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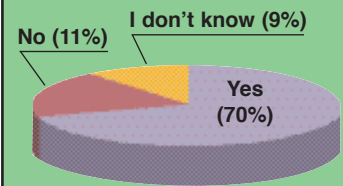
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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Studies and symposiums on solutions for tourists' kidnapping in Yemen have increased while the government seems indifferent to the issue.



This edition's question:

Do you think that the Yemeni government will ever surrender to the U.S. pressure and hand over Sheikh Abdul-Majid Al-Zindani in the future?

Yes
No
I don't know

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

Terrorist suspects' trials continue

Last Wednesday and Saturday, two different groups were tried for planning and committing terrorist operations. Wednesday's session included 17 suspects accused of being followers of Jordanian Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi. Some of these came from Iraq to carry out terrorist operations in retaliation for the killing of Abu Ali Al-Harithi, killed in Marib, 2002. Al-Harithi was accused of planning the USS Cole attack. A second group was tried Saturday for forming an armed band targeting Western interests in Yemen.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Feb. 26 — The Specialized State Security Penal Court held a session February 25 to try 14 suspects accused of forming an armed band to attack Western interests in Yemen.

The court held a hearing to list Prosecution evidence, which contained suspects' confessions in attorney's minutes and in the seized items list. Seized items included weapons, bombs, computers, fake stamps and identity cards and powerful C4 explo-

sive, in addition to electrical circuits connected to mobile phones for remote detonation.

Suspects admitted the truth of all that came from Prosecution investigations but said they were preparing it for use against Americans in Iraq. However, some suspects said the evidence was incorrect, alleging that it was taken forcibly. Some suspects also complained of poor treatment by security (intelligence), such as little food and being put in solitary underground cells.

Continued on page 14



Two of the 17 suspects accused of being of Jordanian Al-Zarqawi.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

Opposition demands SCER change

At the start of each election, several disputes arise between the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) and opposition parties, which accuse the SCER of standing by the ruling party. However, the differences between opposition and the SCER have seemed to widen, with opposition demanding the committee be changed. The committee responded by forming non-partisan committees.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 26 — At a press conference last Saturday, the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) declared that it will appoint job seekers on the Civil Services Ministry's list to check local and presidential election voter lists, which was to be the job of committees formed from political parties.

Headed by Khalid Al-Sharif, SCER members confirmed that they made their decision following lengthy debate, assuring that they provided dialogue opportunities to the parties. Yet, the deadlock they reached with the parties led them to form these committees instead of partisan ones, confirming



Members of SCER.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

that their decision is in conformity with the law and the Constitution.

Speaking to journalists, Al-Sharif expressed his sorrow at the refusal of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to meet them Saturday. He continued, "We were surprised that the JMP is holding the SCER accountable for failure to reach a compromise." Al-Sharif said the committee made its decision after ensuring that it is its legal and constitutional responsibility to carry out the elections, as it is a supervising body.

Al-Sharif confirmed that the SCER met with the General People's Congress (GPC) and the National Opposition Council (a small portion of the opposition, accused of backing the ruling party) following its invitation to

the political parties. The SCER confirmed that the Saturday meeting failed due to JMP absence (a collection of the largest opposition parties, including Islah, Socialist and Nasserite parties).

The SCER confirmed that it refused forming the committees by the ruling GPC party and other parties attending the meeting. The JMP accused these parties of being GPC affiliates.

It disclosed that the SCER presented representation alternatives according to the percentage of votes each party obtained in previous 2003 elections. Another alternative was based on each party's parliamentary representation. However, all of these suggestions were rejected.

Continued on page 2

U.S. asks to arrest Al-Zindani, Yemen requests proof

Yemen refused a U.S. request to arrest Sheikh Abdul-Majid Al-Zindani, accused by U.S. authorities of financing terrorism. The United States formally asked Yemen to arrest the prominent Yemeni cleric who is on U.S. and UN lists of terror suspects, state websites reported Thursday.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Feb. 25 — According to Al-Jazeera, Yemen's government has asked the United States to provide concrete proof to back its accusation that Sheikh Abdul-Majid Al-Zindani provided financial backing to militants before it arrests the Islamic leader.

The Defense Ministry's 26 September newspaper earlier reported that the US asked Yemen's government to arrest Al-Zindani, freeze his assets and prevent him from traveling abroad. The newspaper reported that President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a message from U.S. President George W. Bush wherein he criticized Saleh for letting Al-Zindani join the official delegation accompanying him to last December's OIC summit in Mecca.

"The message noted that Al-Zindani is listed on the UN list of terror financiers, and that taking him abroad as part of an official delegation is a violation of UN resolutions," the newspaper reported.

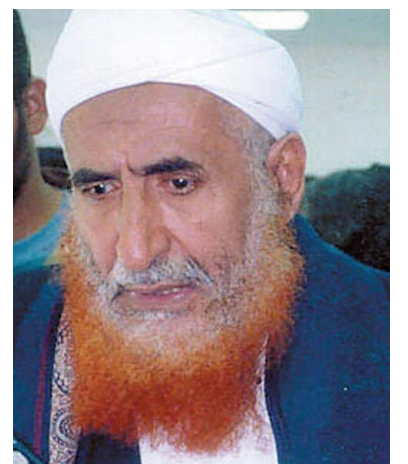
According to the newspaper, Bush

warned Saleh that such personal relations with Al-Zindani "could harm joint efforts of both countries (the US and Yemen) and their partnership in the fight against terrorism."

The U.S. accuses Al-Zindani, head of Iman University, an Islamic school housing more than 4,000 students from all over the world — including Americans and Europeans in Yemen — of being a spiritual mentor to Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden and supporting "terrorist causes."

Al-Zindani, central committee chairman of Yemen's largest opposition party, Islah (Reform), told Al-Jazeera channel that he considers the U.S. request "a slap to Yemen's independence and violation of its sovereignty. Yemen is an independent and sovereign nation and has its laws and judiciary."

This is the second U.S. attempt to force Yemen's government to take action against Al-Zindani, after it failed last September to compel the government to freeze Al-Zindani's funding on the grounds of UN Security Council



Sheikh Al-Zindani

Resolution 1267.

Media sources reported that President Saleh asked U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert Mueller to drop Al-Zindani from the agency's list of figures financing terrorism during his November 2005 trip to Washington.

This request comes at a time when the U.S. and Yemen have cracked down following the escape of 23 prisoners, including 13 Al-Qaeda convicts, who earlier broke out of a Sana'a jail. The fugitives, who dug their way out of prison, include leaders of the USS Cole and French Limburg attacks in Aden, as well as a Yemeni-American wanted by the U.S.

Three Al-Qaeda fugitives surrender after jailbreak

SANA'A, Feb. 26 — Three of 23 suspected Al-Qaeda militants who escaped from a prison in Yemen early this month have surrendered and contacts are under way with other prisoners to persuade them to follow suit. President Ali Abdullah Saleh in an interview published yesterday in the Saudi-owned Pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat newspaper said that security forces were in contact with the other fugitives and negotiating their surrender. However, he did not give any details about the escapees that had surrendered.

"There are contacts with the escapees, and some of them surrendered to security authorities."

"So far three (have turned themselves in), and there are contacts with the remainder, who are inside (the

country). They have not left Yemen," he added.

The President confirmed that the fugitives want to give themselves up and most of them have finished the majority of their sentence already. The Yemeni government has offered a reward of more than 25,000 dollars for information that could lead to the capture of any of the suspected Al-Qaeda militants who broke out of a Sana'a prison on Feb. 3, embarrassing the authorities and angering the United States.

The fugitives include the leaders of the 2000 bombing of the U.S. warship Cole and the 2002 attack on the French supertanker Limburg, as well as a Yemeni-American wanted by the United States.

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Five Cameroonians remain imprisoned 10 years without trial

SANA'A, Feb. 25 — Five Cameroonians remain detained in political security prisons for more than 10 years without any charges or verdicts issued against them, according to Yemeni Interior Minister Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi.

Al-Alimi said before parliamentary MPs last September, "The imprisonment of these Cameroonians for several years without trial is a big mistake. These prisoners faced charges of money laundering and drug trafficking. They could have been referred to prosecution and the judiciary at the time of their capture. Political security was not the right place for them."

Parliament summoned Al-Alimi to discuss the issue who then confessed that the Cameroonians have been imprisoned since 1995. It was late when Al-Alimi learned of their imprisonment; then he undertook to

bring them to the judiciary along with reasons for their detention with other prisoners at political security, MP Ali Ashal told the media Saturday. He said such lengthy imprisonment without trial is a shame and an unjustifiable injustice.

Ashal added that they only learned about the fact after prisoners sent a letter to MPs, the HOOD organization and other civil community, human rights and freedom organizations to intervene in their case.

A HOOD spokesman said Saturday that his organization received a letter in August 2004 signed by four Cameroonians jailed at political security. They mentioned that they had been jailed since March 1995 and that no one had visited them nor did any of their relatives know about them. He said his organization tried to see them but political security refused to allow any HOOD staffers

to meet with them or view their files.

The spokesman noted that the British Embassy, considered head of the commonwealth of which Cameroon is a member, has been following up their case since it discovered their imprisonment, but the embassy has not reported any results.

Due to media silencing and lack of information about why the Cameroonians were imprisoned, media sources mentioned that the prisoners may number six or seven, not five, as Al-Alimi said. Some of the prisoners also hold French citizenship.

The Cameroonians had been trafficking banned arms, dealing with Yemeni traffickers to pass arms between Yemen and African countries. Other sources stated that they, along with some influential Yemenis, were forging currencies that spread in 1993 and before.

First kidney dialysis center in Ibb



A scene from the kidney dialysis center at Al-Thora Hospital, Ibb.

PHOTO BY NASHWAN DAMMAJ

By: Nashwan Dammaj
Ibb correspondent

IBB, Feb. 25 — The Kidney Failure Patients Society held a Feb. 23 ceremony at Ibb Cultural Center to inaugurate the opening of a kidney dialysis center at Al-Thawra Hospital, Ibb.

Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Abas Al-Motawakil attended the event, as well as local council General Secretary Colonel Amin Al-Warafi; Deputy Governor Colonel Abdul Wahid Salah, Ibb University rector Dr. Ahmed Shoja'a Aldeen and other governorate political and social personalities.

Dr. Amin Abdul Wahid Al-Rubie, health office director and head of Friends of the Kidney Failure Patients Society, welcomed ceremony attendees. He explained kidney failure, highlighting the suffering of kidney patients at large, who cannot afford treatment costs, and in Ibb in particular. Ibb is famous for having the largest number of kidney failure patients. He said the society has a commitment to pay the company providing serum and equipment YR 12 million but unfortunately, it has failed to pay that sum until now.

Former MP Sheikh Mocbel Al-Kadahi spoke of the necessity of all parties combining joint effort to guarantee continuation of such humanitarian projects. He asked attendees to give to the society and urged scholars, mosque preachers and newspapers owners to exert efforts for the sake of such societies.

Attendees watched a visual program prepared by society General Secretary Bashir Abu Isba'. The program provided information about kidney failure, its causes and its rate in the community, as well as the society's activities. It also gave a briefing on patients treated at the Ibb hospital center. Donations from the meeting reached YR five million.

Educational office head Ahmed Rizq Al-Sormi said Islam guarantees individual rights; among them, the right to life. Consequently, this right should be available to kidney failure and other patients as well; yet, it cannot be achieved without cooperation from all parties.

Al-Motawakil said that dealing with kidney failure was very difficult in the past because patients had to travel abroad for treatment. Things now have

changed, according to him, since establishing a kidney transplant center at Al-Thawra General Hospital in Sana'a.

There are six kidney dialysis centers among the governorates and Ibb's center is one of them. Al-Motawakil hoped center duties would not be limited only to kidney dialysis, but that it also would send patients to the Sana'a kidney transplant center, pointing out that donors should be from among patients' relatives.

Al-Warafi praised the efforts that helped establish the center and he hoped that other centers will open in other districts. He suggested a special support fund for kidney patients' friends in every school, mosque and government institution, as the centers mainly depend on public support. He said the centers do all they can and there should be public cooperation, adding that this is the least the community could provide to such societies.

During the ceremony, greeting chants were presented by girls from Modern Yemeni School and the Modern Scout Band, in addition to a play performed by the governorate's National Cultural Office Theatre Band.

FBI arrests Hasan Qasem for sending money to Yemen

FLORIDA, Feb. 22 — Sligh Avenue convenience store owner, Hasan Qasem was arrested Wednesday after being accused of illegally sending \$53,000 to people in Yemen via Dearborn, Mich., travel agency, Arabian Horizon Travel and Tourism.

U.S. authorities also accused Qasem of illegally transferring \$83,500 to the West Bank in Palestine and to Luxembourg. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigated Qasem's store on the accusations because he sent money overseas in a manner considered to avoid government scrutiny.

According to the federal complaint, Qasem split his transactions into amounts less than \$10,000 to avoid the threshold whereby financial institutions must report it to the Internal Revenue Service. The FBI said Qasem transmitted cash this way to people in Yemen, the West Bank and Luxembourg.

It said Qasem provided \$53,000 to

Arabian Travel from March to June 2004. The agency is the exclusive North American ticketing agent for Yemenia Airways, a Yemeni government-owned airline.

The affidavit listed nine wire transfers from 2002 to 2004 to Nablus in the West Bank and to Luxembourg, each for \$8,500 or \$9,500.

The affidavit gave several examples of what the FBI said were efforts to avoid the \$10,000 reporting requirement. For example, the affidavit said Qasem bought two checks from SunTrust Bank on March 19, 2004. The checks, purchased four minutes apart, were for \$5,373 and \$4,670 for a total of \$10,043, bringing the total to \$19,000 for allowance to Yemen.

Qasem's wife Mary said she did not know about the charges and does not know anyone in Yemen, stating that she and her husband, who originally is from Palestine, have nothing to hide. "We don't know anything," she added, "We'll have to figure it out and

see what's going on."

Mrs. Qasem said the FBI came to the store and the couple's nearby home around 7 a.m. Wednesday, staying until 11 a.m. searching the premises. As of late afternoon, she had not heard from her husband, who she said has lived in the area since 1977. "We try to lead a clean life," she said.

FBI spokeswoman Carol Michalik said the agency's Tampa office executed search and arrest warrants in cooperation with the Detroit FBI. Michalik said no further statements would be released to the media.

Qasem is a U.S. citizen of Palestinian descent. He appeared in court February 23 before U.S. Magistrate Elizabeth Jenkins, who followed the recommendation of Assistant U.S. Attorney Jay Hoffer that she allow Qasem to be released on \$20,000 bail. Although Qasem was represented by a federal public defender, Jenkins said he must hire a lawyer, as he has the financial resources to do so.

In Brief

- The Yemeni Government last Thursday intended to halt French poultry imports after France announced two duck deaths from bird flu.

General Manager of the General Authority for Livestock said his authority is discussing halting licenses for Yemen trade firms as a measure preventing bird flu virus entry into Yemen. The preventive measure also is intended to help companies avoid loss in case the virus spreads.

The Cabinet earlier ordered the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to suspend poultry imports from any country where the virus exists.

- Sixteen homes were damaged, five completely destroyed, Saturday morning in Lahj city north of Aden due to heavy rains between 5:30 a.m. and noon. No human casualties have been reported.

Rainwater overwhelming city streets blocked sewage pipes and forced locals to evacuate their homes for fear they might collapse.

- Sa'ada governor Yahya Al-Shami last Friday stated to Al-Mutammar Net that Yemeni authorities will begin procedures in the restive province to release hundreds of Al-Houthi followers but he did not specify a date.

Al-Shami, head of the mediation committee, said the committee is stepping up efforts to settle the issue. He pointed out that religious scholars, sheikhs and members of the local authority and civil community organizations are involved in the mediation committee.

He added that mediation efforts achieved fruitful results and the committee still is working to uproot the issue.

- According to the army-affiliated September Net, Yemen's government will return light arms and ammunition quantities to countries from which they were imported by arms traffickers.

An official source in the Ministry of Defense Military Equipment Purchase Department said the ministry returned the imported quantities to their country of origin, Russia (formerly the Soviet Union). Such military equipment was imported several years ago.

A military source did not explain why the government kept silent for so long before returning the purchased military equipment to its country of origin.

- Dozens of Yemeni students in Syria staged a sit-in last Tuesday in front of the Yemeni Embassy to protest against withholding salaries of 33 students. Protestors said Yemen's Ministry of Higher Education and its embassy in Syria ceased giving the student salaries without legal justification, saying they did not know the reason or justification for such stoppage.

Affected students appealed to Minister of Higher Education Dr. Saleh Ba Surrah to appreciate their miserable situation and find a solution to their problem, complaining that they have no money to pay rent for the houses in which they live.

- A scientific study revealed that 95 percent of Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who were arrested in Afghanistan and Pakistan following the fall of the Taliban, have no Al-Qaeda links. According to the study, only five percent of detainees were involved in military operations launched by Al-Qaeda's network.

The study said most Yemenis arrested were working as Qur'anic and Arabic language teachers in Afghanistan at a monthly salary of \$100 for married teachers and half that for singles.

Through information obtained from Yemeni families and testimonies of Yemeni Guantanamo detainees, most detainees were arrested in Pakistan due to the \$5,000 award offered by U.S. authorities to anyone reporting about those escaping into Pakistan from Afghanistan. This encouraged Pakistanis to inform U.S. authorities of any Arab national they discovered.

According to the study's findings, U.S. authorities have no evidence to convict at least 95 percent of Yemenis detained at Guantanamo in connection with military operations. It added that most detainees were captured during military operations in Afghanistan.



- The new generation of Suzuki cars was introduced by Sabaha Trading Company in Yemen. The cars were on display at the movenpick hotel on the 23rd of this month in the presence of the Japanese ambassador and minister of industry and a number of distinguished business men.

Court displays items seized from Al-Houthi followers

SANA'A, Feb. 21 — The specialized court held a session Monday, Feb. 19 to try 36 suspected Al-Houthi followers accused of forming an armed cell to conduct acts of sabotage in Sana'a, including blasts that occurred in the capital city.

Other accusations include planning to storm government institutions like political security, the television station and the first armed contingency, in addition to planning to assassinate political and military leaders.

The court granted Prosecution an extra opportunity to present its remaining evidence against the cell, determining that it would hear evidence against suspects No. 19-36.

The evidence list of suspects No. 17, 18 and 19 and their confessions to joining subversive actions were read from evidence collection minutes and Prosecution investigations. Such evidence included their participation in acts of sabotage that targeted military, police and security institutions and personnel. Suspects also attacked army and police vehicles, which resulted in the death of Major Ismail Al-Moayad and the injury of another 17 military men and civilians.

When asked by the court to answer the accusations, suspects stated that

they do not recognize the court and consider it illegal. They began shouting slogans, forcing the judge to remove them from the courtroom.

Items seized with the 36 suspects were displayed in the courtroom, including 21 dynamite rods, 10 Kalashnikov rifles, electric detonators and pistols, two of which were in the form of pens. There also were military and sweepers' uniforms, disguise apparatus, colored lenses and 12 low-cost missiles, two of which were not brought to court. Also displayed were more than 10 mobile phones to be used for calling and remote detonations. Among the seized items were two Crown and Cressida cars and videotaped lectures by Hussein Badredeen Al-Houthi.

Al-Houthi was killed last year during confrontations with government forces. Only one woman is among the 36 suspects, seven of whom are being tried in absentia, as they have not yet been arrested. Security forces arrested the cell members suspected of being Al-Houthi followers during armed confrontations in Sana'a.

Several Sa'ada tribal sources said security situations are witnessing relative calm this week, with the exception of Dhaian area due to tension between

Al-Houthi followers and security forces. However, no casualties were reported.

The same sources attributed the calm to promises of new governor Yahya Al-Shami, who promised Al-Houthi groups to reach a solution satisfying all parties and meeting their demands. Among Al-Houthi followers' demands is releasing their followers, halting pursuits, compensating war victims, declaring amnesty, offering safety to all Al-Houthi followers and withdrawing military forces as far as possible from the area.

Al-Shami hopes to resolve confrontations with Al-Houthi followers and reinforce security and stability in the governorate. He affirmed the role and duty of governorate chiefs and residents in stopping bloodshed between Yemenis. Al-Shami declared the safe return of all opponents to their homes, also promising to either compensate or safely reinstate all opposing employees to their jobs and release prisoners if they demonstrated good will.

According to sources, Al-Shami directed the army not to use heavy weapons against Al-Houthi fortifications, which observers consider is bona fide. Al-Shami also adopted a new truce to pave the way for mediators' success.

Continued from page 1

Opposition demands SCER change

The JMP issued a statement last Friday demanding the SCER change and suggesting it be replaced by a neutral independent committee trusted by all political parties. The statement expressed surprise at allegations of SCER neutrality, accusing the SCER of contradicting the Constitution and oppressing national parties.

The JMP held the SCER legally and constitutionally accountable for any election delay or obstruction, accusing the SCER of stalling to execute its legal and Constitutional duties. It said the committee gave up its political job

of carrying out demands of the political forces to guarantee supremacy of the law.

Opposition confirmed the necessity of guaranteeing neutrality of media, public funds official posts and local authority, security and army institutions, thus paving the way for free and fair elections.

The JMP asked the GPC to take a clear stance on all the issues and guarantees presented in the previous period, topped by changing the SCER.

A GPC source accused the opposition parties of not responding to SCER

efforts to solve the committee's problems. It accused opposition parties of exerting pressure to hinder the electoral process in order to reach a compromise outside the law and the Constitution.

A GPC statement confirmed that the ruling party works with the SCER because it is an independent legal and constitutional body responsible for all electoral procedures. It said it considers all that is issued by the SCER a must that should be abided by, concluding by inviting opposition to abide by and respect the law.

