as replacing criteria of individual loyalty in place of loyalty to the national state with respect of constitution and laws.

Economically and socially, parties of the JMP have affirmed phenomena of the crisis are seen in backwardness of the process of development, abstention of national and foreign capitals from

investment in the country and officials use of their authorities on merchants and investors to impose partnerships on them, aggravation of poverty, dangerous proportion of unemployment, sharp decline in the individual income, steady retreat of educational, health, electricity and other social services. Added to that is backwardness of the level of and efficiency of infrastructures.

All this is derived from official and international statements and reports. Against all that there are the free hand of corruption, domination of the mafia of illegal interests, the expanding gap between the poor and the wealthy, decline of the middle class and failure of the government's economic treatments since 1995 until now.

The ECB's path not taken

BY OLIVIER BLANCHARD
AND FRANCESCO GIAVAZZI

It is now clear that the European Central Bank views higher interest rates as the right response to rising oil prices. As a result, the ECB risks painting itself into a corner, for the logic behind this week's interest-rate hike implies that more increases will follow – a series of policy mistakes that will cost the Eurozone economies heavily.

Despite statements to the contrary, no central bank, including the ECB, can simply focus on inflation and ignore what happens to economic activity. Suppose, for the sake of argument, that stabilizing prices came at the cost of a 30% unemployment rate. Surely nobody would want that.

The ECB's defenders would say that such an outcome is purely hypothetical – and irrelevant – for there is no conflict between stabilizing inflation and sustaining the appropriate level of economic activity. Price stability, according to this view, reduces uncertainty, thereby enabling firms and individuals to take the right decisions, so it is good, not bad, for economic activity.

This argument is true – most of the time. But when an economy faces a major adverse shock, such as a sharp increase in oil prices, then the twin goals of stabilizing inflation and maintaining economic activity conflict, and the central bank's job becomes more difficult.

Think about what stabilizing inflation means in such a context. Firms are likely to pass the increase in energy costs on to consumers by raising their prices. In response, workers are likely to demand higher nominal wages. If the central bank is to avoid an inflation spiral, it must ensure that the "first round" effects of higher energy prices on inflation do not fuel such "second round" effects.

In an environment where productivity gains and wage growth are already weak, as in Europe today, persuading workers to accept a cut in real wages may be tough. The interest-rate increase decided this week will soon appear insufficient, and will have to be followed by further hikes and a large increase in unemployment. In order to achieve its inflation goal, the ECB may have to contract activity until workers are, in effect, beaten into submission.

Is there a better way to respond to adverse shocks? The answer from monetary theory is an unambiguous "yes": give workers a chance to adjust to higher energy prices, allow for some pass-through of higher prices to wages over time (so that wages adjust more gradually), and make clear that inflation will return to its target range within, say, a year or two. Such a policy will limit the increase in unemployment, at the cost of only temporarily higher inflation.

So, why is the ECB set on a tougher course? There are three plausible reasons.

First, there has been little wage pressure so far. So the ECB may not have to increase interest rates very much in order to contain inflation. If this scenario plays out, the impact on economic activity and employment will be minimal.

But there are good historical grounds for thinking that it won't. What we are seeing in Europe today is more likely to be delayed adjustment rather than passive acceptance of real wage cuts by workers and unions. The ECB should not delude itself into thinking that a small increase in interest rates will be enough. If and when wage pressure comes, the ECB, to remain true to its word, may be forced to increase interest rates much more than it now expects.

The second argument is that if the ECB stands firm, workers will not demand higher nominal wages, for they will understand that this would only lead to higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

This argument is not irrelevant; monetary policy probably has some effect on wage bargaining. But one should not expect too much from a tough ECB stance. Think of the limited success of the ECB's advocacy of greater labor-market flexibility: there has been no dramatic increase in the pace of reforms.

The third argument is that higher inflation today would endanger the ECB's credibility in the future. This argument, too, is hardly irrelevant: higher inflation today must not be permitted to change inflation expectations in the medium run.

Leaving interest rates on hold in the face of adverse price shocks thus requires a convincing explanation by the ECB of its underlying policy. Here, the ECB's task is all the more difficult because, having focused so narrowly on inflation stabilization, markets would read adoption of a more flexible stance as a change in position. Moreover, because the ECB has actually exceeded its inflation target in recent years, its credibility is already in doubt.

True, adopting the appropriate policy would require the ECB to articulate its rationale with great care. Here it can take lessons from its British and American counterparts: credibility does not require dogmatism, but rather clarity of purpose.

What is at stake is too important to ignore. On its current policy path, unless oil prices fall, the ECB risks being forced to commit to substantially higher interest rates, and thus to a further increase in Eurozone unemployment.

Olivier Blanchard is Professor of Economics at MIT and Francesco Giavazzi is Professor of Economics at Bocconi University, Milan. Copyright: Project Syndicate,

Yemen IATA Office inaugurated

BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mr. Giovanni Bisignani General Director and CEO of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) inaugurated last Monday IATA's office in Yemen and affirmed that IATA office would help air carriers in different fields. He pointed out that IATA had not just started its activities in Yemen with the opening of this office, but it has been active in this field over the last six months. "We used to follow up Yemen from our office in Amman. Yemen IATA office is number 100 worldwide. And we are here to increase the support of aviation services for air carriers," said Mr. Giovanni.

Captain Abdul-Khaleq Al-Qadi, Chairman of Yemenia Airways, said that the presence of IATA in Yemen would "give Yemen a prominent place on the map of world air carriers." On his part, Mr. Giovanni appreciated the positive response of the civil Aviation Authority in reconstructing the Yemeni air routes, which would help make these routes shorter and consequently decrease costs for other air carriers that organize flights to Yemen. He also thanked Yemenia Airways for its cooperation in applying the safety systems



Mr Giovanni opening IATA Yemen office

set by IATA.

In a press conference held on this occasion, Mr. Giovanni gave an overall explanation about the activities of IATA in Yemen, its role in world civil aviation and services it offers around the world. He said IATA represents 270 international air carriers from 143 countries, comprising 94% of international scheduled air traffic. In Arab countries, IATA has 22 international

member airlines that carry over 55 million passenger annually, operating around 500 aircraft.

Concerning the services of IATA, Mr. Giovanni said IATA works as a mediator between air carriers and travel and tourism agents. In other words, IATA distributes tickets on behalf of the air carriers. IATA also helps civil aviation with regard to air safety. It also collaborates with those air carriers in order to reduce flight costs.

