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Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 The nationwide spread of arms
 claims numerous lives and
 causes concern on the part
 of the government. Do you think
 the government will reinforce
 the arms-bearing ban as a
 reaction to the phenomenon's
 consequences?

I don't know (11%)
 Yes (30%) No (59%)

This edition's question:
 Significant splits and
 differences in viewpoints
 have surfaced among
 opposition leaders. Do
 you think the ruling party
 is behind these
 differences?

Yes
 No
 I don't know

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Interior Ministry to appoint official spokesman

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 25 — During his meeting with Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) leaders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi announced that his ministry will appoint an official spokesman and establish an information center, a step aimed at helping journalists obtain information associated with local security.

"The information center aims to consolidate transparency of democratic work, which government adopts, plus spread the culture of democracy and knowledge nationwide," Al-Alimi said.

He promised to bring a continuing mechanism to facilitate journalists' tasks and hold periodic meetings between the YJS and the Interior Ministry to tackle problems that may arise in the future.

Al-Alimi indicated that security apparatuses have a behavioral vision

toward violations and abuses against journalists for several reasons, the most important of which is lack of democratic trust among social classes, including security recruits.

The meeting also reviewed results of ministry efforts regarding arresting and punishing perpetrators involved in attacks against journalists. Al-Alimi pointed out that some perpetrators were arrested, while security apparatuses still are investigating other journalist assaults to detain other perpetrators and bring them to prosecution.

He highlighted journalism's enlightening role to solve public issues, support democracy and develop Yemeni society, pointing out that such a role entails objectivity, examining authenticity of information and presenting facts as they happen.

Al-Alimi emphasized his ministry's desire to cooperate with the YJS in tackling issues and problems throughout the nation. The ministry asked Attorney-General Dr. Abdullah Al-



Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi

Ulify to write a report on the capture of well-known arms trader Faris Manna'a for his recurring threats and attacks against Abed Al-Mahdhari, Editor-in-Chief of the Sa'ada-based Al-Deyyar newspaper.

Government considers teachers' demands

By: Mustafa Ragih

SANA'A, April 23 — Teachers union sources revealed that a government committee has been formed to consider teachers' demands regarding settling their salaries according to the teacher law and removing harm inflicted upon them as a result of enforcing the wage strategy. The committee is composed of the Ministers of Education, Civil Service and Technical Education.

A joint statement issued last Sunday by the three teachers unions referred to their April 16 dialogue with the prime minister and the said committee's formation. The round of dialogue comes via implementing directives President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave during a meeting with teachers union leadership prior to his departure for his recent China visit.

At that time, he had directed the government to understand and respond to teachers' demands according to the law's provisions. The meeting with Saleh resulted in the teachers unions suspending their protests in response to his request. The unions affirmed that questions pertaining to removing illegal measures and suppressive acts against teachers during protest movements topped their dialogue subjects with the president.

Such dialogue with the president also touched on stopping compulsory monthly deductions from teacher salaries in favor of the pro-government

Union of Educational Professions. They describe the deductions as arbitrary, illegal and conflicting with freedom of union action based on voluntary affiliation and freedom of teachers making donations, as well as coercion benefiting a certain side.

The unions stressed the necessity of government authorities respecting freedom of union action and its plurality. Meanwhile, the prime minister directed stopping such deductions and letting unions collect donations without interference by official sides. Nevertheless, the unions say the directives have not been put into effect, attributing this to the "corruption lobby" hindering their enforcement.

The prime minister has referred the teachers' grievances regarding suppressive actions taken during protests to the Minister of Legal Affairs to get a legal opinion about them. Such measures included dispensing with some teachers' services and transferring others, salary deductions and other administrative punishments. They also included bringing college of education students from governorates to replace protesting teachers and threatening to permanently replace the teachers with such students.

Teachers union chairman Ahmed Al-Rabahi said in press statements that dialogue with the government committee will focus on compatible wage strategy application. He added that if teachers' demands remain unmet until May 10, protests will resume.

Journalists complain of threats, face false charges

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 26 — In a statement released Wednesday, Al-Wasat weekly holds authorities accountable to protect its chief editor from attacks by anonymous individuals.

The statement confirmed that a group of individuals led by a political security officer — whose names are being withheld by the paper — visited the street where Jamal Amer lives. They inquired about his apartment, vehicle license plate number and schools his children attend. The strange inquiries raised fear among Amer's family members, as the head of the household was abroad.

According to Al-Wasat's statement, this is not the first time inquiries were made about Amer, as his movements and activities have been observed since he was kidnapped. Ruling party newspapers accused Amer of being an agent for the West because he accepted a travel invitation to the U.S.

The statement urged human rights



Jamal Amer

organizations and political parties to react to such attacks, which contravene the Constitution and human morals and tend to become a widespread phenomenon. The newspaper notified President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the highest ranking official responsible to protect his citizens, the Attorney General and the Minister of Interior to investigate the case and take firm action against the perpetrators.

Akhbar Al-Yawm, which appears to be in line with authorities, published a story on its front page stating that Ibrahim Bin Ali Al-Wazir, an opposition leader and Popular Forces Unionist Party member residing in the U.S., held a meeting with many Yemeni journalists, including Amer, in Washington.

In its story, the newspaper reported that the meeting involved U.S. writer Jane Novak and another man named Malik, who is working as a coordinator in Yemen for Israel's intelligence organization. The story added that these individuals agreed to launch an English-language web site and a satellite channel to meet the needs of imperialist opposition forces abroad.

Capital Southeast Court postponed its Wednesday hearing devoted to Al-

Hurriyya newspaper's defense team's response to charges filed against the paper, as the team did not attend the previous session.

Press and Publication Prosecution responded to an appeal filed by Al-Hurriyya's defense team, affirming that it never accused journalists who republished the Prophet Mohammed's caricature of atheism. It said such journalists face charges of publication crimes, as stipulated by the Crimes and

Penalties Law.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) met with Minister of Interior Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi last week to discuss abuses and harassments against journalists. The syndicate informed Al-Alimi of the attack on Abed Al-Mahdhari, who faced threats and his car forcibly was grabbed from the capital. He was threatened with murder by a group of individuals demanding he stop discussing arms trade issues.

Dispute escalates between SCER and opposition

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 26 — The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) held a press conference last Monday calling on the political parties to present an alternative for current electoral committees to conduct the elections and vote counting, according to previously set terms.

SCER head Khalid Sharif told the press conference that the parties and political organizations have until May 20 to reach a deal on participating in the electoral committees. He added that if no deal is reached before the deadline, the SCER will adopt the same method of forming committees from job seeker lists on civil service registries.

Sharif accused partisan newspapers of publishing false accusations, denouncing them and saying those responsible for these newspapers reverse the facts they present to the public. He continued, saying they also

fabricate lies against the SCER and its affiliated committees. Responding to a question about opposition accusations that electoral committees are not formed from job seekers registered on civil service lists, he said this is untrue and the names are found on those lists.

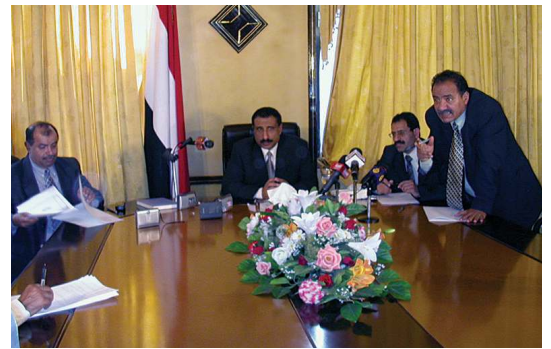
In answering another inquiry about electoral guarantees, SCER members confirmed that they are not organizing over parties' and political organizations' right to speak about guarantees, as this is one of SCER's main aims. They assured that there are no greater guarantees than those secured by law.

They reviewed some guarantees, topped by partisan right to check voter lists and civil community organizations observation, in addition to the right of international observation, which would be formed from organizations, authorities and embassies in Yemen. The SCER added that it is the media's right to do necessary observation. It also confirmed that international observers have the right to watch

the election process with transparency.

Following failed dialogue with the SCER, all parties were excluded from committees formed to check voter lists. Opposition accuses the SCER of dependency and committing electoral violations. Dialogue with opposition failed, the last of which was a meeting with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the ruling party. Prominent opposition leader Abulwahab Al-Anisi withdrew from that meeting in protest of insulting words to him by Sultan Al-Barakani, head of the ruling party's parliamentary bloc.

Opposition handed Saleh a petition containing their vision on free and just election procedures, as well as listing SCER electoral violations. Political



SCER in one of its meetings.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

sources spoke of suggestions Saleh presented, which included forming a committee to look into opposition's accusations about SCER violations; however, opposition did not welcome the suggestions. Press sources said opposition will call for a national conference for all their representatives in the country to come out with decisions for a future agenda.

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 إلغاء طلبات البيع والشراء المتجاوزة تاريخها
 التحويل التلقائي اليومي إلى نظام المحاسبة المالية
 استخدام مبدأ الداخل أولاً خارج أولاً
 استخدام مبدأ الداخل أولاً خارج أولاً
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 اعتماد نظام محاسبية البيع
 الإرجاع/حذف/تعديل المخازن والأصناف بسهولة
 إنشاء وحدات التهيئة الخاصة بك بمرونة تامة
 نظام مبيعات ومشتريات متطور
 نظام سندات قبض وبيع في غاية المرونة
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 إمكانية متطورة لتعديل رصيد المخزون
 التحكم ببضاعة منتهية المدة والتألف
 تعديل الأسعار في أي وقت تتشاء باحتراف
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Al-Haq Party denies withdrawal from JMP

SANA'A, April 26 — In a statement circulated Wednesday, an official Al-Haq Party source denied reports by army mouthpiece 26 September weekly that his party is threatening to withdraw from the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). The newspaper attributed the party's withdrawal declaration to party Secretary-General Ahmad Mohamed Al-Shami.