Van Ardenne to the Yemen Times:

“I am impressed by the openness of the Yemeni people”

Anna Maria Agnes (Agnes) van Ardenne-van der Hoeven is the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation for two consecutive Balkenende governments since July 2002. Ms. Van Ardenne's career history involved contributions in various disciplines including economy, peace and security, development, women and children. Between 1988 and 1994, Ms Van Ardenne was a member of Vlaardingen municipal council, where she represented the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA). From 1990 she also served on the municipal executive, as the alderman for economic affairs.

She was a member of both the CDA's Foreign Affairs Committee (1986-1996) and the Advisory Council on Peace and Security (1990-1994). Since then to 2002 Ms Van Ardenne was a member of the House of Representatives of the States General and of the North Atlantic Assembly and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. She has also been vice-chair of the development organisation CEBEMO (now part of CORDAID), co-founder of a center for development cooperation in Vlaardingen, chair of the EPP/EUCD Women's Section and secretary of the Dutch branch of UNICEF. Agnes van Ardenne was born in Maasland on 21 January 1950.

Last week between the 20th and 22nd of February, the Dutch minister for Development Cooperation visited Yemen for the first time. During her visit, Nadia Al-Sakkaf editor in chief of the Yemen Times conducted an exclusive interview with the minister and filled in the following lines:

What are you aiming to achieve from this visit?

First of all this visit naturally aims at strengthening the bilateral relationship between Yemen and the Netherlands, including development cooperation, and mutual recognition of importance. The Netherlands has had a development relationship with Yemen since 1978. And it is the third largest donor, the largest being the World Bank and Germany, with particular emphasis on the water, health and education sectors. Special attention is paid to the environment, the position of women and good governance. Therefore, I have used this visit to substantiate the Dutch backing for the Yemeni national strategy on poverty reduction as well as underlining the importance of the reform agenda and democratization process.

Consequently, the main purpose of the visit has been to speed up the Yemeni government's reform agenda, improving governance, stepping up the fight against corruption, and underscoring the importance of water, education and health care.

Now that the visit is almost concluded, would you consider it successful? And would there be follow-up?

Over all I would like to consider this visit was successful. In fact I am glad that it took place at this particular time in Yemen's history. Just after the cabinet reshuffle and with the endorsing of the matrix on good governance. I believe that this visit embarked the start of a constructive dialogue between all donor countries and the government of Yemen.

During the three days of my visit I have discussed issues relating to the government's reform agenda, governance, the fight against corruption with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Abdulqadir ba Jammal, foreign minister Abu-Bakr Abdallah al-Qirbi, and with the ministers of planning, water, education and health. We have also held round



Van Ardenne with Nadia Al-Sakkaf chief editor of Yemen Times

table discussions with representatives of civil society and the business community on good governance, human rights, corruption and freedom of speech. Last Tuesday, in a special women's event she had meetings with key women in Yemen society from government and non-government institutions.

In these lines, we have successfully signed a public private partnership in the water sector by the Yemeni water company in Ta'iz. The agreement is between the Dutch water

This visit embarked the start of a constructive dialogue between all donor countries and the government of Yemen

company Vitens and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it mainly involves management support from Vitens to Ta'iz Water Company.

About the follow-up, we have had a two-hour long policy session on Wednesday morning chaired by the Minister of planning and attended by a number of important ministers. The policy session was only interrupted for a meeting with the President at his office. During the policy meeting we discussed various issues and stressed on the importance of reform. The Government of Yemen established specialized task forces in each ministry whereby their job would be to monitor the reform progress. These committees would then issue a report every three months and we as well as all the donor community will be able to share this information. Moreover, currently the World Bank is doing a CPIA review on the different aspects of governance and we

If the indicators of the World Bank CPIA report on governance prove positive we intend to increase our support to Yemen

hope the publication of this report will take place in May or June. It will be available online and accessible to the press. This report will give clear indicators on the government of Yemen's progress in governance, reform and fighting corruption and if the indicators prove positive we intend to increase our support to Yemen and consider increasing the aid budget allocated to this partner country.

Why the emphasis on good governance as one of the Netherlands's programs in Yemen?

The main goal of our policy is to

achieve poverty reduction. To secure a right and fair allocation a country needs to have its governance in order. Important points to this effect are: Transparency, efficiency, equity and justice for all. Yemen has announced its intention to implement the long delayed economic reforms, and a complaints department was set up within the Ministry of Human Rights, which, in time, will acquire the role of ombudsman. However, still around 47% of the Yemeni population lives on less than \$2 a day. And Yemen ranks 151 out of 177 countries in the Human Development Index according to 2004 statistics.

This has made us believe that attention should be given to crosscutting themes such as good governance, business climate, strengthening civil society, and the position of women in order to enhance the situation of this country. We are also involved in specific aspects including supporting major reform processes such as government finance (improving the system whereby companies bid for government contracts by introducing guidelines and tender documents), the civil service (modernisation by way of training and support for administrative reforms) and decentralisation (a large pilot project in the province of Shabwa).

The Netherlands has subsidised technical assistance for the legal reform programme in Yemen. We also co-finance the World Bank programme to reform the civil service. All civil servants are now registered centrally and the databases are linked, thereby containing corruption somewhat.

How do you appraise Government of Yemen's progress in health, education and environmental fields, especially in light of the MDGs?

Yemen is lagging behind in reaching the MDG's in 2015 and Yemeni people still have to deal with a maternal and infant death rate that is the highest in the world and in rural areas only one out of three persons has access to clean water. The only goals Yemen might still achieve are those for primary education (MDG 3) and infant mortality (MDG 4). Yet generally, achieving the MDG's will be a major challenge as maternal mortality and child mortality are still very high and many families are still lacking access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Moreover, hardly any data is available on the current situation in Yemen in terms of health.

In terms of education, more children have started attending school and an increasing number of them can read. However, many children, especially in rural areas, do not yet have access to complete primary education although huge improvements are visible. Girls' education still lags behind; the "gender gap" in both enrolment and retention is not

narrowing as quickly as we would hope.

Yemen does not score very well at all on the indicators for good governance. However, with the exception of political stability (especially the conflict in Saadah) and corruption prevention (the authorities are not yet prepared to devise and implement a plan), there is no evidence of a downward trend.

Could you tell us about the Dutch funding for Yemen? Do you coordinate with other donors in your funding for projects in Yemen?

In 2005 Yemen received about €22 million in development aid from the Netherlands, of which 8.5 million was earmarked for education, 4.5 million for health care, 4.7 million for water and 4.1 million for other themes.

This is the country allocation (delegated to the embassy). Yemen also received funding through the World Bank Fast Track Initiative / Education for All (\$10 million) and through a cooperation programme between tertiary education institutes

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in the two countries. In 2004 Dutch exports to Yemen amounted to €53.4 million; Dutch imports from Yemen that year, mostly fish, amounted to €3 million.

The Netherlands coordinates with the Yemeni government and other donors in various fields of development. In the Education sector the Government of Yemen and several donors are supporting the Basic Education Development Strategy. A partnership agreement in this field has been signed, as there is close cooperation between donors and the government of Yemen.

The Basic Education Development Project is in place to support the education reform of the government of Yemen. Partners of this project are the World Bank, DFID, Germany and the Netherlands. In the health sector steps are being taken towards establishing a framework similar to the education sector. In the water sector, the National Water Strategy is providing an excellent program for donors like the Netherlands, the World Bank and Germany to align to.

How do you view the Yemeni media and freedoms scene in Yemen?

The Yemeni freedom and media scene are of great importance. Yemen's record with regard to the freedom of speech and press was one of the most impressive ones of the Middle East. Unfortunately a downward trend is visible in the last few years, especially in this election year freedom of speech and equal access to all media for all (political) parties involved is a pre-requisite for free and fair elections.

So have you taken up this issue in your discussions with the Yemeni government?

I have raised this issue with Yemeni officials all along. I believe that freedom of speech is critical for the democratic process. I don't really know why the trend is going downwards but I know that this is a struggle and that the achievements Yemen has in

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terms of freedom of press have to be maintained and preserved otherwise they will be lost. My advice to the Yemeni media is to form alliances and coalitions. There are a number of organisations supporting human rights and freedoms and the Yemeni media should join hands with them in order to defend their case for freedom of speech. The Yemeni media should make their own agenda and work for it. In all cases we have made the issue of freedom of speech a part of our reform agenda and we will be following up on this.

What can Yemen learn from the Netherlands's experience in promoting women's empowerment and do you have any specific initiatives in this regard?

A lot has happened in the Netherlands in the past century regarding women's empowerment. Education for girls is crucial for empowerment, and every year extra education provides 10% extra income. In the Netherlands things started with basic education and were quickly followed by vocational training for women.

In the Netherlands 65% of the

Freedom of speech is critical for the democratic process.

women have a paid job. This has given them more independence and has made them more assertive. In terms of doing business, women in the Netherlands have gained access to (micro) credit, which allows them to start their own businesses.

In the Netherlands, women are steadily entering into the political scene and women in public office serve as an important role model. Moreover, 40% of the members of parliament is women. In local and regional politics there is still room for improvement.

The introduction of contraceptives (mid 1960's) allowed women and men to plan their family together. This naturally helped in lowering population growth. These are examples of the areas in which the Yemeni women can learn from the experience of the Dutch women.

Holland provides higher education opportunities for people from around the world through the Nuffic program; however it mostly has to be through exchange programs. This deprives individuals from being eligible for such scholarships. How do you comment on that?

The Netherlands Fellowship program is a demand driven program administrated through Nuffic. The program is open to all people. The Netherlands embassy in Yemen is

strongly encouraging applicants to apply. Given the high demand from all countries Nuffic does the final selection, whereby preference is given to women and candidates from Sub-Saharan countries.

The ministry is aware of the request from Yemen to be considered as one of the preferential countries. Yemen is now already eligible for a multi year agreement, which provides preferential treatment for selected institutes and their staff.

However, although Yemen's requirement for educational support matches if not exceeds that of the Sub-Saharan countries, the number of opportunities is still very limited. Do you think there is scope for increasing the number of scholarships for Yemen outside the multi-agreement you just mentioned?

The number of grants allocated for Yemen has increased from 16 last year to 25 this year and this is a significant increase that did not happen in other regions. However, we still maintain that it is the choice of the partner country and not ours to select the students. We try to stress on the Yemeni institutions to select candidates from poor families so that they avail this opportunity for education, because the rich can do it on their own expense.

As a minister for development cooperation, what are the challenges you face back home and with international partners?

It is very important to show results for all our taxpayers and our parliament. People in the Netherlands are very committed to development. Both young and old give large contributions to charity and development organizations. But all these people want to see what has happened with their tax money and with these enormous amounts of voluntary contributions. They want to see clean water running and they want to see more girls attending schools, to give you two important examples.

Good cooperation and harmonization with other donor countries, not only on head quarter level but also on country level and in the field, is necessary to be as effective and efficient possible. We need to avoid duplication and dovetailing.

Any last comment?

I am delighted that I have come to Yemen, and had the chance to visit around in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz. I was mostly impressed by the openness of the Yemeni people. Yet, as a minister for Development Cooperation, it disappoints me a lot to see the development progress going so slowly. I hope that with the changes in the government and with the new policies things will improve.

Hanan: the child who attracted public attention

A photo of 6-year-old Hanan Taha Al-Selwi of Taiz governorate was posted along streets, on shop doors, in bus windows, on walls and in newspapers. She became the focus of attention for people as they wondered who Hanan was and who abducted her. The incident involving Hanan caused many to worry about their own children, especially when other children began to disappear

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
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On the afternoon of January 25, 2006, the school bell rang and students cheerfully exited classrooms. Hanan arrived home and her mother was happy to see her. As usual, she took off her bag, changed her clothes and went out to play with her friends in front of the house. However, this day, there was a man watching them. He stepped forward until he reached Hanan. He seemed very kind as he gave her a candy and asked her to come with him. She innocently followed the man to his car, not even shouting or crying as he drove off, as she did not know he was abducting her. He drove to Ma'abar city in Dhamar governorate. Since then, her family and neighbors began to worry about her. They searched for her here and there, but there was no sign of her.

This incident caused a state of worry for many Taiz families, especially when other children disappeared, as parents feared for their children. Mostly mothers worried about their children going to and from school. Residents began to

panic as child abduction rumors spread everywhere. Fifteen child disappearance cases were reported in the governorate, which people considered abduction. All of those children were found except Hanan. Taiz Security Authorities Manager, Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Olofi, said child abduction was just a rumor, which he described as "child disappearance."

Security authorities exerted much effort in searching for Hanan. Some 10,000 photos of her were distributed in various governorates, including Sana'a. Therefore, citizens began discussing Hanan's story, interested to know any information about her abduction and who abducted her. Day after day, there still was no sign of Hanan. Her father Taha received many messages assuring him that she'd been found, but none were correct. He did his best to find his young daughter, walking from street to street searching for her among the neighborhoods.

According to Hanan, the man who abducted her was called Ali Mohammed. He brought her to Ma'abar city to Mohammed Abbas, who has an herbal medicine center. He told Abbas that Hanan was his daughter and he wanted to treat her.



Hanan with her father after they came from Ma'abar.

SOURCE: www.al-ayyam.info

He then left Hanan at the center with Abbas and did not return. Abbas took her to his home, where she was given much care and attention by his children and wife.

Hanan spent several days with the Abbas family, often going to a shop to buy chocolates. The shop owner, Mohammed Al-Banous, noticed that Hanan was staying with the Abbas family, but that she did not seem to be one of his children. Her face was not familiar to him, as he knows all the neighborhood children. In fact, Abbas's wife visited Al-Banous's wife along with Hanan. Al-Banous's wife wondered who the girl was, learning that she was from Taiz and named Hanan. Thank God, Al-Banous was aware of the news that a girl from Taiz had been abducted and, of course, he must have seen her photo as well.

He called his Taiz relative, Judge Ali Muhsen Al-Humaidah, Western Taiz Court assistant, and told him that he had found a girl bearing the

same characteristics of the one for which they were searching. Al-Humaidah immediately went to Hanan's father and told him the good news.

With a note of hopelessness, Taha seemed uninterested as he said to Al-Humaidah, "Brother, more than once we have been told that Hanan has been found and after investigating, it turned out to be a child of two or three years." However, he asked Al-Humaidah to obtain the telephone number of the house where Hanan was staying.

Al-Humaidah got the number from Al-Banous and Taha called his daughter. He recognized her voice and asked her about her mother, sisters and grandmother. As she replied to his questions, Taha knew it was his own daughter Hanan and hopefulness clearly was on his face.

They then called security authorities. Upon hearing the news, Taiz vice governor Abdulkader Hatem called Taha, assuring him he

would accompany them to Ma'abar. He arrived along with Investigation Department officers, setting out for Ma'abar city at about 1 a.m. They kept in contact with Abbas by telephone while traveling, arriving in Ma'abar city at 4 a.m. They immediately went to Al-Banous, then to Abbas's to meet Hanan.

She was in good condition as she had received much attention from the Abbas family. Abbas said a man left Hanan with him for treatment and had not returned

until then. He said he did not inform police about Hanan because he knew the man who left her.

Hanan returned home the morning of February 22 after first being taken to Al-Saeed Hospital for medical testing, which showed she was in good condition.

Many neighborhood residents gathered to receive her. As she arrived, men, women, boys and girls uttered cries of joy to see their beloved Hanan, some shedding tears of happiness as they witnessed the moving scene. Hanan, the innocent child, was surprised to see hundreds of people welcoming her back. Perhaps she did not realize that she had drawn the attention of the press and public alike. Thus was the story of Hanan, who was missing 25 days.

Security authorities have exerted much effort in Hanan's case and investigations are ongoing. So far, two men have been arrested as suspects in the crime.

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Yemen: an attack on all

Much discussion lately has been centered on what limits a responsible media should place on itself. At the other end of the spectrum remains the burning issue of censorship, propaganda and governmental limitations on the flow of information to the public. For some years the reformist posture of the Yemeni regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh had credibility internationally because of the existence of a lively Yemeni press. One reason confidence in Saleh's commitment to democratization has diminished is a prolonged and systematic assault on Yemeni journalists, as an informative press is the bedrock of a government run by the people.

The Committee of Protect Journalists recently issued an alert outlining numerous and often violent attacks on Yemeni journalists. The CPJ noted that journalists have been stabbed, shot, bombed, arrested, kidnapped and threatened. Newspapers have been fined, closed, and cloned-*ie*, "establishing similarly titled and similar-looking newspapers to undercut them and confuse readers." A transcript of a journalist's tapped telephone conversation with his wife was circulated via email. According to CPJ research, "Witnesses and evidence point to involvement by government officials and suspected state agents in a number of brutal assaults." In 2005, the violations averaged about one a week. The CPJ notes that the judiciary is also used as a means of retribution against journalists. The latest violation is the verdicts against the opposition al-Thoury newspaper and its editor Khalid Solman. The paper, the editor, and several writers were found guilty of the high crime of insulting the president.

International reaction to the governments proposed amendments to Yemen's Press and Publications Law has been unanimous in condemning the measure as a mechanism of heightened censorship and an infringement on the rights of the Yemeni public.

One function of the media is to act as a watchdog on government, constructively reporting on its failures as well as successes. With increasing concentration of political power, military power, land ownership, and business ownership in much of the same hands, there are very powerful forces working against transparency in Yemen. As illegal and unjust practices multiplied, so have attacks on Yemen's journalists. In the context of widespread corruption, hostile and powerful elite prefer to operate without public scrutiny.

The institutions that normally would provide a vehicle for the expression of the peoples' voice are disabled in Yemen, often becoming an extension of regime power. Those in civil society with independence are undermined in a variety of ways. The NGO "Female Journalists Without Borders" was recently cloned by a government affiliated organization that began operating under the same name, forcing the authentic organization to rename itself "Women Journalists without Constraints." Prominent civil leaders Hafez al-Bokari, head of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, and his wife, journalist Rahma Hujaira, were targeted by the official newspaper of the Yemen military, The 26 September, with false charges that they were connected to Denmark. In a letter to the Yemeni public prosecutor, the couple wrote, "Such fake information proves that this article is an attempt to use the anger spread in the Muslim world to attack us individually and to attack our institutions; Yemen Polling Center and Yemen Female Media Forum for that these institutions are concerned with democratic, social, and media reformation and development and they tackle general issues related to the society."

Some traditional social institutions have been distorted by corruption. Some sheiks place their loyalty with the ruling apparatus and work for its welfare as well as their own benefit, with the welfare of the people a distant concern. Sheila Carapico, a professor of Middle Eastern politics at the University of Richmond, recently said in a published interview with James Brandon that Yemen has used a range of tactics to erode the independence of the tribes. "One of the techniques the government uses to extend its reach is

to coopt selected prominent sons of sheikhly families, who are almost always also military officers, into the regime."

Many members of Parliament are also from sheikhly families. Parliament is an institution designed to represent the will of the people and act on their behalf. The anthology *Building Democracy in Yemen*, observes about the ruling party, "The dominant GPC has developed a policy of mixing tribal sheikhs with the political authorities. These traditional forces have come to dominate Parliament through the GPC, which in turn, because of loopholes in the current electoral system, continues to strengthen ties and to move, from one election to the next, towards a one party system." The author concludes, "This reflects the dominance of a very small minority in society in terms of actual structure and authentic culture." Elitism undercuts the equal access and equal rights necessary for democracy.

The inherited political power of some families has distorted the representative nature of the Parliament, which works against the health and welfare of the Yemeni people. The 2006 budget, which passed overwhelmingly, underfunded education, healthcare, electrical development, and water projects, and increased military spending to 37% of the national expenditures. Further, in a clear conflict of interest, many of those with governmental or military positions also have ownership stakes in numerous large businesses and have become some of Yemen's largest land owners. As noted by Paul Dresch in *The History of Modern Yemen*, "the style of politics complained of by Southerners as a return to tribalism was complained of by others, within the North, as tribalism's negation." The reality he says is "day to day politics with networks of individuals who control both trade and real estate."

Elections are often a way to express the people's judgment and hold their representatives accountable. This institution is also dysfunctional in Yemen. The electoral commission is heavily biased toward the ruling party, leaving open the possibility of fraudulent voter registration rolls. Numerous instances of underage voting occurred in the last Parliamentary election. Pre-printed ballots were distributed. Vote buying and voter intimidation occurred. The ruling party controls and exploits the broadcast media, denying equal opportunity to opponents in the market place of ideas.

In the absence of effective social or political institutions for the expression of grievances, some disenfranchised groups have resorted to other means. Motorcyclists have been denied their right to work in Yemen's capital city,

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By: Jane Novak

Sanaa. After months of peaceful protest, they left the head of an ox outside Parliament, hoping perhaps that tribal means might get the attention of their representatives. Somali refugees staged a protest outside UN headquarters that

resulted in severe violence when security forces moved to disperse them. A march by students was also violently broken up. Residents took to the streets in Taiz to protest water shortages. (The absence of clean water adversely affects over 80% of the Yemeni population while large qat plantations owned by influential persons consume a great deal of water.) Teachers staged a nationwide sit-in to protest unfair and undemocratic practices. Textile workers staged a series of strikes to demand overdue salaries. In July, nation wide protests were sparked by the latest reform dose that was implemented without cuts in government spending or authentic anti-corruption measures. (The effects of the dose are continuing to cripple most Yemeni households while corruption and embezzlement continue in some ministries.) Recently, Yemeni women's groups protested to urge the government to enact a gun control law that has been pending for years.

Others have taken much more extreme measure to express their grievances. A 2004 Parliamentary report documented individuals including children imprisoned by the government as hostages. Recently in an attempt to force the release of some of these government hostages, tribesmen kidnapped foreign tourists in separate incidents. (The regime normally does not respond with urgency to the kidnapping of Yemenis, thus the identity of the victims.) All incidents were resolved peacefully. In one case, the government agreed to provide money and four governmental jobs to each of the kidnappers. In response to a similar incident the next week, the government announced it would seek the death penalty for the kidnappers. A study of these kidnappings published in the official daily al-Thoury concluded that "wronged and weak people sometimes have no way to express their views, gain their rights or publicize their cases." Advocates of freedom of the press often emphasize the public's right to know. As the study demonstrated, equally important is the public's right to be heard. The non-governmental print media is the only vehicle available to the Yemeni public to voice their grievances to each other, the government and the international community.