IATA, he added, is doing its best to effect improvements in operational safety, and so it has adopted a number of projects like Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP), Simplifying the Business, and International Operational Safety Audit (IOSA).

Such programs would help international air carriers achieve safety standards.

Mr. Giovanni appreciated the role of Yemenia Airways in applying the IOSA program under the supervision of an international air carrier. IOSA is designed to assess the operational management and control systems of an air-

line. IATA, thus, is doing its best to achieve effective and cost efficient security measures. Airlines and regulators will achieve benefits from IOSA.

On the other hand, Mr. Giovanni made clear that Simplifying the Business is a big project through which IATA moves forward. It aims at achieving US\$ 6.5 billion in savings and it also makes travel more convenient for passengers. "Over the last 60 years, IATA used to carry 9 million passengers worldwide. But last year IATA carried 1.8 billion passengers worldwide. It is a massive change to better services," said Mr. Giovanni.

IATA will also concentrate on five main projects. These are: 100% e-ticketing by the end of 2007, which means that no one will use paper tickets by the end of 2007; radio frequency identification for baggage management; bar coded boarding passes and common use of self-service kiosks for check-in.

Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) is a system used for simplifying the selling, reporting procedures of IATA Accredited Passenger Sales Agents. It also helps improve financial control and cash flow for BSP airlines. This system is operated in 150 countries worldwide.



IATA delegation accompanying Mr Giovanni

Popular old Sana'a markets show social change

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The old city of Sana'a comprises some forty small popular markets with a unique character that can hardly be found across the Arab region. Within it, there are about 33 caravanserais known locally as "Samsara", which had a significant role when Sana'a used to lie on the route of trade in the old world. These Samsaras were used as inns for travelers (especially merchants) to sleep in along with their beasts of burden. However, the fame of Sana'a markets is ascribed to its handicrafts and the trading of popular stuff such as raisins and world-class Yemeni coffee.

There is some sort of regularity in the distribution of handicrafts in the city. Each market is concerned with one particular handicraft. For example, there are souks for agate, silverware, fabrics, raisins, etc. And each market has a chief who has a status among other fellowmen giving them his advice and is referred to at times of dispute. He may also give his opinion on the type of matters of the craft of his market. He used to distribute raw materials and products and his responsibilities continued until the 1962 Revolution.

In his writing about Sana'a markets, French writer Frank Mermeir said that post-Revolution Sana'a was no longer "the economic orbit of the city." This he attributed to enhancement of Yemeni economy's relations with the international markets. The phenomenon of one specific craft being conducted in one place began to change. He went on saying that this was a move and activity that proceeded with very high tensions, due to one demographic factor: the internal immigration from the rural regions of the country. This factor produced great impacts on Sana'a market, one of which had been the influx of several numbers of new craftsmen and businessmen to this market.

However, there were no noticeable changes that occurred on the structure of the personnel working in Sana'a market, except for the tailoring craftsmanship, although a good number of tailors remained in "Aqeel market".

The situation of the market was greatly changed with the coming in of new traders who are originally from the rural areas. These have become noticeable in the fabric market and the imported leatherware market. Those two specialized markets selling items with connection to the traditional life have remained unchanged because their production needs specific abilities and is associated with particular traditional pattern gained only by means of long experience in this activity. Such markets include "al Mi'tarah Souk" which continued to be monopolized by original merchants and was closed to traders from rural areas.

Still, certain handicraft markets, such as threads, belts and hookahs had been changed into shops promoting imported products. While others remained of a mere symbolic existence only e.g. the markets of the weavers, stoves and head-turbans. Others, such as those of tailors, carpenters, goldsmiths and daggers contain the bulk of the bustling shops. They, however, are subject to the new economic conditions that posted themselves in post-revolution Yemen.

The concept of middleman

The phenomenon of middleman represents had been widespread in Sana'a market for a long time as several of its markets continued to have some persons known as middlemen (Dallaleen). Nevertheless, all those professional men cannot be grouped under the single term of "Dallal" (middleman), due to the fact that there are many a way to classify each profession in relation to the commodity range and the manner of its marketing. In many cases, the are interlinked. In Sana'a, the "dallal" is basically dealing with the imported commodities, which usually happen to be of low quality. He usually moves around small-business traders promoting among them the newly introduced commodities. Upon registering their orders, the "dallal" places these orders with the wholesaler, who deals with sale of such commodities. Usually out of these transactions, the "dallal" gets his commission for the 2-5% of the total value of commodities he succeeded to sell to these merchants.

The term "dallal" actually first



The grains market in the old city of Sana'a

referred to a specialized "middleman" trading in the marketing of the agricultural products (kindle wood, vegetables, fruits, etc.). The term in Sana'a is replaced by "Musleh" (reconciler) i.e. the bargainer between the owner of a commodity and a seller. This bargainer receives such agricultural products either in his shop or at the market yard. He goes on marketing them on his behalf and for the interest of the rural sellers, who do not interfere with his bargaining with the buyer. The existing relationship between the producers and middle men is often based on commission ranging between 2-5%.

Frank Mermeir maintained in his writing about Yemeni souks that it may be difficult sometimes to know the difference between "Al-Musleh" and "Al-Wakeel" (the broker and agent), particularly for the reason that the latter also does the marketing of agricultural products. Moreover, he deals with other affairs conducted outside the marketplace. Within the marketplace, the agent is concerned with trading in raisins, coffee, coffee husks, qat and grains. But other agents specialize in distributing locally manufactured and imported products. In the first case, the agent acting as broker usually gets a 5-10% commission. Some agents may also deal in distributing the commodities in the market.

The terms of payment usually depend on the relations of such brokers with either the concerned wholesalers or retailers. In general, however, they receive their commission amounts on the same day the transactions occurs. For other products such as raisins and coffee husks, the period differ and is up to three months.

Grains, raisins and coffee husk

Mermeir said that in 1985, there were only 14 shops selling raisins, dates and sweets.

He describes "All are situated in one line of one street in Sana'a Market. These specialized stores are in decreasing number because the consumption of coffee husk has only been confined to the occasion of Eid-Al-Fitr and Eid-Al-Adha. Again, only old people have continued to consume coffee husk, while all new comers and young generations prefer tea.

"Only the 'raisins Souk' preserved its tradition and famous reputation in selling a number of commodities that are given as gifts in the religious-ceremonial occasions, and family-gathering celebrations. Still, the consumption of raisins, ground nuts and confectioneries are regarded the main factors for the social activities seen through the visits among relatives and neighbors.