The same source emphasized that Al-Shami never spoke to the newspaper, nor did he tell his party members of any withdrawal. He said such allegations are part of a series of failed attempts by authorities to divide JMP

unity and break relations between parties respecting each other.

Concluding its statement, Al-Haq leaders confirmed their adherence to the JMP, considered the frame of their political and national work during this stage. They stated that their confidence in the JMP grows with the passage of days.

Hassan Zaid, head of Al-Haq's political office, denied any intention by his party to withdraw from the JMP and he denounced the fabricated stories published by 26 September weekly.

Zaid said his party is one of the

JMP founding members enthusiastic enough to strengthen the coalition. In a media statement, he expressed curiosity about fabricated words attributed to the party's secretary-general. He denied reports of personal bargains with Al-Shami, saying such fabricated stories target JMP unity.

Mohamed Al-Mansour, head of Al-Haq's media committee, denounced statements attributed to Al-Shami, describing 26 September's report as fabricated. He ascertained that his party will strongly confront such fabrications.

Yemen condemns terrorist acts in Egypt

SANA'A, April 26 — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh strongly condemned the terrorist bomb attacks on the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Dahab in the Sinai Peninsula. He said such acts target regional stability and security and negatively impact a nation's economy, as they damage tourist facilities.

Saleh offered Yemeni citizens' condolences to the families of the dead and wished injured individuals a quick recovery.

The president received in Sana'a yesterday Egyptian Intelligence Director Gen. Omar Mahmoud Sulaiman, who carried a letter from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak regarding enhancing brotherly ties between the two Arab countries and establishing joint efforts to fight terrorism.

Via Sulaiman, Saleh returned a letter to Mubarak renewing Yemen's strong denunciation of terrorist acts in Egypt that target security and tourism.

Sulaiman said he received a call saying police arrested 10 people in connection with the triple bomb attack that killed at least 23. "Those arrested are Egyptians and were detained in the town," he added.

Approximately 62 people were injured in the blasts Monday evening. The attack is the third against tourist resorts along Egypt's Red Sea coast in the past two years. Officials remain unsure whether Dahab was hit by suicide bombers or if the bombs were detonated with timers.

Like other Sinai Peninsula towns, entry into and exit from Dahab is controlled by police checkpoints straddling the only road into and out of town. Egyptian Minister of Tourism Zoheir Garana told media it was too early to say who was behind the attacks.

Some Bedouins are said to have a grudge against the government following rapid tourist development on their ancestral lands, which mainly

has benefited Egyptian workers imported from Cairo, one correspondent said.

However on Tuesday, local tribal leaders and holidaymakers held a peaceful march to condemn the attacks and stress support for the tourism industry. Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif joined them.

"Terrorists do not recognize borders anymore," Nazif said, pledging that Egypt will remain on the "front line" of the global war against terrorism.

A host of world leaders have condemned the attacks, which followed blasts in Taba in 2004 and Sharm Al-Sheikh in 2005.

Previous investigations into the Taba and Sharm Al-Sheikh bombings focused on local Bedouin tribes, despite early suspicions that Islamic militants were involved. Egyptian authorities are thought to have uncovered a militant group active in Sinai, but have said very little about it.

Inflation rates rise following fuel price hikes

SANA'A, April 25 — The general inflation rate rose to 19.4 percent in the past year, while foodstuff inflation jumped to 36.6 percent, with the former recording a nine percent increase and the latter 30.7 percent, as compared to 2004, according to an official quarterly report.

The economic development report issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation attributed the high inflation rate to fuel price

hikes and national currency decline. It confirmed that transportation and agriculture were the most affected sectors due to increasing prices of fuel products, as the transportation inflation rate spiked from one percent in June 2005 to 31.6 percent in September of that same year.

According to the report, skyrocketing transportation fares helped raise inflation rates in all production and handicraft sectors, as

well as increase agricultural production costs, as plant irrigation depends on diesel pumps.

The report added that the Yemeni Riyal fell 3.5 percent in January 2005 compared to the dollar, which helped raise commodities prices, particularly imported items. This fact coincided with monetary supply growth, which mounted to YR 975 billion, accounting for 42.2 percent of gross domestic product.

School committee project implemented in Taiz

SANA'A, April 20 — Taiz education office and district administration staff recently trained to establish school committees in 56 schools in the poorest areas of Taiz governorate's poorest districts. The committees will suggest activities to be implemented in schools.

Nearly 2,400 trained individuals participated in implementing the project, forming 56 school committees and

contracting 145 teachers in targeted schools. The 56 schools carried out 227 activities due to project actions.

The cost of such activities was YR 28.4 million, which was YR 507,704 for each school. Jaica organization provided YR 500,000 for each school, as well as local contributions amounting to six percent of the total sum and in the form of volunteer work.

The number of students joining

these schools was 7,822 in 2005 compared to 6,095 in 2004, an increase of 1,727.

Japan's ambassador honored distinctive schools. They were: Al-Shahid Al-Bahr School in Maoiah, July 7 School in Samie, Al-Tawhid School in Maghbanah, Ghail Bin Ali School in Al-Wazi'iah, Al-Isha'a School in Al-Makha and Babalmindab School in Tho-bab.

Aden University hosts German day

SANA'A, April 26 — As part of Aden University's German day functions, a meeting was held at Ibn Khaldon Hall in Khor Makasar, Aden in the Faculty of Arts to promote Yemeni-German cultural, commercial and economic relations. The university organized the day in cooperation with the German Cultural Center and the German Graduates Society.

The program included a number of cultural, scientific and cinematic pro-

grams, with speeches given at the morning session. At a German cultural function, Dr. Ahmed Ali Thabit reviewed a synopsis of German poet Fredrick Sheller and some of his poems were read. Dr. Judith Spatter, DAAD representative in Yemen, gave a speech reviewing prospects to study and research in Germany.

A function also was held in which some graduates' viewpoints and impressions were reviewed. Booklets

on academic exchange, German housing in Sana'a and the German cultural attaché in the German Embassy in Sana'a were on display, as well as defining booklets about the German Fredrick Elbert establishment. For football fans, a film about football was shown.

Evening activities included an interview with Spatter, who reviewed preliminary experiences of German language teaching by Christopher Peck.

Millions of Yemenis fail to secure food and clothing

SANA'A, April 25 — The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation estimates that 41.18 percent of Yemen's population lives below the poverty line, meaning 6.9 million citizens are unable to fulfill their food, residence and service demands.

Issued last month, the annual economic report found a disparity between income and consumption, noting that 30 percent of Yemenis own 49 percent of the nation's total per capita and are responsible for 49 percent of total consumption. However,

the 30 percent of Yemenis with the least income obtain only six percent of total per capita and their consumption rate is only eight percent. This indicates the large gap between classes in society.

The report noted that the salient features of Yemen's poverty are realized in the increased unemployment rate and rising foodstuff prices. Added to this is the illiteracy rate, optioning from school and child labor.

The report also mentioned that a large sector of the population has no access to basic services and health

care is not provided for the neediest, which is considered a major challenge to Yemen.

The report estimates that the unemployment rate will hit 17 percent this year, with its highest rate among 24-year-olds, who comprise 48.4 percent of the population.

The report warned of poverty's societal effects, as realized in crimes such as robbery and murder. It also warned of the negative effects of deteriorated living standards and families' failure to provide appropriate food and medicine.

UNICEF inaugurates awareness campaigns in Sana'a and Aden

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 30 — A special training course concluded to train 30 individuals from Sa'wan residential city, particularly in the marginalized area. The course was organized by Al-Saleh Establishment's Women's Program, in cooperation with UNICEF.

The course aimed to inform participants of their rights and raise their awareness of health, social, cultural and educational issues. It also aimed to help participants acquire new skills to spread health and awareness in the city, especially among marginalized residents.

Naseem-Ur-Rehman, Chief of Information and Communication at UNICEF-Yemen, expressed happiness at attending such debates in small communities, affirming that small debates yield better outcomes compared to large ones. He confirmed that functions directed at targeted sectors in their own environment also yield greater outcomes. He asserted that Yemenis should increase their awareness to improve their health and environmental situations.

More than 720 Aden governorate secondary school students received life-saving learning skills training devoted to promoting the process of



Nasim Ur-Rehman, Chief of Information and Communication, UNICEF-Yemen, awards certificates to graduates at the graduation ceremony.

peer-led intervention to prevent HIV and AIDS in the governorate. The course was continuing since the beginning of March.

The activity is considered the first phase of peer-led intervention. Offered within a cooperative program through the Ministry of Education and UNICEF for 2006, it targets 740

students from February to April during the 2005-2006 school year.

UNICEF also will support a summer camp targeting 1,000 students in the field of life-saving learning skills and peer learning. It will be followed by a third phase targeting secondary school students from September to December.

30 electoral violations referred to court

SANA'A, April 26 — Voter registration committees referred more than 30 violations to judicial authorities to deal with according to law.

Violations include enrolling a foreign woman on voter registers at one Hodeidah governorate poll center. Other violations include registering children who have not reached legal voting age, registering citizens at poll

centers outside their electoral constituencies and forging voter identities.

Dr. Abdulmu'men Al-Shuja'a, head of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) legal section, reported the violations to media.

He pointed out that the SCER ordered voter registration committees working in the field to report any vio-

lations to prosecution. He stated that Wednesday was the deadline for voter requests to transfer from one electoral constituency to another, according to the specified timetable for voter registration modification.

Al-Shuja'a added that voter registration committees will continue reviewing registers of voters reaching legal voting age until Tuesday.