Public or independent ownership of broadcast media is illegal in Yemen,

depriving the people of a national voice. The proposed amendment to the Press Law continues this exclusion. The government controlled broadcast media in Yemen provides little in the way of standard educational programming in this country battling illiteracy. It does not present a wide diversity of viewpoints or permit a frank exploration of issues. Rather the governmental media often works to hide the true scope of issues from the people themselves and the rest of the world. A week after the escape of 23 prisoners in Yemen, including many convicted members of al-Qaeda, the official English language news agency of the government, SABA, and that of the ruling party, al-Motamar, made no mention of the escape but covered subsequent events like the scheduling of conferences and congratulations issued to other governments.

While the governmental media engages in name calling and scape goating that can deepen divisions in society, the non-governmental media can provide a political space for national reconciliation by exploring important issues in an honest and peaceful manner. Many in Aden have grievances about land confiscation, exclusion from employment, and indiscriminate tactics by security forces which recently resulted in the death of a little girl. Despite the media blackout on the armed confrontations in Saada province between the military and a rebel group, stories have leaked out about the targeting of civilians and the looting of private property by security forces. Some tribal areas have been systematically denied the most basic human services like wells, hospitals, schools, roads and electricity. The non-governmental media also reports very important but less complex issues like those of cotton farmers in Hudeidah province who complained about tainted insecticide that destroyed their entire crops. Social issues are also addressed like the lack of pre-natal and post-natal health care for Yemeni women that results in extremely high death rates for both

mother and child.

Despite reformist rhetoric, much political power in Yemen is a function of identity not merit. Rather than empowering the public, the trend has been toward the succession of political and economic power within a few families. Any movement toward pluralism requires that the people retain what rights and advantages they have. Every group and each individual becomes weaker when journalists are

unable to speak the truth. A journalist beaten or threatened is an attack on the rights of all citizens to be heard. Just as it is the responsibility of journalists to defend society, it is the responsibility of all of society to defend its journalists.

Jane Novak is an American journalist and political analyst. She is a contributing editor at WorldPress.org. (jane.novak@gmail.com)

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Historic and political documentation in Yemen

Interviewed by: Rafiq Derham

The Yemeni experience in the issuance of document-oriented legislations and laws is the last, compared to other premier Arab experiences in the field of State's documents reservation. Sudan, Egypt and Iraq top the list of the Arab countries that adopted early scientific and national policies in the area of documentation, issuance of document-oriented legislations plus the establishment of national centers for documents.

The Central House for Documents in Sudan was established in 1953, the National Documents House Act was issued in Egypt in 1954 and the Iraqi National Center for Documents was established in 1963 and since then it was annexed to Baghdad University.

Despite modernity of the Yemeni documentary experience, represented in the issuance of the Republic Decree No. 25 in 1991 under which the National Center for Documents was established and the promulgation of the Documents Reservation Law in 1994 plus the issuance of the New Documentary Law No. 21 for the year 2002, Yemen reached some national achievements in the field of documents conservation.

Additionally, there was the adoption of national and scientific policies and standards for manipulating the Yemeni documents, irrespective of political and military conflicts and extremism.

Yemen had reached commendable achievement regardless of partisan and personal interests that influenced the Yemeni documents and led to the exploitation of some documents in inciting political, media and military crises.

An interview with Prof. Saleh Bassurrah, one of the prominent national academics, sheds light on a plenty of national issues related to Yemen's historic and political documents and documentation.

Q. At the outset, we hope you give the reader a glimpse on documents and documentation in the southern and eastern provinces of Yemen before achieving the national unity.

A. Before the Re-unification, there was no official center for documents and documentation. There was a center for researches and studies, the party concerned with documentation. The late Abdullah Muhairiz was the manger of the center and during his work in the Yemeni Embassy based in London, he paid more attention to



Prof. Saleh Bassurrah

collecting documents associated with the period of the British occupation of Aden, mainly since 1905. In addition, there is a center in Sayoun that still collects documents relating to the Quaitite and Kahterite sheikhdoms and correspondences between the Ottoman Caliphate and the Mutwakili Kingdom.

In the 80s, there was a center for collecting documents in the Yemeni Specialist Party. This is the reality of documents. Documents are scattered. Some of the sultanates' documents were lost, another portion of them is still reserved by some families and a third portion was burnt. During the British occupation of Aden, the Yemeni documents were moved to Britain to which the later Abdullah Muhairiz paid close attention to them and took some photos of them. This is the state of documents before the Re-Unification.

Q. Can you describe the situation of documentary institutions after achieving the national unity?

A. Many centers were established after the Re-unification, most important of which is the National Center for Documents, affiliated with Presidency of the Republic. This center collected documents relating to the Ottoman era and the British occupation of South Yemen. Besides, there is the Yemeni research and studies centers in Sana'a, Aden and other governorates that started collecting documents as the Britons issued registers in 16 documentary volumes that contained documents and information about the Yemeni-British relations.

In Istanbul, there is plenty of documents in need for search, and there is a researcher interested in issuing an index to embrace the Arab documents available in the Ottoman centers and libraries. A national

campaign is a must, in addition to a law to define the document and the specified age of it before it should be acquired as State's property. The law is expected to define validity of the exchange of documents and how they can be collected, particularly the governmental ones and those related to elections, parties and political organizations. Documents should be indexed in order to enable researchers to know what is available in the center.

We hope that documents kept by some families be collected. More attention should be paid to the collection of Yemen-related documents reserved in foreign centers and libraries. A great national project is needed to look for the Yemeni documents in some Arab countries, mainly Egypt and Iraq.

Q. How best was the cooperation and coordination between the former two parts of Yemen in terms of documentation in pre-Unity era?

A. I do not think there was any coordination in the field of documents between the two parts of Yemen since no attention was drawn to the Yemeni documents at that time.

Q. Do you think that political and ethnic extremisms leave negative impacts on the national documents?

A. Certainly, fanaticism, be it political or ethnic, leads to the loss of documents because the conflicting sides attempt to conceal any documents that uncover certain facts causing hatred. Political conflicts, anarchies and wars lead to losing a great deal of documents.

Q. Do you think that Yemeni documents were burned or trafficked throughout different stages of history, for example during November movement in 1967, January 13 events in 1986 or during 1994's war?

A. It is expected that some documents had been taken by personalities who fled the country and other documents were trafficked. There is a book by Mohamed Al-Salihyah, which reveals information about documents. Great deals of the national documents were observed in European museums after they had been trafficked out of the country.

Q. Do you know any of Yemen's presidents who were interested in documents and documentation?

A. Salem Rubaye Ali and Ali Nasser Mohamed are two of the Yemeni presidents in the south, in addition to Judge Abdurrahman Al-Eryani, who paid closer attention to documents. Currently, President Ali Abdullah Saleh is interested in documents of modern and contemporary Yemen, as well as documents of the Yemeni Revolution.

Q. What are the problems hindering roles of Yemeni historians?

A. The primary problem emerges due to the lack of historic documents in a national center which hamper historians' work. Documents are distributed among personalities, organizations and centers. Consequently, the researcher faces difficulty getting the documents and the lack of indices makes it difficult for the researcher to view what is available in the centers.

Q. Are there any Yemeni personalities who were interested in and contributed greatly to collecting and conserving national documents?



An important Ottoman document related to Yemen

A. Abdullah Ahmad Muhaizer, Ismail Al-Akwa, Ali Ahmad Abu Al-Rijal, Head of the National Center for Documents, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, Head of the Yemeni Center for Researches and Studies are of the

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 18

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

**I sometimes think that
never blows so red
The rose as where some
buried Caesar bled;
That every hyacinth the
garden wears
Dropt in its lap from some
once lovely head.**

personalities who played a significant role in documents reservation.

Q. Have you had a glance at the Yemeni Documents Law?

A. Yes, but the Documents Law No. 20 issued in 1994 needs to be improved to define the document, its age and when it should be transferred from the individual ownership to the State. State officials must be prevented from taking documents from any government archives, as many people take documents and keep them at home after they quit their posts. The official handover of documents stipulates the parties involved to know when documents are secret, which documents are secret, which documents can be handed over and which documents researchers are permitted to view.

Q. There are many audible and visual documents in the Radio & Television libraries in Aden, which are exposed to expiration due to the unwise centralization. So, does Aden University have plans to take part in rescuing and reserving these documents?

A. This is not the university's task. The National Center for Documents and the Media Documentation Center are the parties responsible for documents reservation. Moreover, such problems are not limited to the Radio and Television documents, but there are issues related to justice ministry, State's real estate and civil register documents.

Aden University can help in providing experts and training. After a

Republican Decree was issued for the establishment of the Media Documentation Center, this center since then became the party concerned with pursuing media documentation issues in the media-documentary libraries nationwide.

Q. Can you brief us on the Aden University Historic-Documentary Archive's activities and the areas of documentary cooperation between Aden University and the National Center for Documents during your post as the university rector?

A. There were areas of cooperation and coordination with the National Center for Documents. We were interested in collecting documents and reserving them in the university's Research Center. We have the historic documentary registers of Yemen, which were issued by Britain. We bought these documents and reserved them in Aden University. There were a variety of activities for collecting documents relating to the British Occupation of Aden, as well as cooperation with the National Center for Documents and many other universities.

- Prof. Saleh Ali Bassurrah:**
- Born on January 8- 1958 in Al-Mukalla, Hadramout Province
 - Married and father of three children
 - Worked as a lecturer in Faculty of Education, Aden University in 1976
 - Head, Department of History- Aden University 1987-1993
 - Dean of Scientific Research and Postgraduate Studies 1991-1994
 - Acting Rector of Aden University January- October 1995 and then the university rector.
 - Rector of Sana'a University until February 2006.
 - Currently, Minister of Higher Education.

Yemeni stone grinders

By: Ali M. Mohsen Zaid

Until recently, stone grinders were a fundamental component of Yemeni life used to grind grains, coffee and vegetables. Now they have become part of the past and bygone days.

The type of stone grinders used on the Tihama plains differs from that used in other areas (e.g. mountainous). A typical highlands grain grinder consists of two circular stone pieces. The lower piece is fixed with a raised area in the center. The upper piece has a hole in the middle so it fits into the protruding piece and rotates around it. The upper piece has another hole near its edge in which a thick short stick (qirah) is planted. When grinding, the user grabs the stick and moves it in a circular motion. Thus, the upper stone wheel rotates over the lower one, grinding grains fed into the center hole.

Women were who used to grind grains. The number of stone grinders in a village was limited and depended on its population size and economic level. Women would gather around a stone

grinder and start grinding in turn. Each would take fistfuls from her grain bowl and put them into the hole, then hold the short stick and rotate it in a circular manner. The moving stone crushed the grains between the two wheels. She would continue feeding grain until she finished.

It was customary for women to help each other. Two women together might take hold of and move the short stick to double rotation speed.

The grindstone's rhythmic motion would spark a lyrical atmosphere where women would chant wonderful songs expressing affection, nostalgia, satire, etc. I can still remember some of them like, "Oh beloved, if you are a [real] beloved, stay with me and I will lay down silken mattresses and spray perfume."

On the Tihama plains, stone grinders also consist of two pieces but with a difference. One piece, representing the main part, is thick and rectangular-shaped. The other is cylindrical with thinner ends than the center. Wet grains were set on the rectangular piece's surface and then a woman would roll the cylindrical piece to and fro over the grains crushing them onto the floor.



A woman with a stone grinder in Sana'a.

PHOTO BY FATIMA AL-AJEL

While grinding, Tihama women would voice a refrain called "dan": "anawaydin, wanaydanah, awanaydin." This was accompanied by singing verses of folk poetry such as: "I don't want you, black. You, brown, I am your slave. Take me wherever you like."

Hence, we perceive that some folklore grew amidst misery to alleviate it. Villages and towns are full of such folklore that should be cared for, documented and saved.

Grinding lodge

When the grinding machine was first introduced to a village, its women and children and surrounding villagers were very happy. They would bring grain to the lodge of the grinding machine whose sound echoed through the valleys. Set in a calm village, the machine disturbed the rural environment's tranquility. Whenever villagers heard it begin and saw smoke coming from its exhaust pipe, women and children would shoulder grain sacks and head for the machine. There, they would be received by the grinding machine's flour-dusted operator, who most often was the owner himself and received money or grain in return for

the service he provided. Customers waited patiently for their turns. Proud of the gadget he brought, from time to time the owner would ask children their names, about their families, etc. Due to the deafening sound, communication was difficult, with interlocutors repeating a sentence many times before it was understood.

Coffee and vegetable grinders

Another type of grinding device is the coffee mortar (mohas), resembling a mortar and pestle. It is a hollow in the bottom of a room on the ground floor of a house, usually made in the houses of sheikhs or chiefs. All fellow villagers had the right to come and thrash their coffee. Such houses usually smelled of coffee.

Another very common device is the so-called "mashaqah," a flat stone on which tomatoes, peppers, garlic, etc., are ground using a fist-sized stone. Many households, even in cities, prefer this traditional grinder to an electric mixer because it has its own flavor.

Ali M. Mohsen Zaid is a Yemeni writer and a General Manager in the Parliament

Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basis of the traditional snail-pace growth rate. We need a strong force and zeal to address such grave issues as excessively high population growth rates, rapid depletion of water resources, corruption and mismanagement, etc.

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

OUR
OPINIONBetween donor
pressure and personal
commitment

The latest speech by President Ali Abdullah Saleh was filled with patriotism, determination and dedication. Among the issues he approached was the political will's commitment to national reform. "We don't surrender to international pressure. We launched reform strategies because we want to develop our country, not because we are told to do so," he said on more than one occasion in his enthusiastic speeches.

To be honest, it is totally true - external pressure never brings sustainable or lasting results. Like President Saleh keeps repeating: reform must come from within. Yet, in reviewing the various phases Yemen has undergone politically and development-wise, one wonders why it is only when there is some interest at stake that these reform policies are created and highlighted? For example, whenever aid is reduced or threatened to be cut, or when a donor country delegation is visiting, the Yemeni government rushes into a reform project of one type or another. And when eyebrows raise in exclamation, our president goes full force telling Yemenis that Yemen's leadership is doing this or that because of personal commitment and internal political will.

There is a clear misunderstanding or communication gap between the government and the people. The public learns about reform plans on specific occasions mostly linked to donors' involvement. The official media is not doing much to help either because there is not enough information available. But if the government discloses its reform plans and all its ministries' long-term development plans, then we as media will be able to communicate and judge the progress our country is achieving at all times. Moreover, this way, reform plans will not be alien to Yemenis or linked to donor pressure. And consequently, there will be no need to confirm that Yemen's government is doing so and so of its own will.

All Yemenis have the right to know where their country's resources are spent. Dutch Minister of Planning Ms. Van Ardenne caused me to think deeply when she said, "It is very important to show results to all our taxpayers and our Parliament," referring to her responsibility as Minister of Planning. Yemenis also want to know what happens to their tax money and national resources. Not only that, we also want to have a say in government priorities and budget allocation. It is not enough to show us every now and then that there is a reform program or spin our heads with patriotic speeches about the country's achievements. Good governance means people have a say in decisions and plans affecting their country. This cannot happen unless all related information is provided to the public and especially to the media.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

The way Parliament operates

To what extent does the ruling party bloc in Parliament have the power to make decisions? Weakening the power of Parliament means weakening political life and its alternatives.

The ruling party has no presence in the real sense, which is a fact known to everyone. What is more important is the real assessment of this fact in the pace of consecutive events to know whether something has undergone change. Ruling party MPs knew last Tuesday night that they still are immature and have no right to select representatives, even by decision of those constituting the majority in Parliament.

We do not talk about Sheikh Al-Ahmar and the post of Parliament Speaker, as ruling party MPs quite know their limits. They believe they were able to elect two Parliament board members, abiding by the President's directives concerning reelecting Sheikh Al-Ahmar as Speaker of Parliament.

A type of change restores their hope of having confidence in themselves and being able to make decisions, so they have no better opportunity than this. This is not the budget to enrage the President and it has no relation to gravitation between authority and the opposition, nor is there intervention in issues due to spark confusion in ruling party MPs' allegiance to the ruler.

Ruling party MPs, constituting the majority in Parliament, met and with absolute freedom, elected two MPs, Sakhr Al-Wajih and Mohamed Al-Shadadi, to Parliament's board, in addition to Sheikh Al-Ahmar and Yahya Al-Ra'ee. They elected the two Tuesday night and their credibility vanished with

the ring of mobile phones. The President decided to retain the former Parliament board and its entire staff, an order involving only commitment and obedience.

MP Al-Shadadi was forced to withdraw amid countless telephone calls and embarrassments. For his part, Al-Wajih decided to fill his ears with cotton and obey his colleagues' decisions, botching all the mobile calls, and last Wednesday morning he made a candidacy bid for Parliament's board. He told his Parliament colleagues that if he stopped talking, many irresponsible MPs would open their mouths and merchandize themselves saying: "We told you to take part in the elections. The ballot box will judge between us." He then stood in the elections while irresponsible MPs lost. He won 125 votes, which can be counted metaphorically in favor of his colleague Al-Shadadi. The total number of votes will be counted as a parliamentary bloc, with no distinction made between an opposition MP and another loyal MP.

There are MPs who never attended any Parliament sessions except under instruction on days of voting for the budget and elections. These MPs are with the ruling party and the President. So what's the problem if they selected the above-mentioned two MPs for Parliament's board? Is this a coup against the President and the regime? On the contrary, this was about enhancing their confidence in themselves and pouring an emergency dose for

Parliament's status and public confidence in it.

The presence of a strong ruling party bloc has a uniform decision strengthening Parliament, political life and regime and the President too. The President is advised to reduce the burden on him, rather than collect all the threads in his hand or prove everything via his mobile.

Ruling party MPs are part of a legislative authority that ought to have its own status. No one can argue that they are ruling party members and representatives in Parliament. However, dealing with them as employees makes them only a herd without enthusiasm for the ruler, his party and regime. What kind of democracy or peaceful transfer of power are we talking about if the President never accepts any decision from his party bloc?

How can these MPs discuss corruption files, draft laws and monitoring issues when they open their rounds in this manner? This past year witnessed failure of the propaganda of the ruling party's conferences, as the majority of conference chairmen were appointed by recommendation. Moreover, in Taiz, the ruling party branch conference represented exceptional propaganda. While the move, influenced by pressure from capital officials, proceeded to recommend former branch chairman Sheikh Jaber, Sheikh Sultan Al-Barakani, backed by a great majority, insisted on conducting competitive elections, as they stood behind Al-Himari.

To sum up, the entire image was meant to consolidate democracy and competition. Afterward, many people called Sheikh Sultan "The Rebel," manifesting the ruling party's majority experience, considered a step backward. The days to come will reveal this experience's impacts on the ruling party bloc's performance and Parliament as a whole.

Mustafa Ragih is a Yemeni journalist

COMMON
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Children of Yemen:
Victims of the
present and future

We often think of any regime or social order in terms of what it means to the hard working taxpayers who must dish out a sizeable portion of their incomes to insure that Government can meet the costs of protecting the nation, maintaining law and order and providing basic social services. With the government also controlling all the important natural resources of the society, the job would be considered easy to accomplish thanks to the high income that the government is generating with the price of oil and gas now at a premium. Having said that it goes without saying that as a taxpaying public, we can state categorically that we are not really getting our money's worth, whether from the money that is dished out of our incomes or the money that the government collects from the royalties of our natural resources. Now the tragedy does not end there, but only begins. What is lately becoming certain is that the children of Yemen are truly becoming the worst victims of an incompetent regime that is incapable of providing the most basic of services for the children of the country. We are not just talking about vaccinations or free milk in school to help overcome the problem of stunted growth and other maladies faced by our children. We are talking about the most essential of services, namely the ability to go to school or to play in the streets (since there are so little, if any parks they can go to in their neighborhoods) without having to be threatened by mysterious criminals ready to snatch them away and bring their normal lives to an end (if not their lives altogether). Yes the problem of child kidnapping has reached serious proportions in both the rural and urban areas of the country. The causes vary for this tragic unholy trend that has become a common disturbing matter to all parents, rich and poor and there does not seem to be any genuine effort to get to the root causes of such a serious social and criminal development. Children are being kidnapped for "sale" overseas, for embezzlement of money or extortion for meeting unholy demands by the culprits on the parents of the stolen children, for prostitution purposes. You name it and you can be sure it will fit in the possible reasons for this sad trend on the increase. Even in Sana'a, the City of Peace, children have not been spared the agony of being separated from their parents (temporarily) by Godless criminals, who have lost all heart and sympathy for the cries of a wailing child as he is lifted away from his parent at the point of a gun, or stolen from a standing automobile, while the parent is in a store, or simply picked off the street as he or she is out to buy some candy. Yes these are the sad stories that are beginning to make the major talk of qat sessions and newspaper headlines and yet the issue is not even given any significance by the Government media, which continues to reassure us that we have reached the Seventh Heaven, so we do not have to worry about our children anymore, or anything else for that matter!

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

An open letter to the
Prime Minister of Denmark

Your Excellency, Anders Fogh Rasmussen,
Prime Minister of Denmark,

I have been delegated by my University members of staff and students alike, to express our profound dismay over your government's soft attitude to a newspaper that published cartoons tarnishing the name of our Holy Prophet (PBUH). Your sympathetic stand and your collaboration to this unfounded issue leaves much to be desired.

We wish to draw your attention that these hate promoters were deliberately trying to abuse us, our intelligence and our whole being.

It must be realized that an attempt to defame the name of our Holy Prophet (PBUH) is deemed as an insult to us as individuals and the whole "Nation of Islam". It is astonishing to learn that you as a leader of the government have not isolated yourself from these barbar-

ic acts, but continued to defend your so called values to totally disregard the respect of our Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Nobody would deny that the publishing of these cartoons has caused great offense and concern to the Muslims across the globe.