Money exchange and fabrics

In 1971, there were only three money-exchange shops which increased to twenty by 1985. In 1962, the business was controlled by one family called "Beit-al-Qureidi". At the time of Imam Yehya's death in 1948, the family's business was coffee husk, but later they opened one money-exchange shop in the fabric marketplace.

The money-exchange market thrived because of the large-scale immigration of Yemenis to other countries such as neighboring Saudi Arabia. From their new residences, they sent money in for-

referred to a specialized "middleman"

trading in the marketing of the agricultural products (kindle wood, vegetables, fruits, etc.). The term in Sana'a is replaced by "Musleh" (reconciler) i.e. the bargainer between the owner of a commodity and a seller. This bargainer receives such agricultural products either in his shop or at the market yard. He goes on marketing them on his behalf and for the interest of the rural sellers, who do not interfere with his bargaining with the buyer. The existing relationship between the producers and middle men is often based on commission ranging between 2-5%. Frank Mermeir maintained in his writing about Yemeni souks that it may be difficult sometimes to know the difference between "Al-Musleh" and "Al-Wakeel" (the broker and agent), particularly for the reason that the latter also does the marketing of agricultural products. Moreover, he deals with other affairs conducted outside the marketplace. Within the marketplace, the agent is concerned with trading in raisins, coffee, coffee husks, qat and grains. But other agents specialize in distributing locally manufactured and imported products. In the first case, the agent acting as broker usually gets a 5-10% commission. Some agents may also deal in distributing the commodities in the market.

Gold and silver markets

The workers in this Souk benefited a lot from the rise of marriage-dowry payments, as well as, from the tourism progress. Many who were pre-engaged with silver-making transferred to the gold designing. Since 1972, the number of jewelry jobs have had increased three times. However, the traditions of this work for all those engaged is nearly a very recent phenomena, because these workers came to replace; in the years 1949 and 1950; the Jews, who are regarded the original gold and silver smiths in Sana'a Market.

Since the 1960's two sons of one family specialized in the manufacturing of gold, left behind their expertise in silver. The street stretching from the wall of Old Sana'a city and the new center of Sana'a city began to specialize in gold manufacturing, and its trading. This change from silver to gold manufacturing also spread out the wall of the old city, due to the increasing demand for gold; the increasing amounts of remittances by Yemeni immigrants; and the rise of dowry amounts required by the bride to pay for the bridegroom.

Yemeni daggers and belts market

Industrial making of the handle and head of the "jambia" (dagger) and "asoobs" (belts) is still today considered a profitable business. Those markets, as well, can be taken; on the scale of a national standard; important centers of production which; relative to the two market places in Sana'a; are continuously marketable in many regions of the country.

Mermeir cited his that his countryman Dostal who wrote in the 70s gave an inventory on these two markets in Sana'a. He mentioned the existence of 47 shops for jambia manufacturing in Sana'a, which included fixing their heads, and structuring their hand-touch portions. He also wrote that there were in 1971 some 45 shops for industrial-making of jambia belts. In 1985, the French author counted 44 specialized "workshops" and sale shops of the "jambia", together with, another fifty engaged solely in producing the belts and "Asoobs".

Since the last twenty years, or more, the old "Auction bazaar" inside Sana'a Market (of old Sana'a city) was transformed to a continuing extension of this

sector. This is a proof on the dynamism of the sector. After 1962, however, the social structure of the "jambia" market had so far witnessed no obvious changes. It remained largely non-altered as other skilled craftsmanship. This might be due to the fact that 89.7% of the working labor had their profession been transferred through inherited fashions i.e. from grandfather to father to son. What may have affected this social structuring to some extent was really the infiltration, or appearance, of the class of importers.

It was not, however, the new adaptation to the machines for the "jambia" manufacturing. Importing the upper-horned structures and handles of the "jambia" since 1962 gradually caused the closing down of manufacturing their hand-gripping portions in the "Iron smiths" market. Nevertheless, many of these productive sectors do and have had enjoyed autonomous independence, though one may notice a certain deviation in monopolizing this commodity in few hands only. The relationship between the proprietor (business owner) and producer is based on the amount of pay, or wages, rendered. This has been seen as a new phenomena that started to develop fast in the market.

Carpenters markets

For the "carpenters" sector, the number of shops, or workshops, have had declined from 78 in 1971 to 60 in 1985, though their skilled activities increased during the same period, due to the increasing demand on this sector. Its most important products have been noticed to comprise the wooden doors and windows. This urban expansion throughout Sana'a city have had also caused establishment of workshop out of the market's area. These have since then specialized in the production of furniture households, which were not known before. Since 1974 and onwards, many small-scale and medium-scale carpentry projects evolved in the city. These have depended on the use of new machines that were imported from different parts of the world. In 1974, for instance, there were over 600 workshops using mechanized equipment in Sana'a alone.

The fusion in the market before the Revolution was taking place on the acquisition of perfected skills. The appointed Jewish foremen were using some carpenters in the work that required a pattern of trustworthiness. These Jews were also participating with the merchants of the market in acquiring the professions. The skilled craftsmen who were engaged in cutting the tiles had changed to merchants. Practicing tile cutting was confined to one family house called "Bani Garmooz". They were permitted to extract the tiles from Ayob mountain. In another family-house the guardian of the market; known locally "Ameen al-Souk"; there had been one specialized craftsman preparing the wooden structuring of the weighing scales and measures. These have been used until the present day in the markets of "grains", "al-Mi'tarah" and vegetables & fruits". However, the timber imported has increased so much after the Revolution, due to the vast expansion in building construction on one hand, and the high cost of local timber on the other.

Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

The Holy Quran: Text translation and commentary

Author: Abdullah Yusuf Ali
Language: Arabic & English
Publisher: Amana Corporation, Brentwood Maryland
Year Published: First Edition - 1934;
Edition Under Review: 1989.
Number of Pages: 384 pages

The literary genius of mankind has crossed the ages with great works of art and history, that to this day of audio visual magic, still make the written word the most revered medium for absorbing knowledge and information, as well as for indulging in all the pleasures of the mind. In the magnificent age of the offset machine, the written word still commands the ability to move individuals as well as nations to pursue a destiny that is for the most part unknown and truly unpredictable. A friend of this critic once asked, "How did you learn English so well?" I did not take long to respond when I answered him with one word: "Reading!" Yes, the mastery of any language can only be achieved if one devours the intricate ways that its letters or characters combine to express the workings of the mind and quite often the feelings of the heart. After learning the English alphabet at the age of 11 years old, I could not bring myself not to read any word that ever crossed my eyes, whether it was written in a box of cereals or an encyclopedia. This writer recalls that the greatest pleasure for many years living in New York at those early years of life was to walk in to the New York Public Library branch on 100th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues in Manhattan and surrender the limited number of books one was allowed to take per month and bring home another eight to enjoy - all free and without anyone asking, what are you reading? But then as the English language became so well embedded in the mind of, it was clear that another language was going to be lost gradually approaching meaningless. The native language of this critic was certainly going to be doomed if it was not giving its due attention and interest. My father, a learned scholar in his own right and also voracious reader, to this day at the age of 95 - or so - and with only one eye still functioning while he wiles away most of the hours of the day reading and researching whatever matter would still deserve the attention of a seeker of the truth, would help save the day. To people addicted to the printed word, reading is the ultimate pleasure and is irreplaceable as the medium for seeking knowledge and the expansion of the horizons in thoughts and in freeing the convolutions of the mind from the vast realm of ignorance that one is certainly born with.

Thus, I begin this look into perhaps the ultimate of all printed and recited concoction of letters, words and phrases, in one literary assembly, aptly titled: the Holy Qur'an or "Reading" as I would like to translate it. The book that has captured all the mastery of literary genius and spiritual thought for 1500 years interestingly enough was introduced to its

revealer to mankind, the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, with the Devine Command of "Read!". I have always been fascinated by the fact that the first Devine order for mankind from heaven should be to read - not to pray, not to fast, not to give alms to the poor, not to fight against oppression and tyranny - and injustice (which is what *Jihad* really entails and not the misguided misrepresentations that many modern Moslems have taken the word to mean). Yes, the *Holy Qur'an* starts off the delivery of the spiritual delivery of mankind by the three letter word in Arabic, Iqra, or Read! The three letters happen to be the root form of the name that God has chosen for His greatest creation. Certainly, to the mostly illiterate tribesmen of the Arabian Desert and the few oasis that dotted the challenging terrain they have decided to call home, such an instruction would seem insulting, and out of place in a world that relished in the killing of any girl infants, or in which usury and slavery were common cultural traits that society insisted to impose on itself as ignorance defied all forms of cultural and spiritual enlightenment. So, Mohammed (PBAUH) read, or recited the Qur'an to his people. Almost from the outset, the magic of the flowing words of poetic mastery and sheer spiritual delight was to capture the ears and souls of those who heard them. Even the worst opponents of the Prophet, as he painstakingly sought to bring his people of the abyss of ignorance and the realm of demonic pleasure, sacrificing much that could have easily come his way in terms of wealth and splendor and all the pleasures that that era could produce for any man, could not but be drawn into the magic of the Qur'an as its rhythmic and powerful versus reached their ears.

The Qur'an is indeed the magic book of all ages able to lead one to vast open fields of thought and contemplation with its continuous insistence that mankind refer to their minds and conscience, if they truly want to be free from the torture of ignorance and contrived social orders that could never outdo the Lord. It is this simplicity that adds to the magnificence of this great literary masterpiece and which has allowed the Holy Book of Islam to keep its original format unscathed by corrupt priests and medicine men, who would not hesitate one bit to instill their mastery of spiritual beholding of people to eke out whatever they can profit and fulfill their mundane desires, and who have over the ages also corrupted the previous Heavenly edicts to ensure that they are in command of men's spiritual inclinations, even at the expense of compromising the very rules and statutes they were supposedly expected to uphold. For Islam, there was no clergy and thus no grounds for any men to insist that they are the median to reach the Lord by when times get tough and a further guarantee that the beautiful and incorruptible words of the Lord Al-Mighty would remain intact for not just 1500 years, but for all the rest of the ages that man shall reign supreme in this Planet Earth.

Are you an addict?

By AMEL MOHAMMED ALARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Many people believe that Addiction is a term that used to describe the state of those who are addicted to drugs such as heroin, alcohol, cocaine. However, World Health Organization defines addiction as "using a substance repeatedly, despite knowing and experiencing its harmful effects. The person using the substance cannot control the urge to use it and needs increasing amounts to achieve the effect he craves for. On abruptly stopping use of the substance the person can experience withdrawal effects like watering of nose and eyes, vomiting, diarrhea, sleep disturbances, aches and pains and epileptic fits"

Dr. Abdulrahman Salam, neurologist, gave a similar definition when

patients refuse to confess that they are drugs addicts, feeling shame and guilt prevents them from consulting the doctors. "Those who are rich may prefer to go abroad and stay in a centres where is specialized in treating addiction" he said.

Talking about the psychological and physical effects of addiction, Dr. Salam said that not everyone who becomes addicted has the same experience. However, there are certain psychological symptoms that most addicted people suffer sooner or later, either all at once or in clusters. People may begin to look for treatment when such psychological symptoms start to become severe. They may become severe because of the growing impact of the addiction's harmful consequences in their lives. "Addiction tends to be so consuming that it affects an addict's thoughts, their feelings and behaviour" he said.

For instance, an addict may avoid

- no confidence : a state of mind related to anxiety and depression
- anger : from touchy and irritated to explosive, often with blaming
- boredom - the pattern of addiction becomes relentlessly, tediously the same

Forms of addiction in Yemen

Although drug addiction is not an obvious phenomena in Yemen, according to Dr. Salam and Dr. Bakhsh, Oat, alcohol, Nicotine, Solvents, and Tranquilizers are the common substances that are used at some people repeatedly.

Qat and addiction

Qat is widely chewed by men, women and now children in Yemen. According to a study titled "Qat and its variety effects on Yemeni society", which conducted by Mr. Ismael Almutokel, Qat has psychological effects, besides its social, and economic effects. According to Almutokel that the effect of Qat can be divided into three stages. The first stage is when the chewer feels happiness, active, ecstasy and exultation optimistic, and has the power to solve any problems. The second stage is when the chewer feels unconscious.

The third stage in when the chewer loses his ability of perception and memorisation. He undergoes coldness in his limbs, tends to be quiet, feeling depressed and nervous.

The study referred to the clinic observation on the chewers who undergo blood pressure that sometimes leads to sudden heart failure.

Another study, titled "The nervous disorder at Qat chewer in Yemeni environment", conducted by Mohammed Numan, linked between Qat and psychological diseases that occurred in Yemeni society and prepared by Mohammed Numan, who claimed that Qat chewers are exposed to anxiety, depression, phobia, historic, misgiving, and illusion.