Ministry of Water & Environment organizes workshop on principles for environmentally-sound coastal rehabilitation

By: Dr. Lia Carol Sieghart
For Yemen Times

ADEN, April 18 — Minister of Water and Environment engineer Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani inaugurated a workshop aimed at introducing Cairo Principles for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Coastal Zones in Yemen. The workshop took place April 17-18 in Aden. Participants included senior government officials from various stakeholder authorities.

Natural disasters such as those arising from seismic and volcanic activity are enduring experiences for mankind. However, they increasingly are being joined by "quasi-natural" disasters, in which human influences are thought to play an aggravating role.

Such influences may impact storm and drought intensity through, for example, increased climate variability or increased damage from natural and quasi-natural events through such phenomena as sea-level rise, landslides encouraged by deforestation or reduced resilience of inhabited or protective ecosystems resulting from past or even historical damage.

The network of causality is complex, but it can be concluded that more must be done to reduce disaster vulnerability. Sound natural resources management, using environmental

technology and "soft" engineering solutions, as well as better coastal zone and critical ecosystem management are essential elements in disaster reduction.

The Indian Ocean tsunami and other 2005 disasters like the South Asia earthquake caused tremendous loss of life and destruction of physical infrastructure, while also damaging ecosystems and posing further risks to human health and livelihoods. Lessons learned from the disaster can be employed to ensure that future tsunamis are not as damaging.

"Lessons learned in terms of loss of life, damage sustained and approaches to reconstruction and mitigation are critically relevant to future coast management in the context of increasing severe weather events and other potential consequences of global warming. More than ever, it is essential to consider the full value of 'ecosystem services' when making decisions about coastal development," said engineer Abdulkhaleq Y. Al-Ghaberi DG of the ministry's Environmental Emergency Department.

Civilian and environmental safety must be kept in mind when dealing with issues of cleaning, rebuilding and protecting the areas. Therefore, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has developed the Cairo

Principles for post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction, which rely on concepts of integrated coastal zone management, including public engagement in local decision making.

"When adopted and applied throughout the affected region, the principles will allow those involved to sequence their actions following a common set of priorities, thus strengthening our collective commitment to rehabilitate and protect coastal communities. Cairo Principles are consistent with an advance to more sustainable forms of coastal development and United Nations Millennium Development Goals," Al-Eryani noted.

Participants concurred on endorsing Cairo Principles in Yemen, identifying vulnerable pilot areas and discussing how to put the guiding principles into a long-term implementation plan toward sustainable management of Yemeni coastal areas.

"A critical feature to successful practice of coastal management is the ability to tailor the principles to the unique needs and conditions present in our country," Al-Eryani concluded.

He thanked participants for their contributions, as well as the UNEP Coordination Office of the Global Action Program to protect the marine environment from land-based activities (UNEP/GPA) for its support.

Blasts rock Egyptian Sinai resort, 30 killed

Three explosions struck the Egyptian Sinai resort town of Dahab on Monday night, killing more than 30 people and wounding 150 others.

The blasts took place at about 7:15 p.m. local time (1315 EDT) in an area frequented by tourists.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry said the explosions hit the Nelson and Aladdin restaurants and the Ghazala supermarket.

Security officials said the attacks killed more than 30 people and wounded about 150 others.

Police immediately sealed off all the town exits.

The explosions seemed to have been caused by remote-controlled bombs, state television reported.

Egyptian officials said at least 20 ambulances and police cars were rushing to the el-Masbat area of the city.

Egyptian President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak denounced the attacks as a "wicked terrorist act", and pledged that the perpetrators would be punished.

The Hamas-led Palestinian government said it "strongly condemns this criminal act which flouts our religion, shakes Palestinian national security and works against Arab interests".

One eyewitness told the BBC he heard three "very loud explosions" in the area. After the attacks, he said he saw "a lot of bloody people coming by".

"The Egyptian police are very organised and they've cleared out the whole area where the bombs went off," he added.

A local ambulance official told Reuters that many of the dead appeared to be foreigners.

Dahab, which means gold in



Rescuers carry an injured victim after three explosions shook Dahab

Arabic, is a popular tourist spot located on the Gulf of Aqaba on the eastern side of the Sinai Peninsula. The city is popular with Western and Israeli tourists.

Many Egyptians were also vacationing in the Red Sea Coast resort as the bombings struck on Sham al-Nessim, a public holiday which marks the beginning of spring. The attacks also come one day ahead the anniversary of Sinai's liberation from Israeli occupation.

There was no immediate word on the nationality of the victims.

According to AFP, more than

200,000 Israeli holidaymakers were in Dahab at the time of the blasts.

However, Israel's ambassador in Cairo Shalom Cohen said there were no immediate reports of Israeli casualties.

Egypt's southern Sinai peninsula resorts have witnessed several attacks in recent years.

In July 2005, at least 70 people died in a bomb attack in the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh. More than 34 others were killed in several simultaneous attacks in and around the resort of Taba in October 2004.

www.aljazeera.net

Rice to Discuss Iran, Iraq with Turkey's Leaders

By: Amberin Zaman
Ankara

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrives in Turkey Tuesday on a day-long working visit to discuss developments in Iran, Iraq and other issues of common interest.

The secretary is set to come to Ankara from the Greek capital Athens, where she is

expected to hold talks early Tuesday on the first leg of a tour of three Balkan countries that will also take her to Bulgaria.

In Turkey, Rice will be meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul as well as with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer.

Turkey is the NATO military alliance's sole predominantly Muslim member and has cooperated closely with the United States in what the two sides long called a "strategic partnership" that has stretched over half a century.

But relations between Turkey and the United States have become less stable and less predictable ever since the Turkish parliament refused three years ago to permit U.S. troops to use southern Turkey as a staging ground for a second front against Saddam Hussein's forces in northern Iraq.

The U.S. occupation of Iraq has led to strong anti-U.S. sentiment in Turkey. Yet the two countries have been making a concerted effort to patch up their differences.

U.S. officials stress that Secretary Rice's visit demonstrates the importance Washington continues to place on relations with Turkey.

"Secretary Rice's visit to Ankara is a very clear reaffirmation of Turkey's importance to the United States not only as a NATO ally but as a partner in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and the broader Middle East," said Joseph Pennington, the spokesman



Condoleezza Rice.

of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.

U.S. officials acknowledge that Turkey has played a constructive role, especially in helping persuade Iraq's Sunni minority not to boycott nationwide elections held in January this year.

Asli Aydintasbas is the Ankara bureau chief for the mass circulation daily newspaper Sabah. A veteran observer of U.S.-Turkish relations, Aydintasbas says Turkey embodies the kind of political and social system that Washington would like to see introduced throughout the Islamic world.

"There really isn't a second Turkey, a country that is Muslim but secular, Muslim but democratic but parliamentary, where Islamists are in power but they can co-exist with human rights, democracy, rule of law etc.," he said.

But some analysts question to what extent Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party can see eye to eye with Washington, especially on issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict and on Iran.

Turkey upset its main regional ally - Israel - when it received senior leaders of the militant Islamic group Hamas, even before they formed a government after winning elections in Palestine in February. Officials from the European Union that Turkey is seeking to join were also critical of the move, saying Hamas needs to renounce violence as a precondition for establishing ties with the international community.

Secretary Rice is widely expected to raise the Hamas issue with Prime Minister Erdogan. Mr. Erdogan, in turn, is expected to express Turkey's mounting frustration with the United States over its refusal to take military action against

separatist Kurdish rebels based Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

The U.S. government maintains that it cannot afford to open a second front against the rebels when its troops are fighting insurgents in the central and southern Iraq.

The Kurdish rebel group known as the PKK has stepped up attacks against Turkish security forces in recent months and Turkey's chief of general staff, General Hilmi Ozkok, asserted Sunday that, if need be, Turkey would pursue the rebels across the border into Iraq.

Iraq's President, Jalal Talabani, who is also the leader of one of the main Kurdish factions governing northern Iraq warned against a Turkish incursion Sunday saying Washington would also be opposed to any such move because this would only further destabilize Iraq. Kurdish officials predict this message is likely to be repeated by Secretary Rice when she meets Turkish leaders Tuesday.

Is an Iraq-style regime change possible in Iran?

In a development similar to the incidents leading to the catastrophic U.S.-led war against Iraq, some American media outlets recently launched an anti-Iran propaganda campaign, which includes calls for regime change. This development follows the recent approval of \$75 million dollars by the U.S. congress to fund anti-Iranian activities as well as the U.S. State Department's new approach towards Iran involving what it calls "democracy-promoting" programs.

The debate that raged over Iran's nuclear program in Bush's first term between those who favored more diplomacy with Iran and those who pushed for confrontation appears to have settled in favor of the latter. "Our problem is with the Iranian regime," the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Senate testimony last month.

A report on the Financial Times states that the U.S. and Britain have already launched a joint campaign to initiate regime change in Iran. According to the Times, the plan is being developed by a team within the U.S. State Department. The paper said that U.S. officials view the campaign as a joint diplomatic effort to curb Iran's nuclear program without resorting to military intervention, as both countries are aware that a military strike won't win UN approval. Washington also believes that UN sanctions are ineffective, the Times said. U.S. officials say the British involvement was vital, because American experts lack knowledge of Tehran's nuclear program as a result of 25 years of severed U.S.-Iranian diplomatic relations. Some analysts view British participation as a moderating force as the U.S. decides whether to fund opposition groups within Iran.

What makes these developments sound alarming is that they come amid reports by sources close to U.S. intelligence and military officials that the Bush Administration is considering

plans for military action against Iran's nuclear sites. Given this situation, an editorial on the Global Politician examines whether a possible U.S.-sponsored regime change in Iran would succeed. In order to answer this question, one must



analyze the public mood in Iran to determine whether the Iranians would support a U.S.-led political campaign or armed intervention to bring regime change in their country. The article argues that the Iranians simply have no appetite for any more political changes in their country. Most Iranian youths are mainly concerned with their basic living needs, such as employment, higher education, recreation, etc. Political participation is considered a luxury for those who are preoccupied with meeting their necessary economic and social requirements. And the Iranians prove to be no exception in this respect.