Let it be known that there is no single law that allows such provocative acts that undoubtedly disregard the name of our Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Thanks to technology, the world has become a small village in which ideas travel from one place to another freely and at instance. Consequently, we are bitterly flabbergasted to see the country that is considered to be the torch bearer of tolerance support that kind of extremism, racism and fanaticism that is self destructive. We believe that it is a duty of all the upright people in Denmark and the world at large to uphold those known good values and uproot evil behavior that will serve us no good purpose since all of us have to

coexist in harmony.

In spite of our anger, outrage and feeling of insult, we still believe that the solution to this problem is through genuine dialogue amongst peace loving nations.

We seriously urge your good government to change its ignorant stand and correct the law punishing those who violated the generally accepted norms of other society.

Let me conclude, that these views are a representative of all those concerned with our governorate and the people of Yemen in general. It is our sincere hope that you will take serious action and re-establish the good picture of Denmark as a country of peace loving people.

Thank you.

I beg to remain,
Your sincerely,

Prof Abdullah Mohammed Baharoon
Rector of Al-Ahagff University
Hadhramaut - Republic of Yemen

Letters to the Editor

The endurance
of religions

Christianity is older than Islam. It has endured division, internal and external criticism, and yes those that mock, and insult it. The real test of any religion is its ability to cope and adapt in the face of forces beyond its control. The Western belief in the freedom of expression is beyond the control of Islam and Christianity. The West is about tolerance even in the face of those that we might disagree. Visit any city in the West and you will find images of God, angels, holy men and women. The Hindu religion is one of a thousand faces of

god.

Rudeness and bad manners is to be found in every society on Earth. I am sure there are Jews that insult the faith of Islam and Muslims that insult Jews and Christians.

In America, your religion is a very private thing. No one cares if you are Hindu or Muslim as long as one does not make it a case at work no one cares. Sure a woman will not go far here with head covering if she works in sales because head covering is not a standard practice with women here and it has nothing to do with being a good or bad Muslim. You simply do not see many women with head

covering in corporate sales. There are Muslim women in covering in the medical and teaching profession, but it will be a long time before one becomes Senator in head covering.

Jack Snyder
jack_snyder25@yahoo.com

Aspirations for Yemen

I would like to thank you on this great Yemeni media news paper I receive this newspaper in the UK it is free because it is a late edition of about a week. I would like to use this opportunity to praise his Excellency president Ali Abdullah Saleh for his contribution to the Yemeni people

and Arab world. The president will be missed considerably when he steps down I hope he can still contribute to government. I am concerned on the future role model of Yemen. I hope he can progress on the president's work. I think Yemenis biggest problems is that there is some regions which are lawless and the big fact that corruption is the biggest problem which affects the poor also Yemenis abroad are mostly put of Yemen from this single main issue. I hope the future of the Yemen times will promote Yemenis abroad and have interviews on the influence of Yemen to its international community and how its Yemen's abroad could promote Yemen. Sport is a big

marketing strategy for a nations promotion I think Yemen needs to advance even though Naseem Hamid is our only known sports figure it is not enough because he was discovered in the UK. The Yemen time should have a sports page to promote future sports stars also when I visited Yemen last year there wasn't enough sports facilities. I think the government and companies should do more for sports and this could benefit them if they promote these companies.

Tourism is a special economic tool I would like to see the Yemen Times advertising a travel page which will give Yemeni's and tourist's a page of bargain packages of travel-

ling to different places in Yemen this could be done by the Yemen Times using hotels and travel companies giving offers also it would help promote business this will increase regional tourism try to get I would like to thank the editor and keep up the good work.

Tariq Alshameri
Birmingham, UK
ar4b23@yahoo.co.uk

US position on the cartoons

It is important for Moslems everywhere to understand the position of the United States on the issue of the cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed (PBOH). Today, the Secretary of State of the United States, with approval

of President Bush, blamed not the European newspapers for publishing the cartoons but instead blamed Moslem countries for reacting to the cartoons. Secretary Rice pointed her finger to Iran and Syria as the evil countries who are to blame for the violence resulting from the cartoons and requested that they be punished. In other words, the United States proposes that Moslem countries and Moslems in general should be punished for reacting to the cartoons.

Obviously it is in the interest of the Christians in the United States to destroy both Syria and Iran. And both Rice and Bush would like to bomb both countries and kill hun-

dreds of thousands as they did in Iraq and Afghanistan. Rice and Bush are both fanatic Christians who live for the destruction of the Moslem religion. As Bush said before he bombed Iraq, "this is a Crusade". So blame not the newspapers who carry the story - blame the United States for promoting further violence by condemning Iran and Syria. Perhaps ten thousand more suicide bombers would make Bush and Rice shut their mouths. And remember this: the majority of citizens in the United States are fully behind Bush and Rice. They enjoy the slaughter of Moslems everywhere.

Robert Lindh
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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

Annas weekly, 20 Feb. 2006.

Main headlines

- Religious scholars confirm that good intention could act as advocacy in case of re-publication of the Danish caricatures, call for stopping instigation
- Americans interrogate officers from the political security
- More killings in Saada confrontations, high voices for stopping bloodshed
- Opposition leaders abroad form government in exile

Writer Mohammed Saif Al-Udaini writes in comment on the recent cabinet reshuffle in Yemen saying we are used to changing persons of the government but not the change of the system and its policy. There is no value in changing persons without changing policies and strategies.

The writer adds that there would not be any improvement as much as the change in persons of the government in response to pressures or for absorption of the people anger.

The people will realize there is an intention of change when certain conditions are applied.

- There must be a genuine establishment for constitutional democratic life exceeding chaotic governance.
- Development and purging the government apparatus and other administrations in compatibility with the logic of the state of law and institutions.
- The priority of the good government duties should be the work for achieving social justice among governorates and bridge the differences between deep poverty and high richness, to plan for avoiding explosion of civil conflicts.
- Determination of allowing civil organizations to be free in conscience, opinion and conduct and to keep them away from domination by institutions of the state.

As-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces Party, 22 Feb. 2006.

Main headlines

- 17 of Al-Qaeda members stand trial in Sana'a
- Rock slide in Rima kills four people
- Five persons died and tens deserted their houses because of sweeping torrents in town of Maabar
- In response to little salaries and unjust

treatment, Workers of Al-Ghuazi factory begin their protest

The newspaper political editor says in his article it is wrong to think that the calmness prevalent on fronts of confrontation between the rebels and army in Saada is ascribed only to appointment of the new governor there. What have preceded that calmness are the painful blows the followers of insurgency have received at the hands of Yemeni army and security forces. In addition to that there was the siege and tightening the grip against the rebels positions with participation of Saada inhabitants and tribes. The rebels, whose strength was weakened have tried to invest the question of appointment of the new governor and stopped their hostilities to suggest that the halt was not out of weakness but rather an expression of satisfaction for the appointment of the new governor.

The most dangerous development is the campaign by the fifth column from followers of the sedition through leaflets, propaganda, rumors and some newspapers, trying to call what is going on in Saada as a war against the Zaidi sect in general and the Hashimate in particular.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization 21 Feb. 2006.

Main headlines

- Army brigades 117 and 127 attack fiercely the citizens in Bajil and Hajjah
- In a measure similar to selling the oil block 53, the government hands over container platforms to a foreign firm
- The security changes kidnapping to disappearance, Taiz women denounce maltreatment of kidnapped girls' families
- Ten marines killed in Aden Gulf

Columnist Ahmed Saeed says unlike the justifications the extremist right in the White House is marketing concerning treatment of detainees in Gantanamo, the report of the United Nations last week came demanding closure of the detention camp because of its violation of a group human rights, such as torture, arbitrary retention and having a just trial.

The report which its announcement coincided with scandals of pictures of torture and violations by the occupation forces in Iraq prisons, has torpedoed all slogans of human rights and freedom the American Bush administration is bragging of. The American arrogance maintained its refusal of closing down detention camps and non-recognition of the rights stipulated in the international charter on political and civil rights although it

is one of the signatory countries.

All indications, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or Gantanamo Bay confirm that the American administration is maintaining its practices of revenge against the prisoners and the peoples who refuse its policies, heedless of any criticism or demand to stop its crimes against humanity.

As-Sahwa weekly, 23 Feb. 2006.

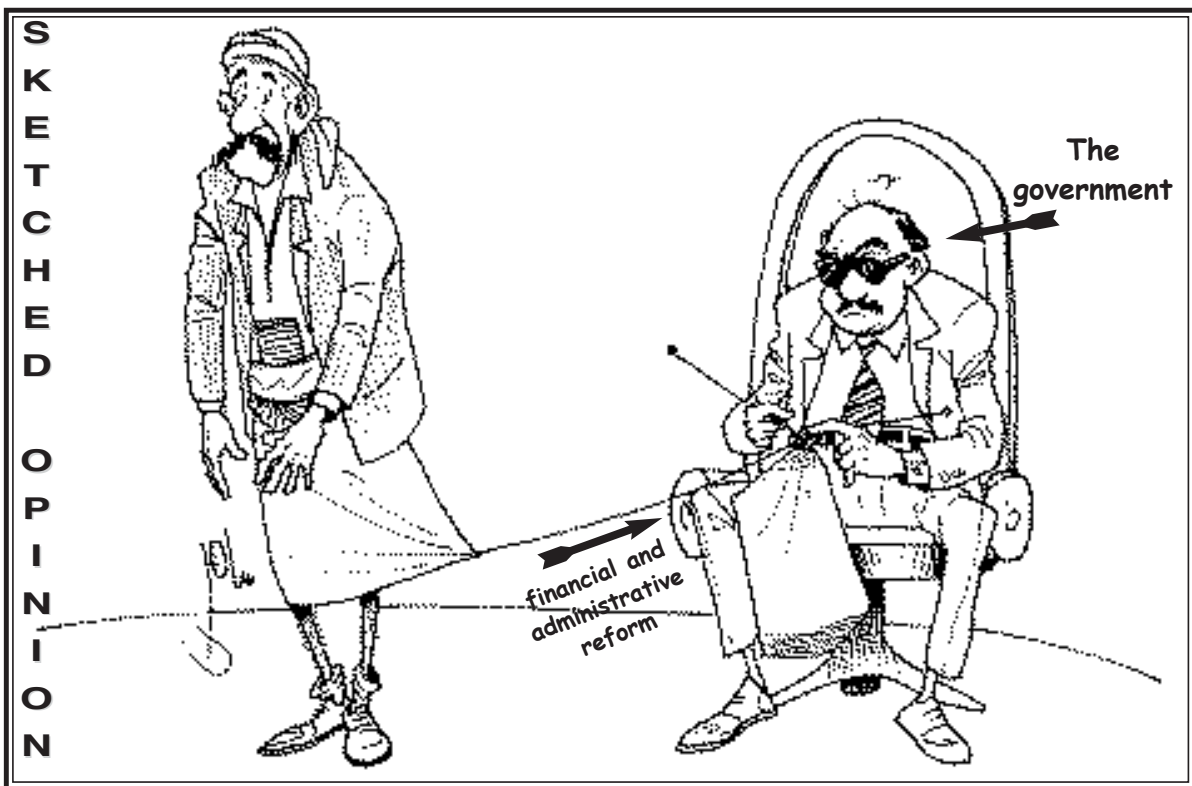
Main headlines

- The American embassy accuses the political security of conniving in the escape of prisoners
- Ex-President Ali Nasser Mohammed: No alternative to reform, it is necessary to remove sequels of '94 and raise the ceiling of dialogue with all
- Parliament fails to form the committees and appraisal of performance
- Holland: Yemen is far from achieving goals of the millennium
- Officials from Somaliland: Arrest of 84 Yemeni fishermen
- MPs: Kidnapping of children did not end
- Teachers Union sue the ministry of education

Columnist Zaid Al-Shami devotes his article to talking on the peaceful demonstration the teachers have recently staged for demanding the application of the wages and salaries law. He said the demonstrations took place in the capital Sana'a and provincial capitals of the governorates of Yemen. The demonstrators walked to the parliament building, the cabinet and the governors headquarters and handed over their letters of demands and returned without any violations. In the following day they returned to their schools to performing their duties.

It was expected that the officials would react positively and consider the teachers legal demands especially that more than six months passed since the law was issued. Instead of that the official reaction came in the form of threats and some education offices announced they would deduct sums of money from teachers salaries and punitive measures will be taken against them.

The writer maintains that teachers are one of the effective segments in the society and the have he rights to obtain what they deserve of care and appreciation to enable them live with dignity.



Ath-Thawri weekly organ of YSP, 23 Feb. 2006.

Main headlines

- YSP Central Committee concludes its meetings, Praised the political reform documents, called for free and decent elections
- The Central Committee calls for removing elements of political disputes and stop war in Saada
- Beginning the trial of 17 of Zaqawi cell in Yemen
- Teachers condemned threats of deductions, describing it as employment terrorism

On the U.S. Secretary of state Condoleezza Rice tour of the Arab region, columnist Hashim Abdulaziz says thought the visit is not the first one but it has occupied a first place in media coverage and political follow-up by both local and international parties. In her present tour of the Middle East Rice is carrying with her many files, beginning from the issue of the Iranian nuclear energy and does not end with a precedence of an American direction refusing the convening of the Arab summit in Sudan in the coming few weeks. There are also the files of developments at the Palestinian Israeli front in the wake of the Palestinian parliamentary elections that changed the political map and ramifications of invasion and occupation of Iraq and the Lebanese Syrian situation. The most eye-catching thing in Rice visit is the attempt of building an alliance against Iran, future of the Middle East settlement and the democratic process in this vital and strategic region of the world.



SILVER LINING
By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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Challenging Yemen's Fall into Somalia Trap!

Recently, President Ali Abdullah Saleh has made a cabinet reshuffle which he described as a need for renewal. Change is always a healthy sign of renovation and breathing a new life into the society. Some people welcomed the cabinet reshuffle, at least for removing the long-aged ministers.

President Saleh said that the cabinet reshuffle has come as an acknowledgment of the need to bring new hot blood into the government and that the donors have nothing to do with that. Then, why after many years we have come to understand the importance of removing the minister of finance from his post.

But, I know that the donors have been fed up with some of the kicked out ministers and described them as "destruction to reform" and any change. The donor countries ambassadors met Saleh and explained to him that they can no longer continue donating money that does not bring about any fruits. The World Bank already did cut some of its annual aid due failure to meet minimum standards of fiscal transparency and efficiency and a lack of improvement to the national investment environment. So, the government change is a response to the international community pressure which recognizes the seriousness of the situation and the importance of keeping the momentum of reform in Yemen.

However, change can not take place by just removing this or that minister who is most of the time an ordinary puppet in the hands of the big guys at the power centers and cronies of the president. The problem does not completely have to do with the ministers. I know that some ministers are competent and are well-qualified and manage to do something. Still, they face a lot of pressure from the big guys. I have met some ministers who have complained the pressure exercised on them by some big influential people, considering them just as employees who should obey their orders and fulfill their requests without discussion.

In other words, change needs a political will and decision as well as a broad public involvement and participation. I know it can not happen overnight but it is a process that takes time. But, there must be a serious start. Of course, there are elements or forces that are happy with the current situation and consider any shake-up is an attack on them and will, therefore, work hard to cripple any steps of change. Who are these people or forces in Yemen? They are the big tribal chiefs as well as the cronies of the president who are refueling the corruption drive in the country. Any real change should start with them, otherwise talking about reform is nonsense and meaningless. I know this is difficult and challenging but it is the only way out to rescue the collapse of the whole system, just like what happened in Somalia. Certainly, this

will require a genuine hard work and commitment.

I have met a number of Western diplomats, journalists and analysts who all share the concern over the future of this country and the urgency of change, demonstrating the fear of Yemen's fall into the trap of Somalia, Afghanistan or Lebanon after 1975. Several international organizations have warned of the collapse of the system unless prompt actions are not taken to address several political and economic issues.

The President has been very critical to the opposition and people calling for reform. He said in his speech at the Youth conference last Wednesday that the exaggeration of those people is meant to split the country, following the example of Somalia and Iraq.

I do not think Mr. President that those people calling for reform, which is now a must, will embroil the country into the tumult of civil war and division. It is rather pervasive corruption, absence of rule of law, tribalism, extremism, lack of development and many other pitfalls we are plagued with that can lead to the trap of Somalia. Real and drastic reform is the only way out and tiny window of hope remaining.

I still remember I wrote in the Yemen Times in September 1999 prior to the first presidential election which we all considered at that time an important for starting a real change and reform. I said exactly the following: "Well, the result of the election is already known that Ali Abdullah Saleh will hit the first place because he is seen by many people as the man of the time and also because he has no real competitor. Therefore, it is time that he launched a radical change and fight against corruption which make him recommend the love of all. I believe this is a time-tested challenge for him. He has a lot of institutions that have to be modernized and mopped up of the crooked and corrupt officials. Fighting against corruption should be his primary concern. He has also to introduce a new life to the perverted and corrupt judicial system. The question of lawlessness and security mess is to be of the vital issues that have to be healed. Above all, the issue of political reconciliation is to be reviewed. These issues in addition to many others are the main headache of the country. Therefore, I do keep my fingers crossed that the president will be able to overcome them all and introduce a radical change into the life of our society. Amine!"

After seven years, we are still burdened with the same challenges. Saleh is the same person, who will surely be the winner in the next presidential election if held in due time in September, to face these challenges. Yemen is completely exhausted and can no longer tolerate the delay of addressing these main concerns and challenges. As I said earlier, we still have a tiny window of hope left. Will this little window be opened up to deter the country from falling into Somalia trap before it is late?!

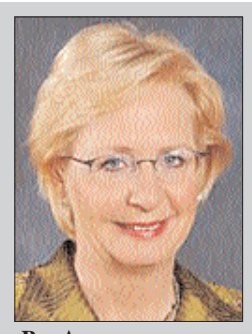
The cartoon crisis: a distorted picture

Freedom has many faces: the freedom to say what you think, but also to believe what you want. Freedom is worth discussing, worth defending - with the written word and with images. And that is what we have seen happening in recent days. However, the prevailing image of a confrontation between the West (as the standard bearer of freedom) and the Islamic world (as the champion of religion) is, in many respects, a distorted one. Due to globalisation we are seeing not a clash of civilisations, but rather a manifestation of the clash between the secular and non-secular worlds. If we look beyond the cartoon controversy for a moment, we can see that these days the secular tendency to ignore or even denigrate religion is leading to alienation instead of reconciliation.

In the first place, the West does not hold a monopoly on the concept of freedom. It was, after all, the birthplace of fascism and communism. Amidst all the verbal, visual and even physical violence of the present crisis, it pays to step back and listen to the wisdom of the past. In 1941, when the cause of freedom was under threat from all sides, Franklin Roosevelt used his State of the Union address to articulate humanity's four basic freedoms: not only freedom of speech, but also freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear. After World War II all countries of the world embraced these four freedoms. Under the inspiring leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, who served as chair of the drafting committee, they were included in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. Today these freedoms have, to a greater or lesser degree, spread all over the world, as witness the winners of this year's Four Freedom Awards, which will be presented this spring in the Dutch

town of Middelburg. The honourees come from all over the world and from all walks of life: Mohammed ElBaradei, the Egyptian head of the IAEA; Mohammed Yunus, a Bengali pioneer in the field of microcredit; Carlos Fuentes, a Mexican writer; Taizé, a French religious community, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the famous Burmese opposition leader.

The exercise of one's freedoms is not an end in itself. Attempts to frame the debate as a matter of principle only are counterproductive, leading to greater conflict and robbing the discussion of its pragmatic dimension. This is a pity, since there are good pragmatic arguments for promoting open societies, certainly in my own field of development cooperation. In our global economy open societies are at an advantage: the free access to information in those countries leads to more innovation and greater productivity, reduces the risks associated with financial transactions, stimulates investment and improves the efficiency of businesses. Statistics show that poor democracies where freedom is generally respected score better than poor autocracies on a wide range of development indicators: 50% fewer children die before the age of five; twice as many children go on to secondary education; average life expectancy is ten years longer; and of the 49 poor countries that suffered through civil wars in the 1990s, 41 were run by despotic regimes of varying degrees of repressiveness. UNDP's *Arab Human Development Reports*, produced by an independent group of Arab intellectuals,



By: Agnes van Ardenne-Van der Hoeven

have successfully and objectively spotlighted the need for greater freedom and better governance in the Arab world: 'If the repressive situation in Arab countries today continues, intensified societal conflict is likely to follow.' This is why the Netherlands is supporting a project in Yemen for training independent journalists. This week I'll be visiting that country, with which the Netherlands has had a successful bilateral development relationship since the 1970s. It is a relationship based on mutual respect. For that reason I will not hesitate to bring up the subject of the four freedoms and the decision to close down a number of newspapers in the wake of the cartoon controversy with the Yemenis I will meet on my trip (including students at the University of Sana'a).

We are duty-bound valiantly to defend freedom of speech from every assault, especially in the form of bricks through embassy windows and death threats to cartoonists. But setting aside the immediate issue of the cartoons, freedom of expression does not relieve us of the responsibility to immerse ourselves in the various cultures and religions of our globalising world.

The problem is that many people who are making the most commotion about freedom of expression are not prepared for this responsibility. All too often, the façade of tolerance masks indifference or even hostility towards other cultures and religions. It is not always said aloud, but religion is sometimes seen as a relic of backward times and places, and inherently dangerous besides. This attitude of fundamentalist secularists is not only regret-

table, it is *itself* inherently dangerous. It is a plain fact that cultures and religions are the principal unifying factors of our time: if the 20th century was an age of ideology, the 21st will be an age of identity. If we do not use those identity-forming factors for peace and prosperity, others will misuse them for war and personal gain. On my many trips to Africa, I have had a chance to see for myself how important religion is in the daily lives of the people there and how more than half of the schools and hospitals are run by religious organisations. We have to remain respectful of this fact - not to win converts but to save lives. Last year a group of religious leaders set an inspiring example at a regional conference in Sana'a by establishing an international network to fight HIV/AIDS. 'The virus should not be seen as a sin but as a problem we must join forces to fight,' said one participant from Sudan.