Despite the symptoms that the chewers undergo during their chewing, Qat is not a narcotic stuff, according to the two studies. People who used to chew Qat are able to give up chewing without suffering any withdrawal effects. Those who are chewing Qat excessively may undergo shaking, nightmares, weakness and exhaustion.

Dr. Salam confirmed on the result of the two studies saying that chewing Qat is a habit not an addiction. "Qat doesn't contain any narcotic substance that make the chewer an addicted person. as a proof many people travel abroad, giving up chewing without experiencing any withdrawal effects" he said. adding that it is not difficult to give up chewing Qat.

Smoking tobacco and narghile

Abdullah Alfaqi, secretary-general of the national society for fighting smoking stated that 80% of Yemeni males are smokers. The yearly consume of cigarettes assumed to 120 billion YR. Alfaqi referred that 85% of Yemeni teenagers smoki. The third of which are realizing that it is a bad habit and want to give up.

According to the World Health Organization: "Tobacco is the second major cause of death in the world. It is currently responsible for the death of one in ten adults worldwide (about 5 million deaths each year). If current smoking patterns continue, it will cause some 10 million deaths each year by 2020. Half the people that smoke today -that is about 650 million people- will eventually be killed by tobacco."

Dr. Bakhsh said that nicotine, which is found in Tobacco, its widely used for its tranquillising and mildly mood elevating properties. It's strongly addictive, and its prolonged withdrawal symptoms of anxiety, mood swings and craving make the habit hard to break.

Nicotine has few adverse effects on physical health. It raises blood pressure and accelerates the progression of heart and arterial disease

Cancers is more common in smokers, especially those of the lung, stomach and breast. Heart disease,

stroke and serious lung disorders (such as emphysema) contribute to the huge premature death toll that smoking accounts for

Narghile (Known also as water pipe, argihleh, shisha, or hookah) becomes widespread particularly among the youth.

"The problem is that there is no scientific study reflects the effect of smoking hookah. In Yemen young people spend time smoking hookah whether in cafés or houses, they have no idea about the content of the stuff that are put inside it." Said Dr. Bakhsh

Drinks contain alcohol

Dr. Abdullah revealed that there are many cases of alcoholic addiction in the hospitals and centres, despite that Islam and social values are forbidding drinking alcohol. "This kind of addiction is mostly found in males. It is rarely to find alcoholic addiction among women in Yemen," he said

He warned that many drinks that are sold in Yemeni market contain alcohol, without mentioning that in the containers of these drinks." By chance we discovered that some drinks sold in the market and being marketed as drinks that give the customer power, contain alcohol" he said.

"The proof of this is that many patients that underwent alcoholic addiction were given medicine that make them refusing any product contains alcohol. What shocked us was their body reaction when they drank these drinks. Their bodies refused sush drinks and that simply because they contain alcohol" he added.

The two main sites of damage of alcohol are the liver and the nervous system: the liver may become progressively damaged through a condition known as cirrhosis, which may lead to liver failure, liver cancer and

consequently death. The nervous system may be damaged at many levels. The intellect can be damaged with anxiety and depression, confusion and dementia.

The rest of the nervous system can suffer from loss of balance, impotence, numbness of the feet and hands, tremor and blindness.

Apart from these two major sites of damage, alcoholism is also implicated in diabetes, inflammation of the pancreas, internal bleeding, weakening of the heart, high blood pressure and stroke, and is harmful to developing pregnancies.

In addition, alcohol contributes to innumerable deaths on the road and vast numbers of accidents in the home and at work. Many of these accidents are caused by people who aren't necessarily dependent on alcohol, but are temporarily intoxicated.

Ladies tend to tranquilizers

Dr. Abdullah referred to another type of addiction that is more common especially in ladies aged 15-45 years old. "young ladies tend to use these tranquilizers particularly in examination period, trying to get ride of stress and worry, however gradually they become addicted" he said

People who underwent operations or pain tend to use such tranquilizers, according to Dr. Bakhsh

He added that the problem lies in the fact many pharmacies sell these stuffs without legal prescription. "Since there are no instructions from the doctor, many people abuse using these medicine, and become addicted" he said.

These stuff do not cause an immediate physical harm, but with long-term use can lead to a variety of psychiatric problems; withdrawal may lead to severe anxiety reactions, nightmares, panic attacks, seizures, hallucinations and other frightening symptoms that can last many weeks, months or even years.

Solvents in workshops

According to Dr. Bakhsh and Dr. Salam many children and teenagers have been abusing some solvents (which are the vapours found in some glues and household products) as well as organic gases such as butane (cigarette lighter gas), for many years. "Those who are working in carpentry, workshops and fuel stations are subjected to such vapours. They become addicts to the smell of these vapours intentionally," said Dr. Bakhsh.. Long-term use can be damaging to the lungs and the liver.

Treatment

Dr. Salam said that the treatment is determined according to the state of the patient, and the stuff he is addicted to. However, he insisted on the importance of the will of the patient to recover "the first step to recover from any kind of addiction is that the addicted person should realize that he or she is an addicted. He or she should have the will to recover and get ride of addiction" he said. The second step is to give the patient medicines that replace narcotic stuff but do not have withdrawal effects on the patients. At the same time, the patient should attend rehabilitation sessions in which he is trained to able him to deal with his new life after he gets over his addiction.

Drug addiction is not considered a huge problem in Yemen yet, according to Dr. Abdullah. However any type of addiction must be taken under consideration. Providing the hospitals with equipments that enable the doctors to assume the rate of narcotic stuffs, raise the awareness of the public of the meaning and types of addiction are very important measures that must be taken. The Swiss psychiatrist said "Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol, or morphine or the idealism".



Narghile (Known also as water pipe, argihleh, shisha, or hookah) becomes widespread particularly among the youth.

he said" when a person is used to take stuff and after awhile he can not get along without these stuff, feeling the need to increase doses to reach a satisfied state quickly. That person becomes addicted person"

"Giving up using those stuff, the addicted undergoes withdrawal effects, such as blood pressure, headache, shaking, epileptic fits, which lead to death sometimes" he added.

Dr. Abdullah Bakhsh, psychiatrist, gave other close definition of addiction when he said "addiction is a habitual repetition of excessive behaviour that a person is unable or unwilling to stop, despite its harmful consequences."

Dr. Bakhsh insisted that many people may misunderstand the term addiction. "Mostly they believe that the addicted person is that who take Heroin, cocaine ...etc, nevertheless it is rarely to find drug addicted people in the specialized hospitals or clinics..," he added.