Moreover, the record shown by the new government headed by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad indicates that it would win further public support. Since his election, the Iranian President has embarked upon an ambitious populist social and economic agenda aimed at creating better conditions for the Iranians through fighting corruption, poverty alleviation, equitable distribution of resources among economically disadvantaged regions and cutting public consumption expenditures and other economic austerity measures by government agencies. To stimulate further economic growth and create employment opportunities, Ahmadinejad also withdrew sizeable amounts from Iran's Foreign Exchange Reserve Fund, an emergency fund set up by the former government, to fund job-creating private investments and public development projects.

Obviously, these measures would prevent the social and economic demands of the youths from translating into political behavior, such as public protests, riots and other violent behaviors. Such developments would also significantly boost Ahmadinejad's reelection chances.

Most Iranians believe that their country cannot afford another revolution because Iran experienced turbulent times over the past three decades.

Moreover, the nuclear issues has become a matter of national pride. This strong sense of nationalism and daily scenes of explosions, bloodshed and chaos seen next door in Iraq also preclude the possibility of a foreign-led or sponsored regime change in the country.

The lack of a viable alternative political force to fill in the power vacuum after a possible breakup of the existing order also makes a regime change impossible. Currently, there are no credible political movements outside Iran that can mobilize necessary resources to lead a regime change and run a post-conflict government. Most of the existing foreign-based Iranian opposition groups also lack the needed support of the Iranians.

Overall, the chances of a regime change taking place in Iran any time in the near future are nil. The Islamic republic has consolidated its rule over the past quarter of a century and is currently experiencing its most favorable domestic conditions since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The Iranian government also enjoys wide support among the vast majority of its citizens. Modern political history of Iran shows that any genuine political changes in Iran comes from within the Iranian society and government. The U.S. should examine the realities on the ground before making irrational moves that could create another mayhem in the Middle East.

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Procurement Consultants (Individuals or Firms)

(Basic Education Development Project - IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants (**Individuals or Firms**) to perform the consultancy to deliver on-the-job training for project implementation teams in the Governorates Education Offices (GEOs) on Procurement and Contract Management. Under the general directions of the Executive Director of the Project Administration Unit (PAU), the above-mentioned personnel will be responsible for the delivery of tasks described hereunder and will work closely with all sectors and departments of the MOE, GEOs and Districts Education Offices involved in the implementation of the Project.

The Procurement Consultants On-the-job training would:

- Provide Governorates Education Implementation Teams with skills and knowledge in procurement and contract management relevant to activities that will be implemented at the governorate level.
- Develop and deliver an appropriate on-job training including the development of appropriate actual procedures for the trainees in Procurement Management and financial management skills relevant to BEDP. This will require the consultant to undertake the following activities:

1. Preparing the forms of bid opening, bid evaluations, in accordance with the World Bank forms and requirements.
2. Preparing the simplified guidelines for
 - sequence of operations in each process and (bidding document, bid opening, evaluation of bids, contracting and implementation process)
 - Preparing of time schedule for implementation of bid opening and bid evaluation.
3. Explain all prepared forms, guidance to the implementation teams in the GEOs, and be sure they are able to deliver all forms.
4. Participate on bid opening; and bid evaluation processes and train the implementation team during the process, and to ensure the procedures are being held in according to the WB instructions.
5. Review the bid evaluation reports before sending to the PAU.
6. Evaluate the procurement specialists' performance in GEOs, and recommend the training needs for them.
7. The availability to work on an on-and-off basis

Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification OR firms with an access to engineering services, especially in education building.
- At least 5 years experience in a procurement management position.
- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- A minimum of two years experience of delivering training programs to non-procurement specialists.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic with good communication skills.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219



Job Vacancies

Total E&P Yemen invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions within its organization. All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential.

Drilling/Well Engineer – Reference No. 001

Within a team work context, the job holder will participate in the preparation and follow-up of the drilling and/or completion and/or work-over operations in compliance with codes of practice, safety and environmental protection. Main activities will cover preparation of operations programs, drawing up of operating procedures, follow-up of operations and costs, and optimization of service providers activities. The applicant will have a minimum of 2 years of international/industrial experience and a B.S.C. in Mechanical Engineering or Petroleum Engineering. This position is based in Sana'a.

Treasurer Assistant – Reference No. 002

The job holder will assist the Company's Treasurer in his daily tasks and will be acting as substitute when necessary. He will perform payments by cheques as well as electronic bank transfers. Duties will include the daily petty cash management recordings in the accounting system and the follow up of staff accounts. The successful candidate will have graduated in Accounting or Finance and will have had some experience as Treasurer or Cashier. Having to deal with many people and many transactions and currencies, the applicant has to be well organised and rigorous. This position is based in Sana'a.

Customs Supervisor Reference No. 003

The Customs Supervisor is responsible to coordinate the administrative processes & authorizations required to import / export material. With a team of 2 persons, he ensures and supervises: Processing of custom exemptions with local authorities and with contractors; coordinating with transit team to plan the priorities in clearing the material; regular matching of datas with customs authority and clearing files; coordinating with Logistics team for re-export of equipment or/and write-off or/and damaged/lost; regular clearance of PSA on contracts from contractors; proper and on time reporting to the Head of Department of any unusual/critical issue. The candidate must have a minimum experience of 5 years in the field of Customs / Finance. Have a very good knowledge & understanding of Customs Laws in Yemen. Have management capabilities. This position is based in Sana'a.

All applicants should send their CV in English with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for any of the above posts to:

Human Resources Department
Total E&P Yemen
P.O. Box 842
Sana'a, Yemen

Candidates may apply by e-mail to: Tawfik.Akhan@total.com
Closing Date: 15 May 2006

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Total E&P Yemen

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Begging: A lucrative form of income in Hadramout

Hadramout mosques are on the verge of losing their sacredness due to an ever-increasing number of money seekers. Beggars have turned a place of worship into a place to practice their profession.

By: Saeed Al-Batati
albatati88@yahoo.com

A few days ago, I left my home early in the morning and went to the nearby grocery to buy something for breakfast. I saw an elderly man sitting on the pavement in front of a building. He was in miserable condition. "When does the mosque open?" he

asked me. The man was on tenterhooks waiting for the mosque to open.

Similarly, a woman and her children were waiting outside the mosque. Both waited until the imam came and opened it.

Then, out of the blue, the frail man appeared and stood in front of the congregation asking for money. The woman was at the door for the same purpose.

Unlike begging on the street, where citizens have their hands full, beggars think mosques are a unique place to get money, as they are quiet and frequented by those who genuinely are charitable.

Hadramout is blessed with a high number of Gulf expatriates whose remittances provide financial stability for many families. This tempts beggars like "Abdullah," who came from Aden to collect money to treat his daughter.

"My father heard a lot about open-handed people like Bouqshan and Al-Amoudi. I'm told it's easy to get a million riyals if these people know my problem," he said, showing a medical report of his sister's health. "My sister has a small hole in one of her heart arteries. We need \$3,000 urgently to treat her in Cairo."

Beggars use different means to draw attention and compassion from philanthropists. They often display a sick child, telling worshippers stories of their sufferings. "I have 15 children and I must feed them. I've sold all of my possessions. I have nothing now. Please help me. What do you want us to eat? Do you want us to eat sand?" a beggar said with tears filling his eyes.

According to some locals, in some governorates, the physically handicapped are borrowed from their parents for a short time with some money paid in advance. They are used as a tactic to arouse citizens' sympathy and collect more money.

For some worshippers, the loud weeping of beggars gets on their nerves. "Mosques are now similar to theaters where beggars perform their play. We can't pray quietly," Zain Bel Faqih complained.

Some imams believe their duties are restricted only to leading worship-

pers in prayers. "What do you want me to do? It's the responsibility of police to prevent them," replied the imam of Al-Mukalla's Abu Baker Al-Sadeeq Mosque.

However, others like Khalid Al-Jabri prevent beggars from begging inside mosques. "I discovered four cases of deception. Beggars came to this mosque to scrounge - they either didn't have enough money to pay off debt or they couldn't afford food. When they were given the required money, they went to another mosque and did the same."

Islam loathes begging. Islamic scholar professor Ali Mudaihi said begging in general is prohibited in Islam, which discourages such wicked behavior except if the beggar desperately needs money.

"If they are in need of money, then they must go to benefactors and charitable societies to get help. For me, it is difficult to identify professional beggars," Al Shafei Mosque imam Hussein Alawi said. "If we didn't allow them to beg in mosques, they would resort to illegal means to get money."

He laid the blame on wrong distribution of zakat. "If zakat is given to deserving people, no one would stand here asking for financial help," he said.

Darweesh Saweed, manager of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor office, said they launched many campaigns in cooperation with police to clean streets and mosques of beggars and eradicate the dishonorable phenomenon. "Police rounded up dozens of beggars and put them in jail. Unfortunately, they all were released because there was no funding for food in Al-Mukalla Prison."

According to official statistics, 95 percent of beggars come from



Beggars always go to mosques to ask worshippers for money.

Hodeidah governorate's Tihama, forming organized begging groups in Hadramout.

Saweed continued, "They come to the governorate in groups and then are deployed in main cities like Al-Mukalla and Sayoun and some nearby villages to practice their immoral profession."

"If the government gave us the required funds for food, I assure you we would crack down on the phenomenon within a week," Saweed added.