As the British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has observed, religion is like fire: it can burn people but also warm them. In his book *The Dignity of Difference*, he describes how representatives of all major world religions (including the Archbishop of Canterbury, an imam, a Hindu guru and a chief rabbi) came together at the spot where the World Trade Center was destroyed in 2002. At Ground Zero, for many a metaphor for the clash of civilisations, these people were able to find common ground. It was a rare moment of solidarity in opposition to the awesome human powers of destruction. If we want to keep globalisation from dividing us, we need to mobilise that solidarity. The question of who is 'right' in the cartoon debate should not distract us from this Herculean task.

Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation

**Republic of Yemen
National Water Resource Authority
Announcement**

[Vacancies for individual international consultants]

The National Water Resources Authority has received a support from the state of Netherlands to assist in financing towards the cost of water sector project and intends to apply parts of it for the recruitment of individual international consultants whose terms of reference are given below.

Position Title: Public Awareness Expert, international
Duty Station: Sana'a
Organization: National Water Resources Authority [NWRA]
Duration: 6 months in the first year,
 then 2 times 3 months in the following tow years
Date Required: As soon as possible.

Under the overall supervision of the NWRA Chairman and his Deputy and Sector Head of MIS, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the expert is required to perform the tasks listed below.

Main objective: Review and discuss with the relevant staff of MIS the strengths and a weaknesses of an ongoing and planned public awareness program, suggest a strategy to make this program more effective, including prioritization of various actions. Enable the department to carry out their functions independently and under minimum supervision in the future.

Background of the post: The Public Awareness Department of the National Water Resources Authority [NWRA] is housed under the Monitoring and Implementation Sector [MIS] and is responsible for production and dissemination of national campaign on issues related to water conservation. Presently, the Public Awareness Department is in its early phase of development and is not yet fully functional to perform its tasks.

Therefore, services of an international Public Awareness Expert are required to strengthen the technical capabilities of the public Awareness Department for taking up of a public Information and Awareness program.

The Public Expert [Communication Expert] Shall have an MSc Degree in Sociology of Journalism and Mass Communications and shall have minimum of 15 Years experience of which 10 Years shall be in the field of designing and implementing public information and awareness campaigns in the agriculture and rural sectors with emphasis on soil and water conservation. He shall be fully with the various media broadcasts; audio - visual displays, print media etc. and should be able to create messages through these media for public information and awareness on the participatory management and conservation of groundwater and on the need of not expending the groundwater irrigated areas in Yemen with a view to arrest rapid decline of groundwater aquifer levels. Appropriate stakeholder participation at community level by any undertakings of the expert is required.

A good knowledge of both English and Arabic would be necessary.

The communications Expert's main duties include:

- 1- Develop a comprehensive program and dissemination strategy of TV and Radio messages. In this context, the expert should describe the contents of the messages, pre-test these messages with the target audience, and ensure complete production of these message with the help of existing Public/private productions.
- 2- Provide assistance to NWRA in the production of films on water management issues and prepare TOR for their production, dissemination and publicity.
- 3- Provide assistance in setting-up the production unit is NWRA with necessary equipment facilities to ensure in - house production of up-to-date public awareness messages and Billboards at prominent locations. Moreover, assist NWRA in preparing technical specification for communication equipment, installation and appropriate use.
- 4- Provide an extensive on - the- job training to the staff of the public Awareness Department. Propose a training program for key staff of the Department considering short - term study tours to learn from experiences of other countries preferably Arab Countries.
- 5- Design a procedure for evaluation of awareness campaign impact.

More details of the TORs can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the NWRA Chairman, whose address is given below on or before 10th April 2006.

**Sana'a Republic of Yemen
National Water Resources Authority, NWRA
P.O. Box No. 8944
Tel.: 00967-1-231733
Fax: 00967-1-256926
E-mail: NWRA-HQ@Y.net.ye**

**Republic of Yemen
National Water Resource Authority
Announcement**

[Vacancies for individual international consultants]

The National Water Resources Authority has received a support from the state of Netherlands to assist in financing towards the cost of water sector project and intends to apply parts of it for the recruitment of individual international consultants whose terms of reference are given below.

Position Title: Database Expert
Duty Station: Sana'a
Organization: National Water Resources Authority [NWRA]
Duration: One Year
Date Required: As soon as possible.

Under the overall supervision of the NWRA Chairman and his Deputy and Sector Head of MIS, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the expert is required to perform the tasks listed below.

Duties: The expert is required to perform the following tasks:

- Integrate available applications into one overall system: Coordination of different activities and integration of all modules that have developed over the 1988 and 1999 into one comprehensive system. Attention should be given to required outputs for the regional water management plans.
- Consolidate NWRA's information system towards other programmes and organizations: As part of this activity, local information centers will have to be developed and consolidated under each sub - program, providing hardware, software and technical assistance as required. A mechanism of data exchange with other water sector institutions and projects is to be established.

Duties, continued:

- Evaluate the existing data base system in all aspects and identify gaps together with a local team.
- Identify number of staff to be working in the department, including developing their job-descriptions.
- Identify system requirements for database.
- Merge consolidate and upgrade existing database information.
- Enhance the database design and applications in order to accommodate other than monitoring data, such as domestic, irrigation, industrial water, water pollution and water resources management irrigation, socioeconomic, registration and permits data generated by NWRA or relevant data generate by other agencies. Refine existing output modules for generation of quarterly and annual monitoring reports.
- Disseminate information: To - date dissemination of information technology was mainly centered around NWRA. With the establishment of local information centers under different sub-programs, the expansion of dissemination activities will have to be coordinated and integrated. In addition, new media's such as Internet sites and CD ROM technologies needs to be explored to complement these activities and reach other organizations.
- Assist in the setup of an operational library database.
- Supervise digitization of maps, and further integrate database and GIS software in use.
- Establish in collaboration with the Hydrogeologist linkages between database / GIS systems and water modeling software.
- Train and involve national counterpart staff in all aspects of the information system, e.g. database design, application development, dissemination techniques, and integration of systems.
- Enhance NWRA's computer network [NT Server] towards it's branches and train staff in NT SERVER network administration.
- Prepare documentation on NWRA's information system and computer network.
- Assist staff of the database in preparing working program for the coming years.
- Perform other tasks as required.

Qualifications and Experience: Master Degree in Computer Science or related technical field with significant experience in water resources information systems, at least 10 years of relevant experience. Extensive the oretical knowledge of database management systems, in particular MS Access and object oriented programming languages [Visual Basic and Map Objects]. Knowledge of common GIS software like Arc / View, Atlas*GIS, Arc/Info, ILWIS, Idrisi. Experience with Local Area Network, in particular NT Server 4.0 and familiar with concepts of system analysis and design. Must be fluent in English with excellent report writing capabilities. Experience with UNDP and NEX procedures would also be advantageous.

More details of the TORs can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the NWRA Chairman, whose address is given below on or before 10th April 2006.

**Sana'a Republic of Yemen
National Water Resources Authority, NWRA
P.O. Box No. 8944
Tel.: 00967-1-231733
Fax: 00967-1-256926
E-mail: NWRA-HQ@Y.net.ye**

Yemen need physical therapy

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

It is rare to find someone walking alone in this building. It is very crowded outside the building, but at the same time, it is very quiet, resembling a silent movie where all feelings and motions are illustrated only by face. Expectation, hope, fear and pain altogether can be seen on all faces. The scene becomes clamorous inside the building where conversations, whispers and sometimes cries can be heard.

The building is the artificial limbs and physical therapy center, the only center in Sana'a controlled by the Ministry of Health offering physical therapy to patients with disability, disease or injury.

"The only center I know and send my patients to is the artificial limbs and physical therapy center. This is the only center in Sana'a, and maybe in all of Yemen, that receives thousands of physical therapy patients from various governorates and villages," plastic surgeon Dr. Saleh Al-Aidhani said. The center's physical therapist, Dr. Ahmed Ali Sawal, confirmed this, mentioning that the center daily receives more than 500 patients suffering disabilities or disfigurement due to car or work accidents and needing rehabilitation.

Children arriving at the center suffer meningitis and birth defects, which are common among Yemeni children. "We daily receive dozens of children with birth defect-related diseases such as heart or bone disease," Sawal noted. According to him, women generally suffer bone diseases like Osteoporosis and rheumatism, whereas men mostly are affected by spinal column diseases. Physical therapy also is prescribed for patients with various orthopedic, neurological, vascular and respiratory conditions, which may result from congenital malfunction, inherited dysfunction or disability acquired from disease or trauma.

Center physical therapist Dr. Mohammed Al-Jawfi explained that treatments are designed to achieve and maintain functional rehabilitation, prevent malfunction or deformity, minimize residual physical disability, hasten convalescence and contribute to patients' comfort and well-being.

Patients don't know

Physical therapist Ahmed Al-Mudhwahi said Yemenis still have incomplete knowledge about physical therapy and its function. "Many patients come to me asking for medicinal herbs and oils," he noted. "Yemenis think physical therapy means just massage or giving herbs or medical oil to apply to painful areas," he added.

Al-Mudhwahi confirmed that physical therapy was used in ancient times, as ancient Greeks and Romans wrote about the beneficial effects of sun and water. Also, both exercise and massage were used by ancient Egyptians, Persians, Greeks and Chinese.

He mentioned that most physical procedures employed in modern physical therapy were used in ancient times. For



50% of the center's male patients are victims of gunshots

example, physical therapists may employ one or more of the following treatments: heat treatments using water at various temperatures, infrared and ultraviolet lamps, ultrasonic waves that produce heat internally and diathermy, applying electric current to generate heat in body tissues.

One of the physical therapist's most important tasks is therapeutic exercise in various forms. It is used to increase strength and endurance, improve coordination, improve functional movement for activities of daily living and increase and maintain range of motion. Gait training is conducted with the assistance of canes, crutches, walkers, braces and artificial limbs. Physical therapy also employs massage, bandaging, strapping and applying and removing splints and casts. Physical therapists instruct patients and their relatives in exercise techniques and using prosthetic devices, such as artificial limbs.

Sawal referred to another problem physical therapists may face with patients. "Many patients enter the center asking for therapy without previous diagnosis by specialists. We try to convince them that we cannot offer such therapy without a doctor's instruction. Convincing is so difficult with poor patients who cannot afford to visit a doctor's clinic. Many times I suggested establishing a department where doctors can diagnose patients," he noted.

According to Sawal, doctors and specialist must conduct diagnostic tests, as the center does not contain and diagnostic department. Among diagnostic tests used by physical therapy specialists are manual muscle testing, electrical testing, perceptual and sensory testing and measuring joint range of motion. Functional activity testing also is important to ascertain patients' capability to perform necessary tasks to care for themselves.

Occupational vs. physical therapy

Patients mostly come to the center from distant regions since it is one of the country's few centers controlled by the Ministry of Health and offering free services. "Many patients cannot keep their scheduled sessions because they cannot afford to travel from their village to Sana'a. So many discontinued the sessions and became subject to a relapse in their health," Al-Jawfi explained. "So we mostly teach patients to practice the exercises at home. The center offers

physical and occupational therapy in these cases," he added.

Occupational therapy, sometimes called rehabilitative therapy, uses activities of everyday living to help those with physical or mental disabilities achieve maximum function and independence at home and in the workplace.

Occupational therapy differs from physical therapy in that physical therapy chiefly deals with restoring physical strength, endurance, coordination and range of motion by such means as exercise, massage and cold or heat therapy. Occupational therapy focuses on personal and work activities, both to help those with disabilities find ways to master these activities and use them to continue physical therapy goals.

According to Al-Jawfi, occupational therapy can teach someone with swallowing difficulties how to eat and drink safely, as well as show someone how to use special tools to put on shoes and socks, close zippers and button shirts. Occupational therapy also is widely used with children suffering physical and mental disabilities.

Not for all patients

Ibrahim, 25, was attached to equipment stimulating the nerves in his left arm. "I was shot seven months ago and lost the ability to move my arm. After undergoing two surgeries, my doctor sent me to this center to finish my recovery," he said.

Al-Jawfi confirmed that more than 50 percent of the center's male patients are youths. "These men, mostly living outside Sana'a, are victims of car accidents and gunshots," he said.

Salah, 57, suffered a brain clot two years ago, causing paralysis in his right arm and leg. He has continued visiting the center since then, looking for complete recovery. "I let my son direct the bookshop I own because I lost my ability to move and concentrate. However, I'm better now and I believe I can return if I continue this therapy," he said.

Al-Jawfi confirmed that physical therapy cannot recover all patients. "Those who suffer clots or mental diseases never return to normal as they were. In these cases, our task is to minimize residual physical disability," he explained.

The center cannot receive all patients needing rehabilitation; for example, burn victims who may have lost their movement ability cannot receive proper treat-

ment at the center. "We cannot deal with all burn victims - only those who had surgery and need certain treatment for their skin," Al-Jawfi explained.

Discrimination

There are only 30 nurses and physical therapists at the center, some non-Yemeni. According to Al-Jawfi, the Ministry of Health pays foreign therapists \$500 (about YR 100,000) in salary, whereas Yemeni therapists earn only YR 30,000 (about \$150). "I believe it's better for the Ministry of Health to qualify local therapists rather than bring in foreigners who require qualification themselves," he asserted. "The Ministry of Health brought in people without investigating their abilities, skills or careers. So we trained them before they began working in the center," he confirmed.

It is not only local staff who feel discrimination, as patients also feel a sense of discrimination regarding services. A therapist wishing to remain anonymous confirmed that there is a section containing equipment not open to all patients. "This section is only for those patients related to high-class society." The section contains equipment unavailable in other sections, for example, hydrotherapy pools. "We rarely use these pools due to lack of water, which must be changed constantly. We change the water and prepare these pools only for influential patients in high positions in society," he confirmed.

Official support

Al-Jawfi confirmed that the center contains equipment and machines; however, there is a lack in staff ability to use the equipment. "It is important to find and increase qualified staff to use these medical machines."

"Unfortunately there, is no official attention to or support for this scientific field. The center must be provided with new techniques and staff require constant training. There is something new every day and I'm afraid that if we can't follow progress and new developments in this regard, we won't be able to offer proper treatment to patients," Al-Jawfi warned.

Al-Mudhwahi pointed to the fact that there is no department teaching physical therapy in Yemeni medical colleges. The majority of staff working in this field has nursing certifications and some training courses. Internationally, the minimum degree is a bachelor's, which is a four-year college course combining approximately two years of liberal arts study with two years of professional education, including clinical instruction and experience in providing patient physical therapy.

The Institute of Health graduated 200 physical therapists in 2003; however, the therapists themselves still regard their future as unknown. One such graduate, Al-Mudhwahi, revealed that he and some of his colleges are preparing to announce a physical therapists syndicate. "We believe that if we can organize ourselves, we can enact a program to enhance public awareness of the importance of and the need for physical therapy in Yemen."

Sleeping on the right-Side

Lying down can be on the back, on the abdomen, on the left or right side. Which of these positions is the best for the functioning of the organs?



By: Dr. Mohammad Nezar Al-Deker

When lying on the abdomen, as Dr. Attar says, a person will feel after a while short of breath as the backbones' mass prevents the chest from contracting and then relaxing during inhalation and exhalation. Moreover this position leads to an obligatory bending in the neck vertebrae. The resulting respiratory crisis results in brain and heart fatigue as well.

An Australian researcher noticed the increase in the likelihood of babies' sudden death when they sleep on their stomach compared to those who sleep on one of the sides. It is inimitable that these modern studies agree with what our prophet said as narrated by Abu Huraira (May Allah be pleased with him): "When the prophet (peace be upon him) saw a man lying on his front, he said (Allah and his prophet dislike this position in lying)" (Reported by Al-Tirmidhi)

Another Hadith is the one narrated by Abu Umama (May Allah be pleased with him) he said: "When the Prophet (peace be upon him) passed a man sleeping on his front in the mosque he said: wake up and sit as this is a diabolic sleep"

Lying on the back, on the other hand, causes the respiration to be through the mouth. Dr. Attar sees that the mouth opens up when lying on back as the inferior jaw relaxes.

However, the nose is the one prepared for respiration, as it contains hairs and mucus that act to purify the air entering during inspiration and as it has dense blood vessels that make the entering air warmer. Respiration through the mouth then makes the person prone to colds, especially in the winter, and also to gum dryness and its resulting inflammation. As well as it evokes potential situations of dissemble excess or gumic hugely. So these positions the jaw and uvula oppose the wideness of nose and prevents current of breath.

So snoring will increase. Moreover, in this case, the person wakes up with an abnormal white layer covering his tongue and an undesirable mouth odour.

Sleeping on the left side is not favoured either, as the heart would be then under the pressure of the right lung, the biggest of the two lungs, and this would affect its contraction especially if the person is old. The full stomach which itself is under the pressure of the heaviest organ in the digestive tract, the liver, which delays its emptying, would also impose a pressure on the heart.

A group of experiments done by Galteh and Butseh found that the passage of food from the stomach to the intestines takes from 2.5 to 4.5 hours if a person is sleeping on the right side whereas its takes 5 to 8 hours if he is sleeping on the left side. Thus, sleeping on the right side is the correct position as the left lung is smaller than the right one and the pressure on the heart would therefore be less, the liver would not be suspended, and the stomach would be on it and so emptying its contents would be quicker. Moreover sleeping on the right side is one of the best medical interventions to facilitate the excretion of the mucous secretions of the left respiratory bronchioles.

That is what was said by Dr. Al Rawi who added that the reason for the expansion of the airways in the left lung and not the ones in the right one is that the right lung's bronchioles are laterally positioned to a certain extent, whereas the ones in the left lung are vertical and so it is harder to push the secretions upwards to be excreted. This leads to their accumulation in the inferior segment, leading to the expansion. The symptoms at this stage is excessive phlegm discharge in the morning which may exacerbate and lead to serious illnesses such as lungs' apse and urinary disease, and one of the most modern treatments for those cases is sleeping on the right side.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the "UNDP HIV/AIDS PROJECT"

Post Title: Project Manager
Grade: SC-A

Responsibilities

- Study the broad project work plan and develop detailed 3 monthly activity work plan for operational details of the project to ensure attainment of project targets month by month.
- Participate in evaluation and selection of suitable implementation sites from among the UNDP project sites, and in consultation and sensitization of site partners, local communities and authorities on the project aims and activities.
- Ensure close consultation between the project and the identified partners for the project.
- Attend and keep minutes of regular meeting to coordinate activities of the project with UNDP Programme officer/Associate, HIV/AIDS UNV Specialist, the International consultant and the NAP management and staff, to ensure smooth implementation of the project.
- Provide supervisory and management support to other UNDP project site HIV/AIDS focal Points and national consultants undertaking various assignment in support of the project; and etc.

Qualification and requirements:

- Advance University degree in Public health, Health Administration, Management or Social Sciences, Master degree preferred.
- At least five years of management experience including development project with community participation components.
- Fluency in English and Arabic, both written and oral.
- Computer skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resource Unit and response will only be made short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O. BOX 551 Sana'a / Fax: 448841/E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applicants is Monday, 6 March 2006.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the Project "Community Access Center"

Post Title: National Project Manager
Grade: SC-A

Responsibilities

- Build their own skills and the skills of those supporting them through the use of ICT.
- Improve access and exchange of knowledge about youth development issues.
- Raise awareness across the youth community on the use of ICT.
- Help in the creation of new job opportunities.
- Foster a participatory approach by stakeholders for youth development.
- Enhance networking capacities among youth themselves within the country and with other youth in the region.
- Promote the community access Centers as platforms for discussing development themes of concern to the youth, creating their awareness about the MDGs and hosting related training, etc.

Qualification and requirements:

- Advance University degree in ICT related subjects.
- At least five years of management experience including development project with community participation components.
- Fluency in English and Arabic, both written and oral.
- Computer skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resource Unit and response will only be made short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O. BOX 551 Sana'a / Fax: 448841/E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applicants is Monday, 6 March 2006.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the "UNDP HIV/AIDS PROJECT"

Post Title: Project Accountant
Grade: SC-6

Responsibilities

- Prepare perspective programmed budget based on the approved project work plan, budget review and analysis regularly. Provide support to managers with respect of the elaboration of resource requirements for budget submission.
- Monitor and review the work project and budget by conducting special reviews to assess progress of actual work versus the project work plan.
- Assist to the management in selection of the proper auditors and handle auditors.
- Monitor and supervise the work of subordinate staff as required.
- Initiate correspondence to verify data, answers queries and obtains additional information on accounts and financial transactions as required, and etc.

Qualification and requirements:

- University degree with experience and advance training/courses in one or more of the following disciplines: Finance, accounting or management.
- At least five years of progressively responsible experience in financial aspect.
- Proven track record of excellent management and technical leadership skills.
- Knowledge of International financial Reporting Standards, and knowledge of ATLAS system.
- Computer skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resource Unit and response will only be made short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O. BOX 551 Sana'a / Fax: 448841/E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applicants is Monday, 6 March 2006.



YEMEN TIMES

Editorial Vacancy

The Yemen Times is seeking to hire a native speaker of English (American, British, Australian or Canadian) to work **as full-time editing secretary** with experience in working in media and good coordination skills.

The job description is as follows:

- To coordinate with the editorial coordinator in maintaining the admin and coordination issues of the editorial department
- Follow-up of the issue's plan, timing and availability of materials
- Supervising that the materials set in the pages are according to pre-decided plan
- Copy editing of news especially the front page, or other materials when needed or requested by the managing editor
- Writing articles and reporting about events and participating in the contents of the newspaper regularly
- Plan Supervising the layout and design of the pages including titles and picture captions
- Keep track of attendance sheet and the whereabouts of the editorial staff
- Follow-up of the allocation of journalists to covering events and their reporting process
- To report to the managing editor about issue's progress and any issues concerning staff

If you are interested, send your CV under the title "Editing Secretary" to editor@yementimes.com. Deadline for receiving applications is Friday March 3rd.