According to Dr. Bakhsh many

people. This leads to a feeling of isolation. He may also feel ashamed of feeling unable to cope with others, and of the addiction that's causing this. To deal with the feeling, he takes more of the drug. His relationship with the drug excludes people, so people avoid him. The result is an increased isolation - a vicious circle

Dr. Shehab Mohammed Salam, psychiatrist, said that addictive stuff are often referred to as mood-altering. People take them because they change their mood in the short term. However, there can be a long-term effect from continuing to use drugs for this purpose. Addicted people often report an increase in the feeling they were attempting to escape, such as:

- depression: ranges from feeling very down and helpless to suicidal
- anxiety : ranges from feeling generally fearful to loss of trust and paranoia
- low self-esteem : may become self-loathing and links to shame and guilt



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions: (82)
'Love you' wishes (IV)

Love is not only a great nourisher, it is a great redeemer too. It gives the lover strength, vigor and vitality to surmount the tremendous odds in the path of true love. It resuscitates, rejuvenates and reinvigorates a drooping spirit and instills into it an unconquerable will to face the challenges.

• My love! When happiness pampers you in its arms and tears of joy trickle down your cheek, just look around yourself, to find the rainbow hue... A hue that I have blown your way, to let you know I'm there... When you're feeling low and have no one to go to, just look behind yourself... See me in your shadow that will remind you, I'm still there for you... When you're lost in the world of dreams, tire and worn out deep in your sleep... I'll stretch my arms and send the gentle morning rays to kiss you awake and assure you silently... Love! I'm there for you, now and forever.

• Dear! I'm madly in love with you as you're truly my dream come true. With you I've found a kind of pleasure that I've always been searching for, a kind of love that means a lot.

• It's you my love whom I dream of and want to be close to, always. As the fond look in your eyes, the smile on your face and deep love. Make the world a better place to live in. Love you always.

• Your love is the joy of my life and the heart of my being.

• What is love? No words can define it, — it is something so great and profound, only God could design it. It's ever enduring, so kind, so compassionate, it judges all things with the heart, not the mind. It's all-embracing. And love can transform the most common place into beauty, splendor, sweetness and grace... Yes love is beyond what man can define, for love is immortal and divine.

• You are the one I longed for. I carried a picture of you ever since I was young and believed in fairy tales. I carried a picture of you through all the times. Love, I thought that I'd never meet you in this life. I carried a picture of you, not in my pocket but in my heart — I didn't know what you'd look like but I knew what I'd feel like to finally know you and be with you — safe and protected and accepted, like I had finally found my home.

• When love is new... We see life in a very special way — the joy of togetherness adds fun to every days... Each gentle smile and every tender touch... Brings one more chance to say how very much we'll always love each other today, tomorrow and forever.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- When I saw the vase, I knew it was exactly what I had looked for.
- When I grow up, I'll be an engineer.
- Take your umbrella; it will rain.
- The world's supply of oil is soon running out.
- Put your coat on before you'll go out.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- Ahmed invite me to **have** dinner.
- I asked Ali when his plane would arrive.
- I told Basham not to pull the cat's tail.
- Abdullah said, "Are you tired?"
- The book which I bought at the bookstore was very expensive.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- A thing or person that shows a set of qualities.
- An important event which seems to begin a whole new period.
- An imaginary line drawn round the world halfway between its most northern and southern points.
- A triangle whose all 3 sides are equal.
- A state of balance; right judgment.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- A person who takes great interest in the pleasures of food and drink: **epicure** (n)
- A short clever amusing poem or saying: **epigram** (n)
- The last part of a speech made by one of the actors at the end of a play: **epilogue** (n)
- A short description of a dead person, written on a stone above his grave: **epitaph** (n)
- An adjective or descriptive phrase: **epithet** (n)

(B) Words commonly confused

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

- ocular, visual
- sever, severe, serious
- wrong, wrongful
- electric, electronic

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- convert** (vt) (change from one form or use into another): At what rate does dollar convert to Yemeni rials?
- transform** (vt) (to change completely in form, appearance, or nature): Success went to his head

and transformed his character.

2. **fancy** (n) (imagination in which the mind is more active): By the power of fancy you can create a dream world.

fantasy (n) (extravagant fancy that is odd, strange or wild; too unreal to be true): He lives in a world of fantasy.

3. **oversee** (vt) (to watch to see that the work is properly done). He regularly oversees his construction work.

overlook (vt) (to look at, but not see; not notice; miss): The proofreader overlooked the printing error.

4. **entry** (n) (coming or going in): entry to the Rector's office is restricted.

entrance (n) (opening, gate, door, passage): He waited for me at the entrance of his house.

5. **insistent** (adj) (compelling attention): The Administration is insistent that the teachers live in their respective headquarters.

persistent (adj) (continuing; occurring again and again): Persistent attacks of malaria left him weak.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

1. **plead**

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| a. set out | b. conclude |
| c. intend | d. beg for |

2. **sobriety**

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| a. quality of self-control | b. companionship |
| c. humor | d. seriousness |

3. **transgressor**

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. passenger | b. law-breaker |
| c. protector | d. comrade |

4. **fling**

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| a. slip | b. suffer |
| c. throw | d. raise |

5. **heresy**

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| a. harmonious idea | b. virtuous thought |
| c. strong belief | d. unorthodox opinion |

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. somber | serious |
| 2. thaw | melt |
| 3. volatile | unstable |
| 4. obliterate | destroy |
| 5. orgy | wild party |

(ii) Antonyms

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

1. **disconsolate**

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| a. encouraging | b. cheerful |
| c. approximate | d. apparent |

2. **predilection**

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| a. oblivion | b. objectivity |
| c. aversion | d. defeat |

3. **wholesome**

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. partial | b. incomplete |
| c. impermanent | d. injurious |

4. **remorseless**

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| a. merciful | b. penitent |
| c. sympathetic | d. humane |

5. **extraneous**

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| a. trivial | b. common place |
| c. relevant | d. extravagant |

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. onerous | effortless |
| 2. alienate | familiarize |
| 3. latent | manifest |
| 4. benevolent | spiteful |
| 5. fabrication | truth |

(C) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. a. blasphemous | b. besphamous |
| c. blessfemous | d. blasphemous |

2. a. inaquitous

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| b. inikwitous | |
| c. inikwites | d. iniquitous |

3. a. cassette

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| b. casette | |
| c. cassete | d. casete |

4. a. pedagog

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| b. pedagogue | |
| c. pedagoge | d. pedegogue |