The Ministry of the Endowment, which is in charge of mosques, has a leading role to play in stopping the

farce in mosques. Manager Sheik Mohammed Ahmed expressed his profound sadness over the abusive phenomenon's proliferation. "Begging in mosques is a bad phenomenon that gives a negative picture of our society. It also indicates two things: Yemen's abject poverty and the habit of lying corrupting society."

Mohammed added that he recently received a decree from the Minister of Endowment concerning the matter. "The minister ordered us not to prevent any type of money seeking in mosques, including begging for campaign contributions."

Tender announcement

The Marine Affairs Authority (MAA) announces the general tender No. 2 for 2006, regarding the construction of MAA branch in Aden-government-funded.

First and second grade contractors having the desire to compete for the tender can apply with their bids to MAA's headquarters, Hadda Road-near the Yemeni German Hospital. They should bring a copy of the conditions and specifications plus a non-refundable sum of US \$ 500.

When offering bids, contractors have to:

- 1-Enclose a preliminary insurance to the MAA's advantage, not less than 2.5% of the bid value via a payable check or unconditioned financial guarantee issued from any accredited bank in Yemen and valid for 90 days from the time of opening the envelope.
- 2-Enclose a copy of the tax card renewed for 2006 and bring the original one for verification.
- 3-Enclose a copy of classification certificate renewed for 2006 and bring the original one for verification.
- 4-Enclose a copy of the insurance card.
- 5-Enclose a copy of the work license.
- 6-Bids must be submitted inside envelopes stamped with red wax.
- 7-Bids that do not meet the above requirements will not be considered.
- 8-Personal information about the bid owner has to be included.
- 9-Applicants have to pledge to attend the meeting devoted to recognizing the location, which will be held at the project location, Saturday, May 5- 2006.

The deadline for offering bids is Wednesday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. and envelopes will be opened at 11:00 of the same day at the MAA headquarters.

VACANCY

Monitoring and Evaluation / Information System Specialist (MISS) for the Basic Education Development Program (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of Monitoring and Evaluation / Information System Specialist. The BEDP plans to establish an EMIS that will provide MOE and BEDP with an effective information system for the formulation of policy and the management of planned education change and strengthen managerial capability at all levels by improving communication that facilitate decision making. Under the general direction of the Project Director, the MISS will work closely with the BEDP & MOE staff to make sure that the EMIS is operational and efficient to better serve the strategic management purpose of the Yemeni Education System. In addition, he/she will be responsible for establishing a Monitoring & MIS unit at the BEDP, designing, installing and administering the office network, specifically, he/she will:

- Design the BEDP -MIS hardware network system;
- Carry out the installation , configuration of updated software and formulating information of necessary user training plan;
- Select the MIS platform (database and programming language) ;
- Assess other software requirements of the BEDP staff (word-processing, electronic spreadsheets, visual presentation, drawings...etc);
- Work closely with MOE to make sure that the EMIS is operational and efficient to better serve the strategic management purpose of the Yemeni education system;
- Determine the organization of the Monitoring & MIS unit;
- Prepare documentation to acquire the necessary hardware , database software, and specific software applications;
- Work closely with end users in establishing a computerized suitable system;
- Identify and implement IM practices that enhance cooperation between all departments and ensure optimum use of information technology communication system;
- Manage the construction of BEDP Web site and internal e-mails, and ensure that the information contained in the Web site is updated regularly;
- Advise the management on IT strategies, develop office IT plan on program and implementation;
- Identify staff training needs and prepare an annual plan of staff training on application and information topics;
- Maintain the project data base and update the monitoring data;
- Contribute to the progress report.

Qualification:

- Advanced University Degree in Computer sciences, software engineering, IT or equivalent degree;
- At least five years experience in IT position;
- Experience in using friendly report generator;
- Knowledge of Web site design and development;
- Experience in hardware installation (networks, servers and working stations);
- Good knowledge of English and Arabic languages.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219

Political legitimacy lost

We still have a few months until this September's local and presidential elections, unless they are postponed for reasons agreed upon by both the ruling party and the opposition if they reach consensus concerning electoral guarantees, on which opposition insists to ensure integrity and neutrality of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER). Opposition also calls for neutrality of the army, public funds, media and government jobs.



By: Ali Al-Garadi

swept a majority of Parliament seats, leading democracy to lose its content while dreams for change vanished.

Yemeni society endured several hardships including rebellion in northern Yemen and forming an exile government in the south, plus sharp political, economic and social tensions.

Fifteen years have passed since adding formal democracy to tyrannical practices that persuade opposition parties to continue beautifying the image of a democratic process with no content. The parties presented a national reform project to lessen central practices and concentration of power in the president's hands. Opposition suggested a parliamentary system, a relative list and enhancing judiciary and electoral management independence. The ruling party rejected the proposal, describing it as a political coup against the regime, while dialogue between the ruling party and opposition returned to its starting point.

The coming months are predicted to be most the complicated in Yemen's democratic history. Two options then will be made available: whether formal democracy controlled by the ruling party directs Yemen into catastrophe, as indicated by international reports, or some in power will show their will to end single party governance and establish a national partnership based on neutral electoral management and respect for public will. Otherwise, the democratic process will lose legitimacy and citizens will endure social and political troubles in a country where 50 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

By the beginning of 2003, the JMP entered local and parliamentary elections with weak coordination and fear following the assassination of YSP Assistant Secretary-General Jarallah Omar, who had a primary role in forming the JMP. Utilizing all means and instruments of authority, the GPC

decided – via the overwhelming majority strategy and use of power – to knock out its former Islah Party ally and expand its dominance. Islah then gradually joined other opposition parties, including the YSP, the Nasserite Unionists, Al-Haq and Popular Forces parties, and formed the JMP.

By the beginning of 2003, the JMP entered local and parliamentary elections with weak coordination and fear following the assassination of YSP Assistant Secretary-General Jarallah Omar, who had a primary role in forming the JMP. Utilizing all means and instruments of authority, the GPC

Ali Al-Garadi is a Yemeni journalist and the head of the media committee of Yemeni Journalist Syndicate.

The Palestinian case and "power" crisis

Palestinians whose land was occupied in 1948 now are undergoing a hard test. A settler and an occupier, the Zionist regime with a racial nature became the last apartheid regime on earth. Palestine was the last remaining colony at the beginning of the 21st century.



By: Abdulbari Tahir

The Palestinian tragedy is that they alone face the Israeli state, which has the strongest arsenal in the Middle East, supported by the major powers – the U.S. and the Europeans. However, Arab nations abandoned Palestinians as well.

Arab regimes entirely deserted the Palestinian case. They stood watching helplessly while Palestinian national leader Abu Amar was beleaguered. The Camp David agreement was the beginning of the rupture and shattering of national relations. However, U.S. and Israeli insistence on unilateral solutions was further confirmed by the acceptance of surrounding countries Egypt, Syria and Jordan, marking the beginning of the catastrophic journey.

It is true that Egypt recovered Sinai, but unfortunately, it was at the expense of its Palestinian and Syrian brothers. Yet, Palestinians were forced

into unfair negotiations from 1990 up to Camp David in 1992. Palestinians stood alone like a tragic hero receiving stabs without support.

Abu Amar refused to sign an agreement of squander stipulating retreat from June 5, 1967 borders, Jerusalem and the return of refugees. Despite Palestinians' split over Madrid and Oslo and their consequences, Fateh leadership remained integral. They gathered around their principles to the last minute, facing the modern international powers.

Then came the 2006 elections confirming Palestinian insistence on the resistance option. They refused unfair resolutions, which Israel failed to tolerate, besides the fact that it lost the support of its main guardian, the U.S. So what is Hamas expected to do?

Yet all – including the U.S. and Israel – admitted Hamas's success in a free and fair election. Hamas's success indicates the failure of all agreements Fateh signed, which Israel and the U.S. did not respect.

The question is: Why does Fateh leadership punish Hamas while it experienced failure or was made to fail

in achieving a political solution?

Palestinian voters punished Fateh for its stake in unfair solutions in which Abu Amar was killed while awaiting its implementation. Fateh leadership also paid for its unilateral approval of such agreements.

The tragic, biased international stance toward Israel also is not a threat to Palestinians. The real threat remains in the internal split among Palestinians. By split, we do not mean a difference in opinion because this remains a source of strength.

It is not preferable to compel Hamas to accept what Abu Amar did not accept and for which he died. It would be wrong for any Palestinian to think he can achieve anything by sacrificing his fellows. The Madrid, Oslo, Camp David and Road Map agreements no longer are acceptable by Palestinians. Israelis also do not respect them, nor do the White House or the Fourth committee patronize them.

It also is distressing that the dispute between the two dominant parties, Hamas and Fateh, revolves around positions. They differ over trifles such as insistence to direct one of the security offices, checkpoints or any other useless, besieged, corruption-stained positions. Fateh's defeat was attributed to committing itself to "political solutions" which Israelis and their U.S. ally did not abide by themselves. Because of corruption, anarchy and lack of security, Palestinians abandoned Fateh. Fateh leaders would be wrong if they think they've put the pokers into the Hamas government's cupboards. They cannot even adopt Hamas's method of destabilizing security or targeting Israeli civilians to provoke an Israeli invasion that would enrage Palestinians against Hamas. Hamas's refusal to recognize the PLO, its excessive arrogance with its majority, irrational assessment of international situations and ignorance of national unity are all hidden time-bombs. Internal conflicts, mad partisanship, targeting civilians and underestimating international attitudes are real threats facing Palestinians.

Abdulbari Tahir is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

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Yemeni-style elections

Crisis indicators have begun prevailing in Yemen's political scene as September's presidential elections draw nearer. Observers of the events can predict a sharp crisis will occur in coming months.