SANA'A UNIVERSITY announces (for the second time) an international tender regarding, preparation of the studies and engineering designs for the Faculty of Information, and invites interested consultant companies and offices [residing and outsidng the republic] wishing to participate in this tender to submit their offers, at the following address:

Republic of Yemen - Sana'a university
P.O. Box (1247) Tel. (01464677)
The General Administration for Financial Affairs Wadi Dhahr Road.

Tender documents can be obtained upon submitting a written request to the general secretary, against non-returned amount (200u\$). Bids should be submitted in 2 envelopes (technical + financial) sealed by red wax original + 3 copies and duplicated (in Arabic and English).

A primary security (bid bond) at (2.5%) of total bid value, by payable cheque from a bank recognized in the republic of Yemen or a bank guarantee valid for (120 days) from the envelopes opening date to be attached with the bid.

The date of opening bid (technical envelopes) shall be at 11:00 a.m. on MONDAY, March: 13/2006 in the presence of the bidders or any party representing them.

Job Opportunity

Arabian Yemen Cement Company Limited
Yemeni Nationals
Position based in Mukalla, Hadhramout

The Arabian Yemen Cement Company Limited announces for immediate Full-time job opening within its project in Mukalla, Hadhramout.

• Office Manager

Qualifications:

Graduate in Commerce / Administration from any Recognized University with Post Graduate Degree / Diploma in Public Administration / Finance preferable.

Experience:

15 years experience for post Graduates in the areas of Administration / HR. with exposure to Finance and Accounting System in an Industrial Environment out of which the last 5 years should have been in a Managerial position with independent responsibility for this area of work. Should have good communication skills.

Should be leader and a Team Member to build an organization from a nascent stage.

Should be familiar with the relevant laws and statutory requirements for running an Industrial Organization in the Republic of Yemen.

Should be well conversant in English and Arabic.

Announcement Deadline:

March 15th, 2006.

Arabian Yemen Cement Company Limited
Human Resource Department
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Mukalla, Hadhramout
Republic of Yemen
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Saudi Arabia downs Yemen 4-0

By: Adel Al-Haddad

SANAA, Feb. 26 - Yemen's National Team lost 4-0 to its Saudi counterpart in the opener of the first Asian group that also included Japan and India. Yemen suffered a heavy loss at home, disappointing fans who came from various Yemeni governorates expecting the team to perform well in Asian Cup of Nations qualifiers.

The Yemen side collapsed in the game's final 10 minutes, which

helped Saudi footballers dominate the field. The guests scored an early goal in the first half by Ahmad Al-Sowaileh, who received a ball from striker Yasser Al-Qahtani and easily placed it in Yemen's net.

Despite the visitors' early goal, Yemeni teammates performed well during the first half, which enabled them to obtain five corner kicks, compared to two for Saudi Arabia.

The national team lost three gold opportunities: two by forward Hikri Al-Hubeishi while Bahrain

professional Ali Al-Ono lost the third. The hosts attempted to wage several offenses but could not score due to lack of harmony among teammates and rigidity of Saudi defense hurdles.

Second half collapse

The Yemeni team appeared weary in the second half, giving the guests the opportunity to add three goals in the final 10 minutes. Through a pass from veteran Ahmad Al-Sowaileh, who scored thrice, attacker Mohamed Al-Shilhoub netted the second and within minutes, Al-Sowaileh added the third, prompting Yemeni fans to leave the stadium.

In the game's final minutes, Al-Sowaileh exploited mistakes in Yemen's defense lines to score the fourth goal, ensuring a much-deserved win for his side.

Press conference

Following the game, coaches of both sides held a press conference. In answering a question about the Yemeni team's second half collapse, national coach Ahmad Al-Ra'ee said his side faced difficulties during their preparatory camps, which lasted for only a short period of time.

I think Yemeni footballers performed well in the first half, but they couldn't utilize any of the



Saudi fans came to Yemen to support their national team.

PHOTO BY: FOUAD AL-HARAZI



Yemen suffered a heavy loss at home disappointing thousands fans PHOTO BY: FOUAD AL-HARAZI

recurrent opportunities. Lack of fitness was the primary reason behind the team's collapse, Al-

Ra'ee added.

Saudi team coach Marcos Paqueta of Brazil talked about his side's

superiority, attributing their win to repeated mistakes and gaps among Yemen's halfbacks and fullbacks.

India to host Yemen in March 1 qualifying match

NEW DELHI, Mar. 1 - India will host Yemen's National Football team March 1 at the Jawahar Stadium for a 2006 Asian Cup qualifying match.

According to a Delhi Soccer Association press release, the Delhi Soccer Association, under the aegis of the All-India Football Federation, will host the Asian Football Confederation qualifying match between Yemen and India. The Asian Football Confederation nominated four Iranian officials to supervise the match.

India, which is in Group A, lost its first qualifying match against Japan while Saudi Arabia, the other team in the group, beat Yemen 4-0 Wednesday in Sana'a.

The top two teams in the pool will make it to the Asian Cup, to be jointly hosted by Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam next year.



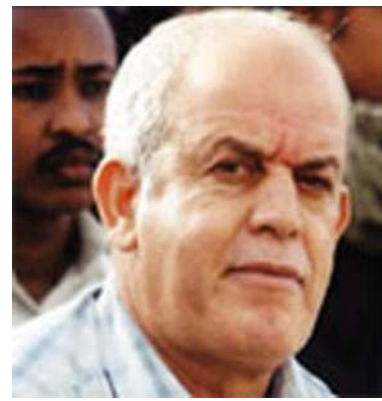
Yemeni national football team

Algerian coach Sadan departs during critical parts

The Algerian Coach Rabeh Sadan left Yemen a few days ago handing responsibility of the team to his local assistant Ahmad Al-Ra'ee. Sadan complained of the fierce media campaign launched against him by some local newspapers, saying it has influenced his performance coaching the national team in the Asian Cup of Nations (ACN) qualifiers.

He stated earlier to Al-Thawrah Al-Riyadhiya newspaper that he has no information about the team's participation in the qualifiers for the ACN, which started on Wednesday Feb. 22. Sadan attributed the mysterious fate of the team to the recurrent changes in the Yemeni Football Federation's (YFF) board.

He confirmed that he presented his coaching program to the YFF's temporary committee covering the preparation of the team to take part in the 16th Arabian Gulf Championship, which is scheduled for January-February in the UAE. The program does not include any information about the team's participation in ACN quali-



Coach Rabeh Sadan

fiers.

In his statement, he pointed out that he will meet members of the YFF's temporary committee to discuss his program concerning external participations of the team, particularly in the Asian Cup of Nations ACN qualifiers. A football fan Ali Al-Asimi told the Yemen Times that the YFF's temporary committee and the Ministry of Youth and Sports are blamed for the exacer-

bating situation of football in Yemen.

Ibrahim Saedi, the YFF's temporary committee chairman stated that Raheh Sadan gave up his task of coaching the team and left the country without informing anyone. He affirmed to Saba News Agency that the committee rendered all the facilities for supporting the national team in the days to come.

Saedi pointed out the legal procedures taken by the committee are reflected in presenting the contract with the Coach Sadan to legal experts for discussion. The former YFF under Ahmad Al-Esi, renewed the contract with the Algerian Coach Rabeh Sadan for one more year in return for 100,000 a monthly salary plus other allowances. The contract with the Algerian Coach is due to expire in July this year.

Yemen is mated with Saudi Arabia, Japan and India, one of the strong teams in Asian continent. Some sport lovers expressed sorrow as Algerian Coach Rabeh Sadan left the team in a critical time.



VACANCY PRSP Project Officer "Based in Sana'a"

Oxfam's office in Yemen is a part of the regional office of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Common Independent States (MEEECIS). Oxfam is implementing the following Programmes in Yemen:

- Community-based Primary Health Care Program
- Promoting Pro-poor and Engendered Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) Implementation and Monitoring
- Legal Protection and Advocacy Programme
- Integrated Action on Poverty and Early Marriage
- Humanitarian Preparedness Programme.

Oxfam GB in Yemen is looking for a dynamic and experienced Project officer to support civil society in policy engagement and monitoring, planning and budgeting but also promote partnership between civil society and government. S/he will also build capacity of partners specifically in networking.

The project officer will have proven experience of working with development organisation at local level with an understanding of poverty and gender equity issues. You must have degree in social sciences or related discipline with the ability to analyse and document related civil society and poverty issues. Communication skills both written and Oral in Arabic and English is essential as well as the ability to work with others as part of the team. Knowledge of computer skills, willingness to travel and eagerness to learn about organisational and financial procedures will be an added advantage.

If you think you can meet these expectations, you can mail to: habbas@oxfam.org.uk

or

Send a copy of your CV latest 4th March 2006 to: The Country Programme Manager, Oxfam GB Yemen P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen or Fax No: 01 445 650.

Women are encouraged to apply

continued from page 1

The court also heard lawyers' defense of their clients. Lawyer for suspect Sami Al-Shabi presented a defense of his client's illegal accusation, demanding Al-Shabi's acquittal and release. However, suspect Badredeen Hussein's lawyer asked for an extra chance to prepare his reply to Prosecution's verdict.

The court ordered the attorney to quickly visit and inspect suspects' detention sites, which are to take necessary measures to guarantee them appropriate feeding and healthy situations. Their families also are to be allowed to visit them. The court decided that Prosecution will present its reply at the next Sunday session.

Security forces arrested the 10 suspects May 11 in the Shomila area of Sana'a. The government accused them of planning to target Western interests and military and security personnel.

Trial begins of 17 suspects who targeted Americans in Yemen

Amid strict security measures, on Feb. 22, the First Instance State Security Court began trying 17 suspects accused of forming an armed band to plan and carry out terrorist operations targeting foreigners in Yemen, as well as Yemeni officials.

Prosecution accused the 17 Yemeni and Saudi nationals of forming the band during 2002 and 2003. They are accused of engaging in criminal actions to kill Americans and Yemenis in retaliation for the killing of Abu Ali Al-Harithi, Al-Qaeda leader in Yemen. Al-Harithi was killed by an American plane in Marib in the U.S. campaign against terror. He was the prime suspect in planning the 2002

USS Cole attack in Aden.

Prosecution accused suspects of providing weapons, explosives and electrical circuits for remote detonation, as well as forging identity cards and passports.

Prosecution recited suspects' names, confirming that Ali Abdullah al-Harithi, nicknamed Abu Ali Al-Harithi junior, was the cell's leader. Prosecution also said investigation minutes confirmed that the first suspect formed the cell as revenge for Abu Ali Al-Harithi's killing. al-Harithi is accused of dividing up roles, purchasing weapons, renting houses, making plans and identifying the whereabouts of Americans and Yemeni agents cooperating with the US in order to kidnap them.

Prosecution mentioned that the Yemeni cell facilitated some of the Saudi suspects' entry into Yemen to commit subversive operations by providing them fake Yemeni documents.

Prosecution also noted that money, computers, weapons and anti-armor missiles were seized in the rented houses. It continued, saying that suspect Amar Abdullah Mohamed al-Adil (Abu Asim) traveled to Syria on a forged passport. When he returned to Sana'a, he obtained a fake identity card with a different name. He brought back with him electrical circuits and a CD containing programs explaining how to make explosive belts.

Prosecution also reviewed entry details of non-Yemenis from evidence minutes, as well as coordination details between the groups. It revealed that targeting of Americans was to be carried out at some sites, including the Aden Sheraton Hotel. At the conclusion of evidence recitation, Prosecution asserted that such plans

will make Yemen a field for terrorist operations, endangering the community's security and damaging Yemen's relations with targeted countries, and asked the court to punish suspects as severely as possible.

The court asked suspects to respond to the accusations. They denied forming an armed band to carry out detonations and assassinations inside Yemen, saying their imprisonment and trial for forming an armed band were based on fabricated accusations due to their involvement in jihad in Iraq. Cell leader al-Harithi said all accusations were fabricated by political security (intelligence).

He confessed to handing over the electrical circuits, which Prosecution alleged it seized with him, to the political security head on his own. He said the circuits were with him because contesters of President George W. Bush in U.S. elections said he would strike Yemen and Saudi Arabia if he won the election. Al-Harithi decided to face the Americans, saying, "I was in Iraq then. My aim was to be inside Yemen if they attacked my country to defend it. But following the end of U.S. elections and Bush's success, I handed over the circuits to the security leader."

Some suspects complained of poor prison conditions, saying they are being imprisoned in underground cells and do not see the sun. Some said they were beaten. Suspect Ali Al-Kurdi, an electrical engineer, said he was beaten until he fainted and severely tortured more than once. Al-Kurdi said he has been on a hunger strike for several days.

Some suspects admitted that they trained youths in 2003. Some of whom fought in Iraq.

Suspects rejected the accusation of coordinating with Jordanian Abu Musab al-Qarqawi, saying that al-Qarqawi did not send them to Yemen to revenge Al-Harithi's killing. Some confessed to entering Yemen, following jihad in Iraq, with fake names to avoid arrest by security forces. Yet some suspects, including Muhsin Mubarak, said they came to Yemen for treatment after being injured in Iraq.

Suspect Mosa'ad Mohamed Ahmed Al-Barbari, a finalist engineering student at Halab College, said the accusation was fabricated and demanded he be transferred to Central Prison. Saudi suspect Mohamed Saeed al-Arshy requested humane treatment, saying the only accusation against him is that he intended traveling to Iraq and was punished for his intention.

The court session included local and international media presence, among whom were media representatives from the Guardian and the American New York Times. Suspect Mohamed al-Qahtani requested Al-Qahtani Channel photograph him so his mother could see him because his family does not know where he is.

At the end of the session, Judge Mohamed Al-Ba'adani decided that Wednesday's session will be to display seized items and Prosecution evidence. He directed prison authorities to implement prison regulations to the letter and feed suspects in a proper manner. Tenth suspect Ahmed Hisham was allowed to see a doctor and all suspects were allowed to contact their families. The judge also decided to give a copy of Prosecution's verdict to suspects' lawyer.



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The Big Ben in Aden

When the British were in Aden, they constructed a symbol of home in the city: The Big Ben. Despite difficulties through the years, the big clock is still ticking.

By: Nazih Abdullah

During the span of its worldwide colonization, the British government built a number of monuments in each country it occupied. One example stands in the province of Aden, namely in the Al-Tawahi district. The district that is famous for its sublime scenery, clear blue sea and huge mountains. At the modern port and with the mountains overlooking the sea, this district had the privilege of having a Big Ben erect in it. A four-faced clock that is smaller, but resembling that of London.

The clock stands on a small hill that overlooks the harbor in the Western Bay known as Steamer Point, another reminder of the British presence in Aden. According to historical sources, this clock was built during 1870-90. The face of the clock is one meter in diameter, and the Big Ben of Aden measures some eight meters in height. Inside the clock there is an iron staircase which leads to the uppermost part of the clock structure. This old monu-



The clock at Al-Tawahi district, Aden

ment used to be self-motivated, running by means of a pendulum and ring at every 60 minutes, as it is the case with the London's Big Ben. It also has lights that go on at night, so that it can be seen from far away. Apparently

when it was built, the crews of ships that were harbored at the port could tell the time by looking at it.

Stopped at 10:20 a.m.
The British monument has had diffi-

culties throughout the decades. Since the time of its built in the late 1800s, the clock was working fine until the early 1960s, when it broke down. It was fixed again by Yemeni engineers during the 1980s, and continued to show the time to the people of Aden, until the bloody events of January 13, 1986, when Aden got caught in the civil war. On that day, the motion of the clock was put to an end at exactly 10:20 a.m.

Following the Yemeni Reunification in 1990, the clock in Al-Tawahi was mended in collaboration with the British. On October 29 in 2002, the company of John Meat sent over modern parts for the clock along with a young British engineer called Stewart Morphine. He spent one week fixing the old clock. In conjunction with the staff of the local Public Works and Roads office, he refurbished some of the old parts of the clock and reconnected it to the power supply.

This recent operation means that the current specifications of the clock are different from the previous ones. Now, it is energized by electricity and, when there are power outages, it has a spare 12-volt battery that works automatically.

For the last three years, the clock has been working well. It has recovered its former status as an actively present historic landmark of the city of Aden. What seems to disturb the clock nowadays is the random construction in its vicinity which sadly deprives viewers at certain locations from telling time by the face of the Al-Tawahi Big Ben.

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Education

A free monthly supplement provided by Yemen Times and presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

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Improve Your English 287

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (85)
Welcome Home

Welcoming a member of the family home after a period of separation is an extremely happy experience.

The family reunion ushers in an atmosphere of mirth and jollity.

- You're welcome home. To let you know that you were missed a lot and now that you're back, you're welcomed with love and tender thoughts.
- Welcome home. We all cherish your presence and want you to know that even though we have been apart, you have always held a special place in our heart. Welcome back.
- Welcoming you with much gladness in every way. A warm and cordial welcome!

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- What you would like to drink?
- I asked Abdu how was he getting to Mahweet?
- Have not you finished your homework yet?
- Haven't you got nobody to help you?
- I've forgotten my watch. Which time do you make it?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- I did some research into problems of learning English by Yemeni learners.
- I'm afraid I made a mistake in the calculation.
- The house collapsed during the storm.
- (Somebody) remembered Yahya leaving the house at about 6 P.M.
- It was decided that Dr. Ismail would/should chair the meeting.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Praise highly in speech or writing.
- State of pleasant excitement.
- Bringing about easy and painless death.
- Find a way of not doing something.
- Find out the amount or value of something.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- The inner nature or most important quality of a thing: **essence** (n)
- Have a higher opinion of: **esteem** (vt)
- River mouth into which the tide flows: **estuary** (n)
- Time without end: **eternity** (n)
- Rules for formal relations or behavior among people: **etiquette** (n)

(B) Words often confused

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

- cemetery, symmetry
- ample, ampoule
- dominate, domineer
- repellent, repulsive
- flier, flyer

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- earthly** (adj) (of this world, not of heaven): Don't boast of earthly possessions. These are temporary.
ethereal (adj) (of unearthly delicacy): Everyone is charmed by her ethereal beauty.
- ethic** (n) (system of moral principles): One must follow the social ethic.
ethnic (adj) (the races of mankind): Africans living here are an ethnic minority.
- ethnography** (n) (scientific description of the races of mankind): Ethnography forms a part of Anthropology.
ethnology (n) (science of the races of mankind): An ethnologist investigates the ethnology of human races.
- depository** (n) (a person with whom something is deposited): I left my valuables in the custody of a trusted depository.
depository (n) (a place of storage, store house): Bank is a safe depository for your money and jewelry.
- male** (adj) (used when referring to the sex of a person): She gave birth to a male child.
masculine (adj) (used in grammar to show the gender. Also it indicates the manly qualities of men): His masculine physique makes him popular among women.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

- prodigious**
a. enormous
b. extravagant
c. persistent
d. powerful
- quench**
a. to extinguish
b. to kindle
c. to make silent
d. to saturate
- quintessence**
a. over-fussiness
b. good taste
c. purest part
d. vanity
- quash**
a. to suppress
b. to slacken
c. to press into pulp
d. to splinter
- banal**
a. hostile
b. common place
c. forbidden
d. genial

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. debonair | pleasing and gracious |
| 2. tantalize | to tease |
| 3. topography | physical features of a region |
| 4. temporal | worldly |
| 5. wrought | made or fashioned |

(ii) Antonyms

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

- impair**
a. strengthen
b. injure
c. repair
d. spread
- vacillation**
a. withdrawal
b. reasonable
c. determination
d. confusion
- infuse**
a. enforce
b. extract
c. enrich
d. ignore
- innocuous**
a. innocent
b. harmful
c. definite
d. homeless
- vainglorious**
a. glorified
b. modest
c. vain
d. empty

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. copious | dearth |
| 2. restive | relaxed |
| 3. puerility | maturity |
| 4. harmony | dissonance |
| 5. divulge | conceal |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelled word

- a. chronology
b. chronnology
c. cronology
d. kronology
- a. kronicle
b. chronikle
c. chronicle
d. chronical
- a. commissioner
b. commisioner
c. comissioner
d. commitioner
- a. chauffer
b. chauffeur
c. chaufeuira
d. chauffere
- a. commemorate
b. commemorate
c. comemorate
d. comemorate

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- beneficial
- correlative
- cemetery
- commitment
- chemically

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- under someone's very nose
- do one's stuff
- let one's hair down
- have a soft spot for
- green about the gills

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- abide by** (to accept and obey a decision, rule, agreement, etc.): I'm determined to abide by the regulations of the university.
- put one's weight behind** (use one's position, influence, power, etc.): The Minister put his weight behind to get the project sanctioned.
- in lieu of** (in stead of): The vice captain led the team in lieu of the captain.
- break the bank** (to leave someone without the money): Khurshid wanted to buy a new house,

but very soon realized that doing so would break the bank.

- have something on the brain** (to be unable to forget something): Majeed talks of nothing but exam, because he has only exam on the brain.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

The sentences below each describes a situation. Think of a suitable request or command that you might make in each situation.