5. a. reminescent

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| b. riminescent | |
| c. riminisent | d. reminiscent |

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- efflorescence
- percussion
- tableau
- harassment
- tantamount

(D) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- above board
- not to have a penny to one's name
- on the cards
- bite the bullet
- bury the hatchet

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- variety is the spice of life** (the changes that one experiences are what makes life interesting): You should accept pleasure and pain, smiles and wiles with equal thanks. After all, variety is the spice of life.
- go up in smoke** (to disappear leaving nothing behind): All our plans to have a celebration went up in smoke when the Dean rejected the idea.
- have a change of heart** (to change a decision): The king had a change of heart and he decided to dedicate his life to welfare of the people.
- make no odds** (to be of no importance): It makes no odds to me if he decides to leave me — he was of no use to me.
- lull some one into a false sense of security** (to lead someone to believe that everything is all right): We should not lull ourselves into a false sense of security and guard our liberty at all costs.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Rewrite the sentences

- New York/Tokyo/be important financial centers Both....
- Louis Pasteur/Alexander Fleming / make important medical discoveries Louis Pasteur...
- Whales/tigers/be in danger of extinction Both ...
- Napoleon/Hitler/not succeed in conquering Russia Napoleon....
- Pythagoras studied geometry. Euclid studied geometry Pythagoras ...

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- My cassette recorder is broken. I'll have it **repaired**.
- One of the many **tasks** a computer can perform is keeping your accounts.
- Some of the expensive machines are much more **sophisticated** and capable of remembering more data.
- We have a wide **range** of models in stock.
- What is **equivalent** to US\$ 2 in Yemeni Rials?
- I'm afraid you'll have to speak up. He's **slightly** deaf.
- According to **experts**, the earth's temperature will rise considerably in the future.
- I didn't **recognize** him at first, as he had grown a beard.
- Her illness must be very serious. She is not responding to the treatment at all.
- What was **unusual** was that she had one brown eye and one green eye.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

100: SWEET ARE THE USES OF ADVERSITY

Suggested answers to the previous topic

99: SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD

A child has immense potential which, groomed in a proper manner, leads to a bright future for him. But if that potential is subjected to neglect or laxity in upbringing, the child's future prospects are jeopardized. It is a matter of common experience that an excessively pampered child tends to be wayward. Over-indulgence or excess of affection on the part of the child's parents and elders generate in him a cynical distemper, thus making him unpruned and undisciplined. He assumes life to be a bed of roses and is unaware of its hard realities. In other words, unless the child is punished for his errors and is shown the right path in right time, he is denied the opportunity to learn the precious lessons of life. As such, 'rod' which is a metaphor for the shaping influence through punishment, is the vital factor in putting the child back on rails from a wrong path. As a blacksmith moulds crude iron into a distinct shape by putting it in fire and then chiselling it, similarly punishment becomes an invaluable tool for nurturing the nature and character of the child. rigorous principles of rigid control and discipline helps him learn the lessons of life albeit the hard way. Conversely, if he is spared punishment at the formative period of childhood, he may grow up into a rogue, a criminal or a sinner who then becomes a potential threat to the society.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Unless my Lord willeth, (nothing can happen). My Lord comprehendeth in His knowledge all things."
S6: A80

VI. Food for Thought

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

—Leo Tolstoy

A letter to the teachers of English: 100 Recap 3 : Letters 71 to 99

Dear Fellow teachers,

I can't believe my eyes; this is my 100th letter to you, dear fellow teachers. I should thank God, the Almighty; you, my esteemed readers; Dr Ramakant Sahu, the Editor of the Education page of Yemen Times and the Editorial team of Yemen Times, who have kindly been publishing my letters.

In this letter, I am giving a recap of letters 71 to 99 for the benefit of those who missed some of the letters in the middle and for those who want a comprehensive picture of the letters I have been writing all these weeks. This is the third such recap since I started writing letters to the teachers of English in this country.

Letters 71 to 74 dealt with how to teach a poem keeping in mind the poem prescribed in the third year of the Secondary class; the various advantages of teaching a poem, the differences between teaching a prose passage and a poem and the different ways of teaching a poem were discussed in these letters. In letter 75, how to test a poem was discussed with certain principles behind testing poems in general.

Letters 77 to 79 pointed out the importance of language teacher education and training for the teachers of English; the language teacher education and training available in Yemen was presented; need for improving it was emphasized with particular areas in mind. Letter 80 was to highlight how to use what you have learnt in the Faculties of Education in your schools, so that you can make the best use of whatever you have learnt in the Faculties.

Letter 81 answered some interesting questions asked by the readers of my letters. The questions chosen were of general interest to all the teachers of English.

Letters 82 and 83 and later 89 and 90 focused on English curriculum especial-

ly at the university level. Taking examples from the curriculum revision done in one or two universities in the country, the teachers were cautioned against hurrying through curriculum revision without caring about the needs of the learners.

Letters 84 to 86 cautioned you against students copying in the examinations. Having discussed why they copy in the examinations, some solutions to avoid copying were presented, most of which were teacher-related.

Letters 87 and 88 titled 'Punished by rewards' discussed how thoughtless teachers, knowingly or unknowingly, punish the students by being generous in giving marks that they don't deserve. It was suggested that teachers should judge the students correctly from the beginning and make them realize their weaknesses from the beginning so that they would not be given a false hope about their abilities.

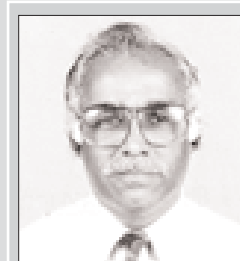
Letters 91 and 92 to 94 were presentations of two studies carried out by my students in the Faculty of Arts, as they were interesting and informative. One of them studied why students in schools dislike English and the other one studied why students drop out of schools in the middle. The findings of the studies were presented and a few solutions to solve these problems were also given.

Letters 95 and 96 were a revisit to a familiar problem of Yemeni learners viz. developing writing skills. This time the discussion was on the stages of developing writing through stages such as pre-writing, writing and re-writing.

Letters 97 to 99 focused the need for computeracy for teachers and learners.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the letters and find them useful.

Yours fraternally,
Dr.M.N.K.Bose.



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Teaching English to young learners

Teaching English

as a foreign language to young learners aged between six and ten years is not an easy task. It is very difficult because a young learner never feels its necessity and importance. There is no clear incentive for him to learn another language beside his native language which is really foreign to him. At this level a learner's ultimate purpose is to read and write his own

native language. In Arabic language, we teach a young learner how to hold a pen in the right way, move his hand on a straight line from right to left, how to utter each letter in Arabic accurately and how to respond in this new language. Therefore, it is unfair to throw him into a new language completely different from his own native language.