By: Ali Al-Sarari

What I am talking about does not reflect a pessimistic personal viewpoint related to nightmares raiding the country following qat sessions, but it is imprudent to ignore recurring crisis indicators. The main indicator attracting more attention than others has been manifested in the disappointing impasse in dialogue between the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

Dialogue began four months ago and its assigned topic early on was to reform election management, represented by the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) and its affiliates. Both parties in the dialogue had differing viewpoints that appeared difficult for the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) to bring together.

The ruling party insisted on retaining the SCER's current structure and dividing subcommittee seats among parties according to their Parliament seats and the percentage of votes they received in recent parliamentary elections. In light of this viewpoint, the GPC controls the seven-member SCER, with five members belonging to it and the other two from the opposition, in addition to its 70 percent control of subcommittees.

On the other hand, opposition par-

ties stressed SCER reshuffling as it lacks balance and is accused of partiality toward the GPC, as well as approving equal division of subcommittees so as not to be controlled by a particular party.

As usual, the two parties in the dialogue resorted to the Constitution and the law, each wanting to bring out any constitutional clauses supporting its viewpoint. The GPC provided justification that the remaining time period will not be enough for SCER reshuffling, saying the law does not stipulate forming the SCER from parties despite its ban on forming the committee from a single party.

The JMP excerpted its pretext from constitutional clauses obliging the SCER to be neutral whereas the current commission is not neutral in that it is dominated by a majority of GPC members. According to the JMP, equal representation in all electoral committees ensures balance and exercising reciprocal observation of their work.

To ensure SCER impartiality, the JMP presented evidence against it based on its members' statements and violations committed in complementary elections in constituencies No. 227 in Raima province and 1999 in Dhamar, as indicated by international election monitoring reports. According to the JMP, the SCER never took any action against the said violations as stipulated by law.

The GPC's attempt to evade being one of the dialogue parties could not succeed, as it is sandwiched between the SCER and the JMP. Due to the latter's insistence, the GPC was compelled to accept dialogue with the

opposition, which does not involve the SCER, announcing that it welcomes any agreement reached by it and the opposition.

Dialogue began to move toward seriousness after being transformed into a screened play, as the GPC could not hide but turned to defend the SCER and any actions it takes. The dialogue's seriousness remained relative since it never reached any practical results and the different parties showed a desire to have joint points to avoid any crisis.

In the end, the GPC broke the dialogue by withdrawing its proposal for discussion after being accepted by the opposition. The proposal was meant to form a committee of six lawyers from both sides, in addition to two judges, to discuss opposition charges against the SCER. The newly formed committee would have the right to enact its decision after approval by both sides. If the decision acquits the SCER, it will continue its work, but if it condemns it, the two parties must agree to form a new SCER and approve JMP pledges to ensure a free and fair poll.

The GPC's withdrawal of its proposal returned dialogue to its starting point, further complicating the matter by saying President Ali Abdullah Saleh informed the two dialogue parties during his meeting with them that he will take a neutral stance toward reconciliation between them. This statement convinced the JMP that dialogue was only a waste of time since the president controls the decision and not his party, according to JMP press statements.

To further complicate the situation, GPC leaders escaped confessing the dialogue's failure with opposition parties. In their recent meeting chaired by Prime Minister and GPC Secretary-

General Abdulqader Bajammal, GPC leaders said they discussed new constitutional amendments the government presented. JMP spokesman Mohamed Qahtan denied such action, labeling it "child's play."

While the SCER continues preliminary procedures for upcoming elections excluding the JMP, media predict a false impression will occur which may help the SCER form voter registration committees and modify registers. All of these matters are proceeding legally, however, violations are on the rise and the file of electoral crimes is becoming larger. JMP sources confirmed that this elections preparation stage inevitably will fail, stating that it will possess clear-cut evidence to appeal against voter registers.

The JMP escalated its efforts in preparing for a confrontation due to involve various social classes and the regime. Meanwhile, GPC sensitivity is growing over steps and actions the JMP took, particularly in organizing a consultative meeting with opposition leaders in governorates two weeks ago. Opposition journalists and lawyers also held a similar meeting.

As exchanging charges represents the main stance prevailing in the current political scene, upcoming presidential elections will be conducted Yemeni-style, meaning elections without competition or conducted in an atmosphere of sharp political crisis. Both cases will help fulfill the need for change or bring Yemen a step closer toward the democratic move. All of these tricky acts aim to permanently complicate the current situation.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Letters to the Editor

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi's essay on the West and its share of responsibility for the current dilemma in Western and Islamic relations is both clear and thoughtful.

He is quite right that the key, at least for a beginning in a positive new chapter of Islamic world relationships with other non-Islamic nations, lies in the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

However, no resolution is possible unless Palestinians can agree to stop killing Israelis. Most of the hardships Palestinians endure are a result of Israel's attempts to defend itself against murder and assassination. All governments are bound to protect their people, or they serve no useful purpose.

The constant demonizing of Jews by Muslims is met with the demonizing of Islam, and not merely by Jews. The cartoons published originally in Denmark were a needless provocation, but once published, religious leaders fanned the flames of hatred with false embellishments to the controversy.

If Islam were serious about getting along with the West and about profiting from the good in the West, then it must censure people who distort Islam for their own political ends.

Such people include Osama bin

Laden who is very careful not to send his sons out to die for "the cause." And it should be noted that there is nothing the West can do to placate al Qaeda. What Osama bin Laden wants is control of the Saudi Arabian peninsula. The West cannot give that to anyone.

All the rest of al Qaeda's creed is simply camouflage for its true intent, which is to supplant tyranny with its own brand of tyranny. The biggest thing the Islamic world can learn from the West is that freeing the human spirit can reap great leaps forward in people's lives.

The golden age of Islam was probably the highest in civilization humanity has achieved, and it was a civilization which encouraged borrowing from other cultures through individual thought and study, which built on those borrowings.

The Golden Age produced startling discoveries in all fields, and it took the West centuries to catch up with the Arab world of 1,000 years ago.

While the Arab world is fuming at the West and repressing its own people's intellects and aspirations, the West is trying to free itself from its dependence on Middle Eastern oil. If it succeeds, the Arab world will again become an arid and increasingly trivial backwater.

Wake up.

*Matthew Sailhardy
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Education For All Why literacy matters

EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (3/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006* aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

Part II defines and makes the case for literacy, tracing its emergence as a human right that confers profound benefits upon individuals and societies.

Why literacy matters

Goal 4 of the Dakar Framework for Action calls upon countries to achieve 'a 50 percent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults'. Although goal 3 makes no explicit reference to literacy, the pledge to meet the learning needs of all young people and adults 'through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes' also implies the need for basic literacy. This part outlines how understandings of literacy have evolved, establishes that literacy is a right and a key to other rights, and provides evidence of the multiple personal, social and economic benefits that the acquisition of literacy confers. Literacy alone, however, guarantees neither other rights nor any of its benefits. These depend on the implementation of relevant laws and policies in specific countries.

- Literacy is a right and a key to other rights
- There are many understandings and definitions of literacy, couched in terms of skills (e.g. reading, writing and calculating), practices (the uses of literacy) and transformation (personal, social and political)
- Literacy is best viewed as a continuum of skills rather than a simple dichotomy between 'literate' and 'illiterate'
- Literacy is not only about individuals, but also about literate communities and societies
- Literacy matters for a wide range of individual purposes and development goals
- Legal frameworks must acknowledge the right to literacy
- Investing in adult literacy programmes as well as in schools makes economic sense

Evolving definitions reflect broadening dimensions of literacy

Literacy has been interpreted and defined in many ways. These have evolved over time, influenced by academic research, international policy agendas and national priorities. A fundamental thread runs through these understandings: literacy embodies reading and writing skills. Numeracy is generally understood as a complement to or component of literacy.

Acknowledging the limitations of an exclusively skill based view of literacy, researchers attempted in the

latter half of the twentieth century to focus on the uses and applications of skills in 'meaningful' ways. In the 1960s and 1970s, the notion of 'functional literacy' gained ground and emphasized links between literacy, productivity and overall socio-economic development.

'A person is literate who can with understanding both read and write a short simple statement on his [or her] everyday life.' This definition became a guidepost for measuring literacy in national censuses.

Recent perspectives have also involved the ways in which literacy is used and practised in different social and cultural contexts. Many educators have come to view literacy as an active process of learning involving social awareness and critical reflection, which can empower individuals and groups to promote social change. The work of the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire integrated notions of active learning within particular socio-cultural settings. As he wrote: 'Every reading of the word is preceded by a reading of the world.'

The term literacy has been broadened to become a metaphor for many kinds of skills. Some scholars suggest that the concept of 'multiple literacies' – related to technological, health, information, media, visual, scientific and other contexts – is better suited to life in the twenty-first century. Emphasis is placed not only on reading and writing, but also on skills and practices that are relevant to the changing dynamics of community life.

Since the 1950s, international organizations – UNESCO in particular – have played an influential role in developing policies on literacy, drawing on emerging conceptual understandings. Following the Second World War, UNESCO supported the spread of adult literacy as part of a concerted effort to advance basic education. The first global survey of adult literacy, covering over sixty countries, was published in 1957, at a time when policy-makers were beginning to consider how education and literacy could better enable individuals to participate in and benefit from a modernizing economy. This and other publications contributed to a standard definition of literacy, which was adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 1958:

During the 1960s and 1970s, the international policy community stressed the role of literacy in economic growth and national development, especially in newly independent countries. Reflecting this emerging understanding, UNESCO's General Conference in 1978 adopted a definition of functional literacy still in use today: 'A person is functionally literate who can engage in all those activities in which literacy is required for effective functioning of his [or her] group and community and also for enabling him [or her] to continue to use reading, writing and calculation for his [or her] own and the community's development.'