- Your neighbor in the class has scribbled in your text book and you don't want him/her to do it again.
- It is the first day of your holidays and you hope your parents will not wake you up early.
- Your friend is getting ready to go out. If he/she is going to the library you want him/her to take your book back too.
- You can't do your homework because your sister is playing the radio in the next room.
- You are listening to an interesting lecture. The person sitting next to you (a stranger) is distracting you with stupid questions.
- You are inviting some friends for your birthday party. One of your friends expresses his inability to attend due to a prior commitment.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

A) trunk

- The trunk of the oak was rough. (The main stem of a tree)
- He put the trunk on the train. (A box used to carry clothes)
- The elephant picked up peanuts with his trunk. (Part of an elephant)

B) bark

- He peeled some bark to make a rope. (Part of a tree)
- He heard a loud bark across the sea. (Cry of a dog)
- He saw the bark on the sea. (A sailing boat)

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

105: PATIENCE AND FORBEARANCE CAN OVERCOME MOUNTAINS

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

104: THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD

'The hand that rocks the cradle' symbolizes the mother and points to the immensely valuable role of the mother in shaping the character of a child, ensuring the full blossoming of his inner potential. As a result of the nurture of the mother the child of yesteryears establishes himself as an unenviable leader on all spheres of human endeavor. As a small seed grows up into a huge tree as a result of the gardener's care, the latent talent of the child unfolds itself by the soothing upbringing of the tender hands of the mother. As the child's first teacher, she prepares the child for the school of life and equips him to face the challenges in life. It is the lessons the child has imbibed from his mother that stands him in good stead in hard times and, often, places him on top of the world as a leader of the masses. The mother thus becomes the first role model for the child in the impressionable period of his childhood, determining the course of his future development. So directly or indirectly, the shaping spirit of the mother and her protective care enable the child to march confidently on the highway of life. Lives of great men bear an eloquent testimony to the profound impact of their mothers on their lives which led them to make their own lives sublime and leave behind them footprints on the sands of time.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"It is He Who maketh the stars (as beacons) for you, that ye may guide yourselves, with their help, through the dark spaces of land and sea."
S6:A97

VI. Food for Thought

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you are, your reputation is merely what others think you are.

—John Wooden

Poetry Corner

Today is yours

(Dedicated for the girl child)



Prof. Manorama Mohapatra

I see you moving in the cosmic movie
Like a ray of hope;
Daughter of determination that you are
None can deprive you
Of your right today;
From within your bosom
Shall blossom a movement
Pervading the continents.

Your role everywhere
In politics or in science
In literature or in literacy
In society or in culture
In peace or in crisis
Speaks of your capability
In a changing world.
As one more millennium
Has reached its end
Millions watch you
Expanding and emancipating
And shaking the stagnation,
The future of humanity
Is linked with your present;
The past is buried
Along with its nightmares
Of oppression and suppression.
Today is yours —
You who embody a new idiom,
A new expression.

Manorama Mohapatra is a front-ranking poet of the modern Oriya literature. She is the Editor of *The Samaj*, the largest circulated daily of Orissa, a governorate on the east coast of India. She has been decorated with many prestigious national and international honors for her literary output as well as for her dedicated efforts for and signal contribution to the promotion of journalism in India.

Campus Clippings

Writing competition at University of Science and Technology, Sana'a



Dr. Dawood, President of UST, Head, English Department, Dr. Fatima, Dean for the Women's Branch and Asma Al-Bushary, a winner, at the function.

A writing competition was organized by the department of English, University of Science and Technology, Sana'a (women's branch) in association with British Council Learning Zone. Students from all levels took part in the competition and best essays were acknowledged with prizes and certificates of appreciation. The winners were Ms Najwa Baider ('University Life') from Level Four, Hanan Al-Shibami ('Uses and Abuses of TV') from Level Three, Asma Abdulmalik ('My Mom') from Level Two, and Magda Abdulaziz ('Why Do We Learn English?') from Level One. While distributing the prizes, Dr Dawood, President of the



Distinguished guests on the podium.



Dr. Dawood presenting the award to Najwa Baider, one of the winners, as the Head, English Department looks on.

ELT Panorama

Teacher Development Groups:
What are they?

Dr S Mohanraj
Professor of English
Faculty of Education
Taiz University

There is an age old saying which states: "God helps those who help themselves." To substantiate this I would like to narrate a well known folktale.

Once upon a time there lived a rich farmer called Ahmed. He had plenty of land and cattle. He worked hard and raised a good harvest every season. As years passed by, he grew old and could not put in as much work as he could in his younger days. He had to depend on others for help.

One particular year, the rains were in plenty, and the corn grew in abundance in his fields. One evening he stood near his fields, looked at the earth's bountiful gift and said, "Tomorrow I will ask my friends in the village to come and help me. We will together harvest the crops."

Amidst the crops a little sparrow had built her nest. She had laid eggs and hatched them. The nestlings heard what the farmer said. As soon as the mother got back to the nest, the frightened chicks told her what they had heard. The mother said, "Don't worry, the farmer will not harvest the crops tomorrow."

The next day Ahmed went to his fields and waited for his friends. Soon it was noon, then evening and the sun set. No friend ever turned up. Ahmed got angry and said, "I will invite all my relatives in the village to help me harvest the crop tomorrow." Once again, the chicks heard this and were more frightened.

When the mother sparrow returned to her nest, the chicks said, "Mother, please take us to a safe place. We will move away from here. Ahmed is taking help of his relatives. Surely, he will cut the crops tomorrow." Mother sparrow said, "Don't worry, Ahmed will not cut the crops tomorrow."

The next day Ahmed waited for his relatives to come and help but without any success. Getting tired of waiting for them till the sun set he said, "Tomorrow I will cut the crops myself." Once again the chicks heard him.

When the mother sparrow got back to her nest, she asked the chicks what Ahmed had said. The chicks reported that Ahmed wanted to cut the crops himself the next day. The mother said, "It is time we move out now. Ahmed will cut the crops tomorrow. We will build a new nest on the tree tomorrow." And true to his word, Ahmed cut the crops the next day.

The moral of the story is obvious and I need not reiterate it for you. But what is the connection between this

story and Teacher Development?

Teachers form a major body of employed working force in any country. Unfortunately, they are considered as part of the non-productive sector and hence most governments neglect providing them with facilities to improve themselves. The concept of in-service teacher training (INSET) is hardly popular among the developing nations – and Yemen is no exception. As teachers we cannot blame the government either, for a nation has its own priorities – and there is a need to look into more pressing problems such as people's welfare, health, agriculture, industry, transport, defence and other areas. In the absence of a system support, it is necessary for teachers to get together in an informal way and help each other to develop themselves. Forming small groups (with no political affiliations) to help mutually is the primary objective of Teacher Development Group – TDG for short.

TDG as a concept is popular in many developed countries like Australia, Britain, India, Mexico, Singapore, Switzerland, the USA, . . . and the list can go on. So, why not in Yemen!!!

How to Start a TDG

a. First and foremost we need a few young and energetic volunteers. Some of the qualities these volunteers should have can be enumerated as follows. They should be:

- popular and have many reliable friends with good public relations (PR Qualities)
- able to speak fluently and persuasively.
- energetic enough to move from place to place and organize meetings
- be able to write notices, letters etc without getting tired.
- able to maintain a diary and records

In short we need a few youngsters (young at heart) with adequate leadership qualities.

b. To begin with, a few friends (with qualities mentioned in 'a') could get together and think of a venue, date and time for meeting regularly. They should also think of the possible members who could join them and modes of contacting them – personally, telephonically, through letters or e-mail. For this purpose they need to collect the contact details of potential members.

c. Having made a list of the possible members, a convenient date should be fixed for a common initial meeting when the objectives of the Group can be shared with all the members. Membership should be voluntary and not coerced. (e.g. I will become a member if you also become a member!)

d. There is no minimum number required to start a TDG. It can begin with as low a membership as 3 or 4. (The normal strength of teachers teaching English in a school or a college.) Nor is there any prescription of the level at which one should be teaching. Any one who is a teacher

from the elementary level to the university level can become a member of the TDG. However, it would be preferable if all the members of the TDG belong to one discipline or subject they teach e.g. teachers of English, or Mathematics, or Geography etc. This would facilitate organizing focussed discussion and better participation by all members.

e. One of the primary pre-requisites among the members is a strong urge to share their work, experience and problems in the belief that such sharing will enrich them. In order to do so the members should possess a positive attitude to criticism and comments they receive about their own work. This would lead to true development.

f. Most meetings and gatherings of TDG would have a round table structure. This means there would be no hierarchy. However, for the sake of convenience and monitoring discussions, one of the members could assume the role of a chairperson. There could be different members to chair each session of the meeting.

Logistics for Starting a TDG

Someone with a strong urge to start the TDG should take the initiative and meet a few colleagues either from the same organization or other schools and colleges in the vicinity and fix a date, time and venue for the meeting. This could even begin as informal meetings over a cup of tea/coffee in the college/school canteen or the faculty room, or perhaps a friend's house.

The initial few meetings could be used to break the ice discussing professional problems each one has. In order to give a shape to these discussions some one could take the initiative to present a paper delineating how he/she could solve a problem – or report on action research – or even a unique experience. Such paper presentations would help others to become introspective and make similar presentations.

Nature of Work TDGs can undertake

Besides meeting regularly and presenting papers TDG meetings could help in updating knowledge. It is possible for some members to read the recent literature available in their subjects and make a presentation on their reading. Such sharing of knowledge enhances knowledge of the whole group. (Truly money shared dwindles, and knowledge shared doubles.)

It is quite difficult to sustain paper presentations for a long time. When there is no presentation forthcoming during a particular meeting, TDGs should not defer their meetings. They should continue to meet and perhaps have a casual chat which could throw up a few new ideas hitherto not thought of. Alternatively, TDGs can invite some one to give a talk based on a relevant topic. There can be a wide range of topics to choose from for such lectures – Psychology, General Principles of Teaching, School Management, Classroom Management, Promoting Interaction, Using Chalkboard effectively, Technology in Teaching etc.

These inputs will lead to teacher development.

TDGs can pool money in small sums and subscribe to journals and periodicals for professional development. TDGs could also publish newsletters and exchange them with newsletters from other TDGs. Alternatively, a few TDGs could get together and publish a common newsletter. [IATEFL a leading ELT group in Britain affiliates TDGs and provides hefty discounts to its members to attend their annual conference. Besides this TDGs can subscribe the IATEFL Newsletter and other publications at a subsidized rate.]

TDGs can encourage members to take up small research projects and help the members publish their findings in the newsletters. Several teachers are on the look out for a platform to publish their ideas and innovations. Creating such a platform gives a boost to the teacher's self-esteem and natural motivates him/her to become a better teacher. Besides this, such publications might get discovered by some keen reader and receive due recognition in course of time.

Finding Resources

Every organization, however modest, will need some money to function. Resources have always been a problem, and particularly so with teachers organizations. It may not be difficult to find some resources if we look around ourselves. One way of raising funds could be through nominal subscriptions. The school can provide a room and some stationery to the TDG where it is housed. Fortunately our society still has some patrons who can fund good work and the member could scout around to locate such people and seek help to raise the seed-money. There are also industries which underwrite to the expenses of small bodies like TDGs in the form of social obligations and social advertisements. The expenses of a TDG are limited to organizing meetings, duplicating notices, buying files and other items of stationery. Initially meeting these small expenses may seem formidable, but with recognition of good work, support will be forthcoming.

Networking

TDGs should grow, but they should not be allowed to become too large. To prescribe an ideal number would be rather difficult- though 20 to 25 may seem to be most suitable for a single TDG. This number will facilitate easy communication among the members and also make it easy to organize a meeting. When the number grows beyond this it would be better to have a new TDG and develop networking. Several TDGs can build a network and organize common meetings periodically for greater sharing of information. It may not be out of place to say that such networking exists at the international level also. IATEFL is one classic example. There is another large network that exists in Mexico called M2M (Many to Many) with Ms Rita M Diu as its coordinator.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

A letter to the teachers of English: 106 Conversation skills (6) Ibrahim at a bookshop



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Shopkeeper: Can I help you?

Ibrahim: No, thanks. I want to go round the shop.

Shopkeeper: Can you tell me what exactly you want?

Ibrahim: I don't want anything particularly. If anything interests me, I'll buy it.

Shopkeeper: OK. Call me if you want anything, will you?

Ibrahim: Can I see some good pens, if you have?

Shopkeeper: (a little hurt) Oh yes. We have very good pens. Over there in that shelf.

Ibrahim: Can you take the black one over there?

Shopkeeper: It is a parker pen. A bit expensive but a very good one.

Ibrahim: Do you think I can't

afford it?

Shopkeeper: Oh, No. I didn't mean it that way. I hope you are a bit angry.

Ibrahim: So what? Show me the next one, will you?

Shopkeeper: It is a shepherd, also from England.

Ibrahim: An expensive one perhaps?

Shopkeeper: More than the parker.

Ibrahim: Aren't there less expensive pens in your shop?

Shopkeeper: Yes. This shelf, please. Most of them are inexpensive.

Ibrahim: Give me one of them.

Shopkeeper: This is 150 riyals, this is 100 riyals and this is...

Ibrahim: Ok. I'll take two of this.

Shopkeeper: 300 riyals, please.

You could have noticed that Ibrahim has not been polite in his conversation, though the other participant tries to be polite. This makes the conversation break or fail.

Activity: Which expressions of Ibrahim are not so polite? Imagine a similar situation and prepare a conversation for practicing in your class. Good luck.

Make your speech meaningful and lovable.

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

With the growth of TDGs it is possible to identify interests of individual members and form small groups within the TDG. These groups could be recognized as Special Interest Groups or SIG for short. Special Interest Groups can pursue some focused research study and help other members. Possible areas for informal research could be to think of innovative classroom practices, developing supplementary materials, designing need based remedial courses, or helping disadvantaged learners. Projects undertaken by SIGs can have far reaching consequences both at the local and regional levels. The reason for this is simple – though we are working in different places, the problems we face have many similarities.

Conclusion

The total work put in by TDG aims at Teacher Development. Teacher Development necessarily involves providing in-service teacher training and updating information or the knowledge base. The various activities mentioned in the previous sections accomplish both these purposes in an informal way. Today Teacher Development is seen as the top rung of the hierarchy, other rungs being teacher training and teacher education. Initially, teacher training takes care of developing Skills which belongs to the affective domain or is a product of the Behavioural School. The term 'Teacher education' is a product of the cognitive domain and aims at providing Knowledge. This happens primarily through reading and comprehension which involves thinking and generalization. Teacher Development focuses on developing

proper Attitudes. The aim of teacher development is captured in the form of an acronym

ASK A for Attitudes; **S** for Skills; and **K** for Knowledge.

TDGs can successfully achieve all these for there are no official pressures in the work carried out by TDGs. It is simply 'Teacher help Teacher'. If we do this, wouldn't God help us?

READERS' FORUM

Dear Dr. Sahu,
Your efforts will not be forgotten at all. If I have had any success in my efforts to learn and use English, it relates to your significant encouragement. My very warm thanks for you.

Abdulkareem Al-Awage
Ibb

QUESTIONS BOX

Any guesses?

1. What is a 'hand-me-down'?
2. What is meant by 'some one's take on somebody'?
3. What is the difference between:
 - a. You must get married
 - b. You ought to get married
4. What is the difference between 'client' and 'customer'?
5. What is 'circumlocution'?

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. Of the following minerals, which one is named as 'fool's gold' because its yellow color often confuses gold prospectors

- Pyrite
- Galena
- Fluorite
- Silica

2. The large intestine of humans is infested by certain beneficial bacteria which synthesize:

- Vitamine A
- Vitamine B complex
- Vitamine K
- Vitamine C

3. If a tall and red flower plant is crossed to a dwarf and white flower individual, the phenotypic ratio in the F1 progeny will be:

- 3:1
- 9:3:3:1
- 1:1:1:1
- 1:2:1

4. Of the following which other factor is a major cause for degradation of forest besides indiscriminate grazing?

- Forest fires
- Pollution
- Soil erosion
- Increasing global temperature

5. What does the abbreviation HMT stand for?

ELT Tips

Speaking English fluently (Part 2)

By: Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

Fluency means an uninterrupted flow of language. When you speak a language with a flow without your speech getting broken in the middle, you can be called fluent in that language.

In order to be fluent you need to understand the theme of your talk clearly and have the ability to translate your ideas into idea-units. Idea-units are a

potential springboard to ensure fluency in speech.

You can multiply your idea-units to generate a good amount of speech. And to multiply your idea-units efficiently, you need new words and word-groups. By substituting these instead of word or word groups already used, your speech can get a new flavor.

Generally when we speak, we speak about a person, place, thing, or an event. In other words, a part of idea-units contains a naming word which is called the

Naming part. In the next part of the sentence we describe something about the person or place or thing which is called the Descriptive part.

In order to have a good stock of alternatives that can come in the paradigms of Naming part or Descriptive part, you need to acquire several action frames or word-groups, which are commonly used while we speak. For this you have to be an avid reader in English and a regular listener to English programs on the electronic media. While you read text mate-

rials in English or listen to English news or features, practise and develop an alert attention to the ways in which the naming part and the descriptive parts are organized. Such a habit would contribute to develop your language sense and enrich your language faculty in the brain which would lead to fluency in speech.

To sum up, select a Naming frame and try and generate numerous idea-units. Conjugation of different Naming Frames with different Action Frames is the key to speech generation.

Introduction to study skills in English - I



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Knowledge is vast. Learners are at the threshold of this wide and exciting world of knowledge. They should learn to enter it with a sense of exploration and enthusiasm. Exploring the world of knowledge through books and other sources should be an enjoyable experience and not a daunting task. How do we make it so? In this article I will discuss what makes learning a difficult task and how to turn it into a pleasurable experience.

In the first place, we should develop a positive attitude towards learning and set our goals clearly. All of us like to be achievers and not losers. We should have 'learning' as our long term goal and not have the short term goal of 'examination'. Once we work towards the long term goal the short goal will take care of itself. An achiever sets up goals and systematically works towards it. 'Systematic' is the first word we should remember. Anything that follows a system makes it more efficient. We should develop a skill to study in a systematic way. We can call this 'study skills'. What are study skills?

Before discussing let us understand how we get information in any subject and what are the sources of knowledge. The main sources of information for a learner are: a) books, and b) classroom lectures, and c) the world at large. Learners have to internalize the information provided by these sources in the most efficient way in order to retain and retrieve it when necessary.

While in school learners mostly depend on reading the textbooks and listen to teachers explaining the contents of the textbooks. When they graduate to college, their horizon of knowledge is expected to expand. They are expected to take down notes while professors lecture in the classroom. They are also expected to seek information from various other sources and read more than one book for any given subject and assimilate the information presented in them. This requires

efficient ways of reading. They need to organize this information and present it in their assignments, examinations and projects.

Unfortunately learners in colleges don't receive enough training in these basic skills and are made to receive dense information in a short time. The sense of insecurity thus gives rise to diffidence and makes them take recourse to 'memorization' without proper comprehension. Such cramming makes the knowledge received short lived and haphazard. What is required is not learning long texts by rote, but developing an ability to take down notes in the classroom. For, certainly the professor's lectures contain more details than what is given as 'handouts'. Interestingly, though reading, summarizing, writing paragraphs, information transfer skills are included in the syllabus in the first two years in the college, these skills remain confined to the specific papers only and are not extended to use in general learning programme.

Studying efficiently includes seeking information from dictionaries, encyclopedias, thesauruses, and web-directories on one hand, and efficient ways of taking notes and summarizing on the other. The first set of skills can be called reference skills while the second is called study skills.

Dictionary skills are the first of the basic reference skills. We have various types and sizes of dictionaries like bilingual dictionaries, monolingual dictionaries, dictionaries of abbreviations, dictionaries of quotations, biographical dictionaries, dictionaries of idioms and phrases, dictionaries of technical terms and other specialized dictionaries. To add to the list we have the Reverse Dictionary. The first dictionary in English was compiled by Dr Samuel Johnson in 1755 A.D. After seventy years later in 1828 Noah Webster compiled a dictionary of American English. Both scholars living on two sides of the Atlantic had worked on similar projects independently. Over the years the dictionary has undergone several phases and changes and now it has evolved as a virtual knowledge house of language.

In school the learners are encouraged to use bilingual dictionary as the primary objective at that stage is to learn meanings of words. But when one graduates into college one should use a monolingual dictionary. We can use a dictionary for improving vocabulary, not only for meaning of words, but also for pronunciation, spelling, grammar, use and usage as well. Latest editions of Cambridge International Dictionary of English (CIDE), Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (OALD) and

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) have also come up with small workbooks to practise language. A good dictionary can be a very faithful helpmate for a second language learner of English. It can help the learner to pronounce words correctly. Sometimes the spelling of the word does not help us pronounce the word correctly. For example the word 'penchant' is not pronounced as pen-chant but as 'pa-shan'. A printed dictionary gives phonetic transcription and the stress on the right syllable. Now almost all publishers of dictionaries have come out with CDs. As far as pronunciation is concerned these act as virtual language laboratories helping the learner with models of British and American pronunciation of each word. It also helps in giving practice in pronunciation as well as exercises in vocabulary and grammar for practising language.

A thesaurus is another excellent source for improving vocabulary. It helps us to choose the right word to be used in the right place. While in the dictionary words are arranged alphabetically, in a thesaurus we have to use the index at the back and refer back to the lexicon to learn all the synonyms and antonyms of the words. In thesaurus words and phrases with similar meanings are grouped together. This is called a lexicon. If we are not sure of the appropriate use of a particular word in a particular context and want to choose from a number of words and phrases with similar meanings we can use a thesaurus. It helps the learners develop a penchant for words. One of the most ancient and best Thesauruses to date is Roget's Thesaurus.

The encyclopedia gives us a very comprehensive information on any subject. It is a book or set of books containing many articles which give us a large number of facts about many different subjects may it be about an author, a topic or a place or an event in history. It is therefore a set of volumes and the topics are alphabetically arranged. Each volume is numbered according to the letter with which the first entry begins and ends with the first letter of the last entry. There are several encyclopedias, Encyclopedia Britannica, Chambers Encyclopedia, Everyman's Encyclopedia, The World Book Encyclopedia to name a few. Each of them has an index to help us get the information we need. There are also useful compendiums (ready reference books) like Book of Facts.