The solution is to allow him listen to dialogues in English, act and react in English through natural situations for instance, at bank, at post office, at airport, etc. that a teacher can create for him till his ears get attuned to the English accents he hears. Then, let him enjoy the success of imitating and uttering a few words in English. However, the teacher of this level has to equip himself with specific qualities other than those of the ordinary teachers.

The qualities of a good teacher of English in the Basic Education stage

I have mentioned earlier, that the teacher of the Basic Education Stage should have specific qualities other than those of the ordinary teachers. He is not, here, to teach, but to care for his young learners, create natural situations that could appeal to them, take them away from the passive level of the book, to the real merry situations they like to enjoy.

The teacher should enjoy a lovely personality, a creative mind, a retentive memory, paternal behavior and a sense of duty and responsibility. He should keep smiling most of the time, tell them short and merry stories, tell them jokes or riddles whenever a room for this comes and finally to treat them as kindly as his children. By this way, he endears himself to them.

The teacher should take all learners to his side, make them confide in him, love

him and only then he can give them whatever he thinks is suitable for them. His slogan then, should be "Encourage and Praise" before "Blows and Blame". His ultimate purpose should be keeping his learners highly motivated by lifting them from the passive level of the book, whatever it is, to a more active level of really living English taken from learners' environments. The teacher should be creative and

innovative in order to create natural situations where his learners can respond simply and easily. He should introduce appropriate material through usable and enjoyable situations that learners can simply respond to and imitate. This presupposes that the teacher should have a good memory to recall similar situations easily. A creative teacher can use everything around him in the classroom while teaching.

The teacher should be an imaginative and creative person by playing various roles while teaching learners, for example, he can introduce some game like lessons, the entrance of the teacher into the classroom and his greetings could be a lovely game, such as "Hello boys", "Stand up". I am standing up. How are you learners? "Fine, thank you." Teacher "thank you, sit down". All these appeal to the young learners which they can imitate and act like their teacher. Then, the teacher can choose intelligent learners to play his part, go out of the classroom, then allow him come in and greet his classmates in the same way. Other learners would feel eager to play his turn and do it.

Imitations and utterances of these patterns will give the learners a feeling of great success and self-confidence.

In short, the success or failure of any teacher of English, in the Basic Education schools depends on how he administers to make the English language appeal to his learners. He should be an imaginative teacher to adopt the modern methods and techniques of teaching that attract the learners' attention and encourage them to use the target language in various situations. Through playing games and dramatizing situations, the teacher can give his learners an opportunity to use the language fluently without feeling any of frustration.



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Trekking on Socotra



By Frank M. Mann

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Sofan was recently asked in an interview in Germany about the strategies in Yemen to create extra income for the population. His reply was that the tourism industry among other sectors offers very good opportunities in this respect.

Germany has already for a long time offered its assistance to Yemen to promote tourism especially in the disfavoured regions of the country. The fight against poverty is one of the overarching aims of German development cooperation and tourism offers a good opportunity to bring income not only to the capital and major cities of Yemen but to all areas where tourists go and spend their money for services, goods or handicrafts to take home as souvenirs of a most remarkable holiday in Yemen.

The German Archaeological Institute has helped tremendously to excavate and restore monuments of the very rich cultural heritage of Yemen. The Bar'an Temple and the historical Dam in Marib as well as the recent excavation in Sirwah are just a few examples of these efforts. The Institute thus has helped to put back on the tourist map sites of highest value for tourism. In addition tour guides have been trained and - in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture - a cultural tourist guide has been published to inform tourists on the

history of Marib's monuments.

Equally important are the efforts made by German Cooperation Agencies (GTZ, KfW and DED) for the development of Shibam, Zabid and old Sana'a.

Since the beginning of last year Tourism in Yemen has made good progress and German tourists are now again topping the list of entries to and nights spent in Arabia Felix. The expansion of Tourism however is limited by the capacity of the existing hotels and limited available transportation. New investment is needed to provide for a further expansion.

Another good opportunity is given by developing new sectors of tourism such as diving and more importantly trekking. Trekking tours have already for some time been offered in the Haraz Mountains and in Wadi Massila with German tourists taking the lead. Trekking is especially interesting for disfavoured areas as trekkers may not need luxurious hotels but at the same time demand services that the rural population can supply such as transport by donkeys or camels. It is for this reason that the German Technical Assistance Agency (GTZ) has been commissioned to study possibilities on how to assist and to improve trekking tourism in the Haraz Mountains.

The Island of Socotra has now been discovered as another highlight for tourists who love to hike and to discover so far unspoiled nature and in November 2005 a group of 18 hikers

completed the first 7 day tour organized by the Summit Club of the German Alpine Association in cooperation with a local tourism agency.

Supported by a caravan of 10 camels and Socotri cameleers the group trekked all the way from Nogid in the south of the Island to its capital Hadibou.

The trail led through the most varied and magnificent landscapes of rugged stone formations to pastures in the highlands and wadis filled with water. The caravan reached its first campsite at 450 m and spent the second night on a plateau at 750 m. The trail then led along Jebel Haggir to a height of 1.200 m. The highlight in a true sense of the word was reached after climbing the Summit of Jebel Mashannig with 1520 m. From there altogether 1.100 m of descent was to be covered to reach the last campsite at Wadi Ayhaft which offered rest and a swim in crystal clear water.

To reach Hadibou a last stretch through Wadi Tanhiton to Muqadrih Pass had to be mastered. Of course the group did not miss the marine protected area of Dihamri and Homhill with its forest of dragon blood trees. Here two tourism cooperatives have been founded supported by the UNDP Socotra Conservation and Development Program.

These cooperatives are a very good example of how an ecologically sound tourism can provide income and opportunities to the local population.

The future installation of ecotourism in Socotra - supported by UNDP and with financial help of the Global Environmental Facility - is another important step to open up the Island for an environmentally sound tourism.

The German Summit Club is offering another three trekking tours in Socotra before the next Monsoon season and the program will be continued, improved and expanded in the years to come. Thus, Socotri villagers will soon get used to the so far unfamiliar sight of tourists enjoying the unique landscape and flora and fauna of their island and - of course - the hospitality of the Socotri people.

Frank M. Mann has been the German Ambassador in Yemen since 2003. He participated in the described trekking tour.



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