Meanwhile, Freire's theory of 'conscientization', which viewed literacy as embodying social awareness and critical reflection, and as an integral factor in social change, gained popularity in developing countries and influenced political declarations. Over the 1980s and 1990s, definitions of literacy broadened to accommodate the challenges of globalization, including the impact of new technology and

information media and the emergence of knowledge economies. In countries with high literacy rates, assessing the range of adult literacy skills in evolving labour markets and knowledge-based societies has come to the fore. Greater attention is also paid to the language or languages in which literacy is learned and practised. Reflecting these concerns, the World Declaration on Education for All, adopted in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990 placed the challenge of literacy within the broader context of meeting the basic learning needs of every child, youth and adult, stating: 'These needs comprise both essential learning tools (such as literacy, oral expression, numeracy, and problem solving) and the basic learning content (such as knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes) required by human beings to be able to survive, to develop their full capacities, to live and work in dignity, to participate fully in development, to improve the quality of their lives, to make informed decisions, and to continue learning.'

The Dakar Framework for Action and the 2002 General Assembly resolution on the United Nations Literacy Decade, 2003-2012, acknowledged that literacy is at the heart of lifelong learning. As the resolution put it: 'Literacy is crucial to the acquisition, by every child, youth and adult, of essential life skills that enable them to address the challenges they can face in life, and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century'. The international community further underscored in the resolution the social dimension of literacy, recognizing that 'literacy is at the heart



A field worker from Botswana's Total Community Mobilisation.

of basic education for all and creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy'.

The right to literacy

The right to literacy is implicit in the right to education recognized by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Other conventions and international declarations have since restated this right. The 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education specifically tackles the issue of those who have not attended or completed primary school. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child recognize literacy, rather than just education, as a right. Both contain explicit references to the promotion of literacy. Key international declarations also stand as political milestones.



The 1975 Persepolis Declaration describes literacy as a 'fundamental human right', a statement reiterated in the Hamburg Declaration of 1997. Several instruments focus on the language of literacy acquisition. The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights outlines the right of persons belonging to minorities to use their own language.

Women who participate in literacy programmes have better knowledge of health and family planning, and are more likely to adopt preventive health measures

The 1989 ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples states that, wherever practicable, children are to be taught to read and write in their indigenous language and that adequate measures should also be taken to ensure that they have the opportunity to attain fluency in an

based account of these is not straightforward. Most research does not separate the benefits of literacy per se from those of merely attending school or participating in adult literacy programmes. There have been few rigorous assessments of the latter in terms of cognitive achievement and lasting effects. Benefits such as political awareness, empowerment and critical reflection, moreover, are intrinsically difficult to measure.

With these caveats in mind, a spectrum of benefits associated with literacy can be identified. The first are *human benefits*, deeply tied to an individual's self-esteem, confidence and personal empowerment. Such benefits bring a sense of greater space for individual and collective action. Learners in Namibia, for example, speak of self-reliance and the wish not to be cheated as reasons for interest in following literacy classes.

Related to this is the increased civic engagement – whether in unions, community activities or politics as such – found to be correlated with participation in adult literacy programmes. In El Salvador, newly literate women in rural areas more readily claimed a voice in community meetings. In Nepal, women who were enrolled in state-run literacy programmes expressed greater knowledge of local politics and more interest in running for office. Literacy programmes can also have an impact on peace and reconciliation in post-conflict contexts. In Colombia, an NGO literacy project encouraged some 900 adults who migrated to Medellín from rural areas affected by armed conflict to create texts based on their experiences, helping them come to terms with trauma.

Cultural benefits are more difficult to identify clearly. Literacy programmes can challenge attitudes by developing critical reflection skills, a hallmark of the Freirean approach. Women's access to reading and writing can result in new attitudes and norms. In Pakistan, for instance, studies in two rural communities found that younger women were creating private time to read and write, and, in the process, questioning certain values and roles. Cultural diversity is enhanced by literacy programmes in minority languages, improving people's ability to engage with their own culture, as has been observed in programmes from Malaysia to New Zealand in which learners develop stories based on indigenous folk tales.

Improving literacy carries potentially large *social benefits*. Research in several countries, including Bolivia, Nepal and Nicaragua, shows that women who participate in literacy programmes have better knowledge of health and family planning, and are more likely to adopt preventive health measures such as immunization or to seek medical help for themselves and their children. The correlation between education and lower fertility is well established,

though little research has been done on the impact of adult literacy programmes on reproductive behaviour. Educated parents – whether through formal schooling or adult programmes – are more likely to send their children to school and to help them with their work.

Most literacy programmes have targeted women rather than both sexes, limiting the ways in which gender equality issues can be directly addressed. Participation in adult literacy programmes enables women to gain access to and challenge male domains, for example by learning official languages or managing household finances. Through literacy programmes, participants also tend to gain a stronger voice in the household because of their experience speaking before the class. Although social barriers may prevent women from enjoying real equality, there are many instances of literacy programmes taking on gender issues at the community level, such as campaigns in India against men's alcohol consumption and the use of legal measures to address abuse.

The *economic returns* to education have been extensively studied, especially in terms of increased individual income and economic growth. While the number of years of schooling remains the most frequently used variable, recent studies also look at assessments of cognitive skills, typically literacy and numeracy test scores. They find that literacy levels have a positive impact on earnings beyond that of years spent in school. Studies on the economic impact of adult literacy programmes are much rarer.

Several studies have attempted to disentangle the impact of literacy on growth from that of education. Using data from the International Adult Literacy Survey, one study concluded that differences in average skill levels among OECD countries explained 55% of the differences in economic growth over 1960-94, implying that investment in raising the average skill levels could yield large economic returns. A study on forty-four African countries found that literacy was among the variables with a positive effect on GDP per capita growth, while a survey of thirty-two predominantly Islamic developing countries concluded that levels of adult literacy and school enrolment both had a positive impact on growth. Another study suggests that a literacy rate of at least 40% is a prerequisite for sustained rapid economic growth. How do the returns to investment in adult basic education compare with those to investment in formal schooling? The fact that literacy has been one of the more neglected EFA goals partly stems from an assumption that primary-level education is more cost-effective than youth and adult programmes. Yet, what sparse evidence exists indicates that the returns on investment in adult literacy programmes are generally comparable to, and compare favourably with, investments in primary level education. For example, a review of literacy projects in Bangladesh, Ghana and Senegal estimated that the costs per successful adult learner were between 13% and 33% of the cost of four years of primary education.

The benefits of literacy: human, social, cultural, political, economic Literacy confers a wide set of benefits on individuals, families, communities and nations. Providing an evidence-

Yemeni oil sector to 'Yemenize'

By: Abdulalem Al-Shara'bi

All developing countries practically suffer grave shortages in well-trained and highly skilled technical personnel in various industrial areas, particularly the oil industry. As a developing country, Yemen also suffers this shortage in highly qualified oil industry personnel.

Yemen's government has adopted a program to 'Yemenize' its oil sector, claiming it is an important step on the road to implementing the strategy to limit poverty and unemployment, as it aims to provide job opportunities for unemployed Yemeni skills. The purpose is to replace foreign personnel with Yemenis skilled in this field, especially since foreign personnel receive wages and salaries many times higher than what is paid to Yemeni employees.

Foreign firms working in Yemen's oil sector follow a policy of recruiting the largest possible number of foreign employees, especially from their own countries, to get as many privileges as possible. On the other hand is Yemen's policy of trying to recruit the maximum number of its citizens in this field, leading to the goal of 'Yemenization.'

In line with this policy, the Ministry of Oil has begun supporting the plan by prescribing immediate solutions to problems and hindrances blocking the Yemenization progress by curbing mediation and nepotism followed in recruiting Yemeni citizens in foreign firms, Dr. Mohammed Saleh Muqbil,

director-general of the ministry's Yemenization project, said.

Muqbil said the importance of Yemenization is based on offering support for the strategy to limit poverty and unemployment by replacing foreign personnel with qualified Yemeni personnel. He pointed out that unemployment mainly is attributed to the nonexistence of enough light and heavy industries in Yemen, which could contribute to solving a large part of the unemployment problem.

Moreover, Muqbil does not place the blame for unemployment mainly on the government for not employing citizens in government sectors. To the contrary, he attributes the problem to piling and surplus numbers of employees in government institutions and not planning for employment, which causes inflation in employee numbers.

Regarding limited job opportunities available to Yemenis in foreign oil firms operating in Yemen, he attributed this to international criteria and specifications that should be available especially for oil industry recruitment. Labor in such firms mainly is based on expertise and skills.

Muqbil assented that foreign firms do not help solve the unemployment problem, as they are economic-oriented and mostly uninterested in social factors or unemployment problems as much as they are interested in experienced personnel that will guarantee full effectiveness and success of their operation's oil production progress.

Regarding the program the Yemeni oil company adopted to train and



The Ministry of Oil and Minerals building.

qualify Yemeni oil sector personnel, engineer Khalid Khairat, managing director of training and qualification, affirmed that training and qualifying Yemeni personnel is a strategic objective of the oil ministry.

The training process is considered an essential condition and a significant step toward Yemenization, indicating that the ministry, in cooperation with the Yemeni oil company, has managed

to train and qualify large numbers of its employees in various technical, administrative and financial areas in an effort to depend on qualified Yemeni skills.

Unemployed engineer Ahmed Abdul Rahman, a graduate from oil engineering, pointed out that there are Yemeni personnel with high efficiency qualified to replace foreign personnel working in the oil sector. He said

implementing the Yemenization program still is moving very slowly, noting that he has not seen serious steps in this direction.

Rahman said even in the training and qualification process, nepotism plays an important role via recommendations and mediations in favor of those applying for training, usually made by influential individuals and senior officials.

Yemen exports more than 3 million tons of marine life in 2006 first quarter

By: Yemen Times Staff

During this year's first quarter, Yemen's total volume of marine life production and export of various species and fish was more than three million tons worth more than \$6 million.