The present generation is lucky in the sense that they can have a world of knowledge at the click of a button. The Internet can offer information on

any subject under the sun. But one should know how to get this information without wasting a lot of web time. Web Directories with names of all the websites are available now. A Web Directory provides addresses and catalogues, and also summarizes information available on the web pages. It may also tell us which are the most frequented/popular sites on the Internet. It organizes web sites into subject categories giving the cyber surfer at-a-glance browsing. For example we know that there are more than 400 dictionaries in more than 130 languages available online. Point the browser to Bucknell University Web Online Dictionary website <http://www.bucknell.edu/rbeard/diction.html/>. From this site we can access thesauruses and other vocabulary aids including phrases and quotation dictionaries on specific topics.

All these books mentioned here are placed in the Reference Section of the library. That means these books are not normally issued home and are meant to be referred in the library only. This brings us to the question of how to locate books in the library. Every library uses the internationally accepted mode of classifying the books called the Dewey Decimal Classification. The numbering begins with 000 and ends with 999. According to this books are classified into 10 categories, and a group of numbers are given to each category. For example books pertaining to 'General Works' like libraries, journalism, dictionaries, encyclopedias etc. can be located in the numbers between 000 and 099. Though the learners need not know how books are classified, they need to know how to locate books on the shelf using catalogue cards. All the particulars of the book like the title, author, publisher, accession number etc. are written on the catalogue cards. There are three types of such cards. Cards which are arranged as per subject are called 'subject index' and cards arranged as per the authors are 'author index' cards. Cards are also arranged according to the titles of books and are called 'title index'. Knowledge of these cards helps the learner locate a relevant book in a huge library without wasting time. These days most of the libraries are automated, i.e. the information about the books placed in the library and their availability are computerized. We can locate the books with the help of the computer placed at the counter. Even here, we can go by the author subject or title of the book.

In this part of my article I have discussed some basic aspects of reference skills. In the next part I will discuss study skills per se.

Arnold's poetry and the modern world



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How is a full and enjoyable life to be lived in the modern industrial society? This was the recurrent theme in the poetry of Matthew Arnold, one of the leading poets of the Victorian age. The question looms large over his poetry. Arnold's mode of posing such questions may not always satisfy us, his answers may sometimes be simply wrong. But what is less excusable as he himself said of Ruskin, is that he could not only be wrong but also dogmatic when he was wrong. On the whole, however, his writings have fared well with posterity. "The misapprehensiveness of his age is exactly what a poet is sent to remedy", wrote Browning (1812-1889). Oddly enough it is to Arnold's work rather than to Browning's that the statement seems more appropriate. And its applicability to Arnold has persisted from Victorian times to ours in part because the "misapprehensiveness" has also persisted. Of all the Victorian writers, as F.R. Leavis has said, it is Arnold who, because of the peculiar quality of his intelligence and the peculiar nature of his relation to his time, requires a special study in a way no others will.

Arnold has defined poetry as the criticism of life under the conditions fixed for such a criticism by the laws of poetic truth and poetic beauty. This definition has brought a lot of criticism to Arnold. But the definition is appropriate to its terms. By the way, what do we criticize? We criticize irrationality, deterioration, degeneration and decline of moral values of human beings. And the pace of degradation is fast enough in modern times. So, poetry will be required to uphold and safeguard such values in times to come. And that is why Arnold has said that the future of poetry is immense.

In his essay on Wordsworth, Arnold says: "Poetry at bottom is a criticism of life". Lest there be any confusion or ambiguity Arnold himself made it crystal clear "Criticism Of Life" as "the noble and profound application of ideas to life". Poetry, to Arnold, is not for mere amusement and entertainment. It is, therefore, an essentially moral approach to life as a whole. It must conform to the ideals of truth and beauty.

There are critics who have found fault with Arnold's definition of poetry and pointed out that poetry is no mere criticism of life but an idealized reconstruction of life too. Arnold is, in fact, Aristotelian in his approach to poetry, for Aristotle maintains that poetry is an imitation of life and by that he means that poetry is an idealized re-construction of life. Moral edification as the supreme objective of poetry has thus been candidly emphasized upon. The poet, the dramatist, and the novelist by creating ideal pictures of life, provide an ideal standard with which the facts of real life can be contrasted.

Edward Caird says, "Literature is a criticism of life exactly in the sense that a good man is a criticism of a bad one". Middleton Murry is of the view that poetry is a criticism of life, just as the beautiful is a criticism of the ugly and it will ever remain so in modern life.

Oliver Elton says that 'criticism of life' implies something that would enlighten spiritually and inspire us for

the business of living in the life to come up. The life that we live is dull and drab, colorless and monotonous. Poetry casts a glow upon life and heightens it in all probabilities. Poets always seek to idealize life. That explains why Shelley's Skylark ceases to be a bird of just flesh and blood, born to die. It becomes a symbol of ecstasy that knows no bond, no change or decay. The Nightingale of Keats is a big portrait of the bird that stands for unattainable beauty. Life is crude, raw and often vulgar and immoral in modern world. And it does undergo a sea change in the hands of a poet. More candles are burnt every night on the pages of poetry than in all the temples, mosques and churches of the world. He makes it a thing of beauty and joy forever. But beauty must be added to moral ideas, for these moral ideas coupled with beauty will make modern life worth living. So, the question, how to live, is itself a moral idea; and it is the question that interests every modern man and with which, in some way or the other, he is perpetually preoccupied. A larger sense is, of course, to be given to the term 'moral'. Whatever bears upon the question, 'how to live', comes under it.



Matthew Arnold (1822 - 1888). wakerobin.org

"Nor live thy life, nor hate; but thou liv'st,
Live well, how long or short, permit to heaven."

In the above lines Milton speaks of, as everyone sane at once senses, a moral idea. When Shakespeare says, "We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep", he strikingly presents a moral idea. Therefore, Arnold says: "A poetry of revolt against moral ideas, is a poetry of revolt against life; a poetry of indifference towards moral ideas is a poetry of indifference towards life". Thus, the point is, the modern life which is devoid of moral base has to be reformed through the right application of moral poetic ideas.

Like Browning, Matthew Arnold could never say, "God's in His Heaven and all is well with the world".

We find our age as barren and sterile. Today, the world is materially advanced, but the common masses are spiritually and morally degenerated and degraded. Poetry and culture can alone deliver the desired goods. Poetry would teach us how to live. Poetry always refers the actual to the ideal and illustrates the one by the other. Therefore, the world may materially advance and develop, but the need for poetry will always be there till the world survives.

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Review

ERA-ART: Symbol of youth energy

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

Sana'a University students have embarked upon an appreciable venture to bring out ERA-ART, a color bilingual, 12-page quarterly magazine by the students and for the students. It has been basically designed to "enkindle our minds, motivations, and preconceptions to have a deeper look at the world that lies beyond our perceptions and feel the beauty of it" as well as to make it "the chance box of revelation, innovation, amusement, prosperity, ascendancy, and usefulness."

The magazine is anchored by a dedicated and committed editorial team comprising Hashim Nedhal, Editor-in-Chief; Dr. Amr al-Haidary, Editing Director; Jalal M. Al-Kotabri, Press Secretary; Faiz al-Haj, Mithaq A. al-Aghbari, Thamer M. al-Bater, Editors; Hamdan Nedhal, in charge of graphics and designing as well as Mohammed al-Mat-



tari who looks after web designing.

ERA-ART (issue No. 5, December 2005) embodies a delicious range of essays, poems, language points which make the issue extremely readable. It would certainly enrich and enliven the minds of its readers.

We wish the young magazine a long and glorious track record.

Some useful tips to improve your personality



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Either at home or outside, every body wants to impress others through their personality. To improve your self-esteem and personality and to leave an indelible impression on others, here are some tips.

1. Don't leave everything to fate

One's self-confidence and self-esteem, is most important. March ahead with the events in your life with a robust optimism. Don't leave everything to your fate. Be a man of action.

2. Talk openly

Try patiently and consistently what you want to achieve in your life. Express your feelings freely, otherwise you'll feel suffocated, worried and may consequently lose your self confidence.

3. Express your view points clearly

In every trying situations don't be tense or angry. Listen to the opposite parties' views with patience and express your views candidly and confidently.

4. One who tries to please everybody pleases none

When one suppresses one's own genuine hopes and desires for the sake of others interests, one can't be happy always. At times there arises such situations in our lives when we can't decide what is wrong and what is right. Be true to yourself and learn saying 'no' as and when needed.

5. Evaluate failure

Don't always blame your fate for failures. Try to know the root cause of failure and improve upon them. Give your best services to your family and society and see to it that your wellbeing is not jeopardized.

Many obstacles may come in your way to success, but don't stop trying to achieve your goal. Evaluate your pluses and minuses and improve upon them. Don't create stories for your failure and instead confront the challenges before you.

6. Try one at a time

Last but not the least, don't do any task hastily. Take one step at a time and accomplish it well. Put your best into it and then think about the next step.

Take care of your personal hygiene



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One of the most effective ways we have to protect ourselves and others from illness is good personal hygiene. This means washing your hands, especially, but also your body. It means being careful not to cough or sneeze on others, cleaning things that you touch if you are unwell, putting items such as tissues (that may have germs) into a bin, and using protection (like gloves or condoms) when you might be at risk of catching an infection. Personal hygiene, such as bathing, is very much dependent on the culture in which you live. In some cultures, it is expected that you will wash your body at least every day and use deodorants to stop body smells. Other cultures have different expectations.

Body odor

Body smells are caused by a number of factors working in combination, including:

- Chemicals in sweat, including pheromones, which are made by the body and sexually attract (or repel) other people.
- Wastes excreted through the skin, such as metabolized alcohol.
- The actions of bacteria that live on the skin and feed on dead skin cells and sweat.
- Unwashed clothes, such as underwear and socks.

Hand washing

Most infections, especially colds and gastroenteritis, are caught when we put our unwashed hands, which have germs on them, to our mouth. Some infections are caught when other people's dirty hands touch the food we eat. Hands and wrists should be washed with clean soap and water, using a brush if your fingernails are dirty. Dry your hands with something clean, such as paper towels or hot air dryers. You should always wash your hands:

- After using the toilet
- Before making or eating food
- After handling dogs or other animals
- If you have been around someone who is coughing or has a cold.

Personal hygiene for women

The vagina is able to clean itself so special care is needed, other than wash-

ing the external genitals. Do not put anything like douches into the vagina, as the delicate skin can be damaged. Here are some personal hygiene suggestions for women:

- Menstruation - wash your body, including your genital area, in the same way as you always do. Change tampons and sanitary napkins regularly, at least four to five times a day. Always wash your hands before and after handling a tampon or pad.
- Cystitis - is an infection of the bladder. This is a common condition for sexually active young women. Urinating after sexual intercourse can help to flush out any bacteria that may be in the urethra and bladder.
- Thrush - some soaps and detergents can irritate the skin of the vagina, and make thrush infections more likely. Some people find that they often get thrush when they use antibiotics. Use mild soap and unperfumed toilet paper. Avoid tight, synthetic underwear. Try cotton underwear, and change regularly. There is medical treatment for thrush, so talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Personal hygiene for men

A build-up of secretions called smegma can form under the foreskin of uncircumcised men. If you are uncircumcised, gently pull back the foreskin when you have a shower and clean with water. You can use soap if you like, but make sure you rinse it off well.

Bad breath

Good dental hygiene includes regular brushing and flossing. Bad breath can be caused by diseases of the teeth, gums and mouth, such as infections. Most people have bad breath first thing in the morning because saliva is not made while you're asleep. Some foods that can cause bad breath include garlic and onion. Mouth washes, mouth sprays and flavoured chewing gum can make your breath smell better for a while, but if you have a health problem in your mouth, you need to see your dentist.

Travelling hygiene

When travelling overseas, take special care if you're not sure whether the water is safe. Suggestions include:

- Drink only bottled water.
- Don't use tap water to clean your teeth.
- When you wash your hands, make sure they are totally dry before you touch any food.
- Don't wash fruit or vegetables in unsafe water.
- If you have no other water source, make sure the water is boiled before you drink it by holding it at a rolling boil for one minute.
- Make sure any dishes, cups or other utensils are totally dry after they are washed.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- Dentist

Things to remember

Good personal hygiene is one of the most effective ways to protect ourselves and others from many illnesses, such as gastroenteritis.

Wash your hands regularly, especially before preparing or eating food and after going to the toilet.

Teacher Education (1)

The 'what' and 'why' of Teacher Education

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

Teaching is a complex, though fascinating, many-sided activity which is variable with circumstances. It has a definite character. It requires an optimal degree of personal and professional competence to be an efficient teacher who, not merely "doles out" information but induces the right kind of motivation in the learners and creates an appropriate classroom ecology conducive to learning. Whether teaching is a derived or indigenous form of behavior having its own structure and amenable to study and improvement in its own right is open to debate.

Teaching is both an art and a science. Good teachers are born as well as made. This brings to focus the saliency of teacher preparation programs. As such, there can be no second opinion about an abiding need for a special program to sensitize the pupil-teachers (those aspiring to be teachers) or teacher-pupils (the practicing teachers who want to update their knowledge and skill further) about the latest techniques of the teaching technology.

The former has traditionally been known as Pre-Service Training (PRE-SET) and the latter as In-Service Training (INSET).

To be continued

Building language proficiency



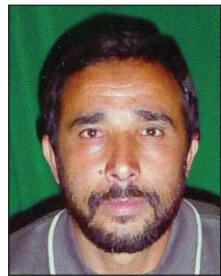
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Building proficiency in any language is a question of creating a continuous, sequential, cumulative, and standard based language program. Here, the key elements are usually inspiring and empowering your students, collaborating with teachers, setting and achieving goals, evaluating your students and program, and outlining the curriculum, units, and lessons. One of the major challenges faced by any language instructor while carrying out above pursuits is inspiring the students to love the process of learning the target language. It's also a Herculean task to empower the learners with confidence in their ability to communicate in the target language. A major drawback also crops up here in the form of the amount of time spent

in working with the target language. How can we expect to achieve any sort of proficiency unless and until enough contact hours are produced? Here I do not mean to say that increasing your contact period with the target language by various means is leaving one's own language, heritage, and culture. Here locally or culturally relevant content based teaching program is likely to play a vital role in striking the balance and motivating the students for language learning.

We keep on crying foul about not achieving the expected results and blame it on any factor we find convenient. This leads us to nowhere and we seriously need to look into the factors which can facilitate the process of second/foreign/other language learning in a real sense.

Teaching reading to beginners



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simple plan for teaching reading for the new learners. It can be divided into three phases.

First, we can give the new learners 4-6 letters in their two cases - lower case and upper case - focusing on their correct pronunciation. When we finish this stage by finishing the letters of alphabet, we can start explaining the use of cluster letters such as **ch** as in **chair**, **ph**, **gh** as in **phone** and **rough** and **th** as in **earth** and **this**, **sh** as in **she**. We can extend that to the letters influenced by neighboring letters as **c** when it is followed by **[e-i-y]** as in **rice**, **cinema** and **pharmacy** etc. Letter **w** is not uttered when followed by **r** as in **write** and **gh** when it is preceded by **i** and followed **t** as in **night**, **right**.

Students can learn these through prac-

tice. Similarly, the letter **k** when it is followed by **n** is silent as in **know** and the letter **h** as in **he**.

The third stage is connecting letters together to form whole words. We have to carefully articulate letters when we read them to our new learners. For example, **a** has many pronunciations and so is the case with some other letters. We must focus on how to read because it is the first step for getting any information in future. So the new learner cannot make any progress without being able to read.

There are also the grammar and the vocabulary. They can be dealt with step by step by giving some new words in each period. The same can be done for tenses or the other rules in English. All this exercise will contribute to the language competency of the learner.

I am not an expert in Methodology of teaching English, but an English teacher who has some practical experience of teaching this language. Here I suggest a

YOUTH FORUM

My long cherished dream

If I have a magical key in my hands,
If my magical key gives me what I need
I will use it to change the whole world of sins and sinners.

But if my magical key gave me a new world it would be better,
A new world with new masses,
Those with biggest hearts and greatest WISDOM.

Masses whether with or without wealth are in a pool of suffering,
Wealth doesn't give everything but it is sought after,
If I have a magical key in my hands,
I will make the masses wear white-glasses,
To see everything pure, clear, and sublime.

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If I have a magical key in my hands,
I will make the masses healthy
wealthy and wise,

Youth and their future outlook

Most young people now-a-days are pessimistic about their future. However, a few of them are optimistic because although there are many problems in the world, they believe science will find a solution to most, if not all, of them. The pessimists see a world which is getting more and more crowded. Life in big cities, in their perception, will become more and more difficult in foreseeable future. Moreover, even if people prosecute higher studies at the university, they are not sure they will be able to find a job after the completion of their studies. Another worry is the environment. By the year 2050, the population of the world will have increased so much that there will be serious ecological problems. The pessimists say we will fight the next war for water, not for

petrol.
On the other hand, the optimists argue that in the past mankind has managed to cope with all kinds of problems like diseases and poverty. Therefore, they believe that we can do so again. They also think scientists will come up with a cure for diseases such as cancer and AIDS, and that people will have more leisure in future.

My own view is that things are not so bad, but we need to plan carefully for the future, so for all these I too am an optimist for the future.

Adel Abdullah Ba-Jom'an
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Dreams come true!

I dreamt that I have a magic clue
By which I can change the universe
Into a place full of virtues
A safer place for me and you
A place suitable for human beings
But not for a zoo.

No one is always right
With wars, we can never be so
There is one thing that deserves sacrifice
A thing of substance
Your life... your country... and your fellows.

If only dreams came true!

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The study of literature

The study of literature is not merely reading of genres as the novel, the short story, the epic poem, etc. To study literature means to practice a language, to acquaint ourselves as readers with the forces which motivate human beings and show the place of the individual in society and in the universe. Moreover, literature provides the reader with intense and unique experiences designed to give him the aesthetic pleasure that accompanies his appreciation of that work of art.

The study of some form of literature is common in our daily use of language. But the question that arises then is why is it important for a foreign language learner to study literature? It is important because what is written in

the realm of literature is a part of our daily life, a part of our language competence. For example, telling a story is one way of learning and practising a foreign language. It is fun to raise the listener's expectation and this is what is involved in practising a language. In short, literature is a treasure and its study is like exploring that treasure. But what is very important is how we can get some pearls from that treasure trove!

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WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it out the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Acne | Cover | Goosebumps | Radiant | Thick |
| Animal | Cream | Hurt | Remedy | Thin |
| Baby | Cuts | Inner | Renew | Tight |
| Bathe | Damage | Layer | Rosy | Tissue |
| Beautiful | Delicate | Leather | Rough | Touch |
| Blush | Dermatologist | Lips | Scalp | Treatment |
| Body | Diet | Loose | Scrape | Types |
| Bronzed | Elastic | Luminous | Sensitive | Under |
| Burn | Exercise | Marks | Shave | Velvety |
| Care | Exposure | Massage | Shed | Vigorous |
| Cells | Features | Natural | Shine | Visible |
| Cheeks | Feeling | Oily | Sleek | Vitality |
| Clear | Fine | Organ | Sleep | Vitamins |
| Climate | Flexible | Pale | Smooth | Wound |
| Cloth | Food | Pink | Soap | Youthful |
| Coarse | Freckles | Plain | Soft | |
| Coal | Fresh | Pores | Spot | |
| Cold | Glowing | Pure | Supple | |

A LOOK AT SKIN

T	S	E	L	K	C	E	R	F	L	E	X	I	B	L	E	N	I	H	S
S	N	M	V	D	N	U	O	W	H	C	U	O	T	E	E	L	A	P	T
I	P	E	O	A	I	L	A	R	U	T	A	N	T	P	I	D	E	U	U
G	L	M	M	O	H	L	A	M	I	N	A	A	C	N	E	E	V	R	C
O	A	B	U	T	T	S	U	O	N	I	M	U	L	Z	F	G	I	E	H
L	C	R	L	B	A	H	G	M	D	I	Y	P	N	E	B	A	T	H	E
O	S	A	E	U	E	E	I	A	L	O	I	O	E	S	B	M	I	T	E
T	U	N	R	M	S	S	R	C	U	N	R	L	L	L	A	A	S	A	K
A	O	E	I	E	H	O	T	K	B	I	E	S	S	B	D	N	E	S	
M	R	S	E	A	Y	D	H	O	N	E	S	S	E	Y	I	E	L	H	
R	O	I	S	S	L	F	Y	D	G	P	R	A	H	P	E	L	S	N	E
F	G	C	O	O	P	Y	I	F	O	G	G	U	Y	S	G	I	I	D	
D	I	R	O	I	G	I	N	G	P	G	U	D	R	T	N	G	N	O	V
F	V	F	I	V	F	T	Y	T	A	O	I	F	T	I	I	N	O	C	I
I	F	X	P	O	S	U	R	F	R	Q	U	B	W	T	F	G	O	F	T
I	R	F	S	U	T	C	W	F	C	S	U	O	S	R	C	A	U	I	A
G	A	S	P	I	L	H	Y	E	S	R	L	A	E	O	R	P	C	L	M
A	E	P	O	O	T	A	G	I	N	G	L	D	V	S	E	O	A	S	I
T	L	Y	T	I	L	A	T	I	V	E	N	E	E	N	A	G	R	O	N
E	C	H	S	E	R	F	E	A	T	U	R	E	S	T	M	A	R	K	S

Note to the readers

We are glad to announce a change in the issuance of the Education page. Beginning this issue, Education will appear as a monthly Supplement with the last week issue of Yemen Times. This will ensure more space for our usual features as well as for a variety of new features such as Letters to the Editor, Campus Clippings, Reports about various academic events, Theme-oriented articles, Teacher Education Issues, Question Box, Science Quiz Line and so on for the edification of our readers.

Letters, comments, observations queries about pertinent academic issues may be addressed to the Presenter, Education Supplement at ramakantasahu@yahoo.com

The new format is an experimental venture and its continuance depends on the response of our valued readers.

We earnestly request our readers to give us their feedback on
1. Whether they prefer Education Supplement once a month in lieu of four weekly issues; and
2. Whether they would like to see the Supplement more frequently, say twice a month.

Their opinion will help us to suitably modify our module
—Dr. Sahu