Ghazi Ahmed Saleh, General Manager of Aden governorate's Fish Wealth Office, explained that last year's production was more than 19 million tons of fish products and marine life exported to a number of Arab and foreign countries.

In related developments, Yemeni coast guard forces foiled four sea piracy attempts in Aden Gulf and Arabian Sea territorial waters in the period between March 1 and mid-April.

Additionally, fishermen from the Hodeidah governorate town of Al-Khawka have complained that Egyptian industrial boats are sweeping their fishing nets with their fish catch, thereby causing them losses estimated at millions, let alone marine life destruction due to industrial sweeping by means of sweeping and sucking up fish wealth.

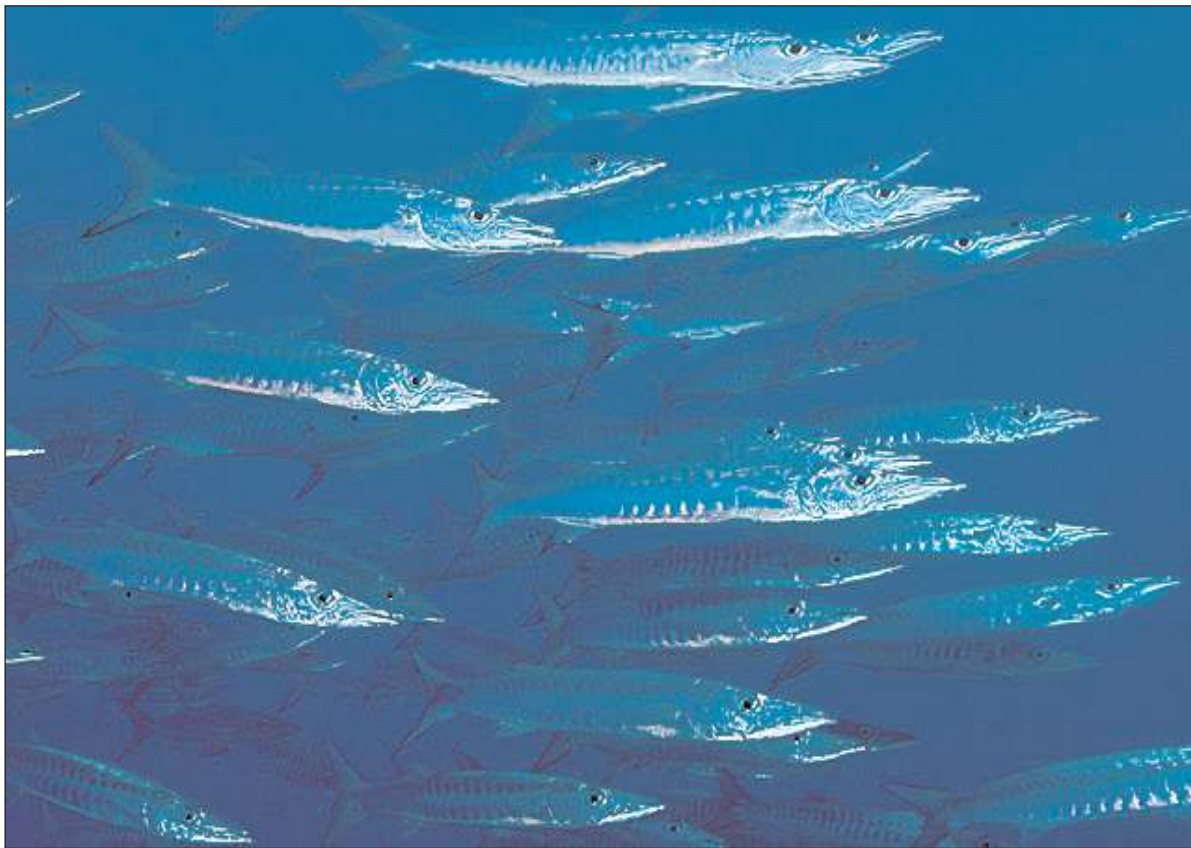
The fishermen expressed their astonishment regarding Ministry of Fish

Wealth officials' silence about what is happening to Yemen's fish wealth in Red Sea regional waters. They affirmed that the Egyptian boats sail near Red Sea shores at Khawka port, Umzahar, Sahari, Al-Nasser and Salif.

They appealed to the ministry to respect its commitment to Parliament two years ago to not renew any contract with foreign, regional or even local firms using artificial fishery methods in Red Sea regional waters so that Yemen's shores will not empty of fish due to that fishing style. The fishermen added that the fish catch is dwindling in comparison to previous years because of such Egyptian boats' fishing methods in the Red Sea.

Abdulhadi Khidr, director-general of Hodeidah's Fish Wealth Office, said no agreement has been signed for two years with Arab or foreign firms practicing industrial fishing, adding that some Egyptian boats present in the Red Sea are affiliated with a Yemeni investor and registered in his name, according to which he obtained a fishing license.

He confirmed that his office fairly compensated fishermen whose nets and catch were damaged and that ministry monitors are watching the Yemeni investor's Egyptian boats.



Barracuda fish in the Red Sea.

picturesunderwater.com

New transport reforms introduced, openness to private sector

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Yemen recently adopted a new transport reform package incorporating qualifying airports and openness to Yemen's private sector.

In this regard, the government approved a Ministry of Transport memorandum regarding opening Yemeni airspace to international aviation traffic. The plan includes qualifying airports, increasing visa granting facilities, canceling taxes and duties on air trips, as well as facilities required for ground services at airports. The plan takes into account

benefiting from experiments of countries with similar circumstances and as part of an open airspaces program adopted according to agreements of joint Arab action.

The government endorsed the ministry's proposed phased program to implement the open airspace policy at Yemeni airports, deciding currently to begin opening airports to special direct flights and air freight movement, while at the same time working to qualify and develop all airports to be ready to receive different flights.

Yemen's Cabinet gave directives granting all authority to institutions working at land crossings to perform their tasks dynamically, in addition to

facilitating traffic movement and transporting goods and passengers.

The Cabinet emphasized rehabilitating Yemeni Airways Company in line with developments witnessed by the air transport industry sector and enabling it to compete at the level of qualitative services offered to passengers.

Yemeni Airways Company recently approved a group of measures to expand its network of internal and external lines with the purpose of expanding the firm's local and external air transport services. Measures include operating several direct flights such as daily flights to Cairo and Dubai and nine non-stop flights to

Europe, as well as covering more than three foreign and domestic stations. The company concluded cooperation agreements with nine Arab air firms to connect its transport in the Middle East and North Africa, in addition to agreements with international air firms to carry passengers via a large international flight network. It also amended its winter flight schedule, which will begin October 30.

Such measures aim to improve passenger services on board the firm's airlines, endeavor to offer the best services in air freight and connect Yemen with the world to help realize tourist advancement and provide

Yemen's economy with hard currency. Improvement measures also aim to create a connection between Yemeni expatriates and their homeland and enhance economic and trade cooperation between Yemen and various world nations.

Yemeni Airways sources mentioned that the company is holding talks with Airbus and Boeing firms to purchase a number of Airbus 350 and Boeing 787 airplanes as part of its goal to extend its flights to various countries. The firm plans to open a new route to China and several Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand, as well as a number of African countries, including Kenya.

Business In Brief

Yemeni-Spanish relations are witnessing qualitative transfer in various areas in light of positive results from the Spanish foreign minister's recent Sana'a visit.

Sources mentioned that during the visit, an agreement was made to arrange a June visit to Sana'a for a delegation of Spanish businessmen and company representatives to explore and discuss investment opportunities and building joint projects.

Sources added that Spain also decided to place Yemen among countries receiving Spanish foreign assistance and it is expected that Spain will inaugurate such assistance with \$10 million.

Sources also mentioned that a Yemeni ambassador to Spain will be appointed within the next year as diplomatic representation previously was at the level of charge d'affaires.

Sources added that during the upcoming period, Yemen and Spain will discuss signing a security agreement similar to those between some European countries with the aim of bolstering security cooperation, exchanging information and expertise and coordinating terror fighting efforts.

At a recent meeting chaired by Governor Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kuhlani, Aden governorate's investment committee agreed to submit a list of names of investors who are not serious and have investment contracts for projects not yet begun, with the aim of taking action on them.

The committee also discussed impediments facing the governorate's investment sector and efforts aimed at preparing and promoting the city of Aden to be considered for comprehensive economic, trade and tourist investment. The committee also reviewed efforts and methods used to attract investors in the promotional process.

During the meeting, Al-Kuhlani said Aden will receive many commercial and investment delegations in coming months, which will help create job opportunities in all fields and contribute to alleviating unemployment.

The total amount of cattle smuggled from Yemen to neighboring countries last year was more than 35,000 cows, sheep and goats, most of whom were females that neither are allowed to be sold nor slaughtered inside Yemen in order to protect animal wealth development.

This information was revealed by Dr. Mohammed Yahya Shujaa, a senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. He said Yemeni cattle exports to neighboring countries via legal crossings amounted to 3,000, exported to Kuwait and the Arab Emirates at a cost of more than YR 1 million.

Yemen signed a memorandum of understanding with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, wherein the fund accordingly will offer Yemen \$1 million in assistance to finance stations to control sewage leakage in the capital of Sana'a.

The signing took place in a meeting between Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Abdulatif Yusuf Al-Hamad, director-general and chairman of the fund's board of directors. The meeting occurred on the sidelines of Arab financial institutions' joint annual meetings recently held in the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

Al-Arhabi also discussed cooperation aspects between Yemen and the fund and ways to boost them in the future to enhance the fund's contributions to supporting Yemeni development projects.

Exchange rate of some currencies

Date: Tuesday, 25/4/2006

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.2500	196.4600
Sterling Pound	351.5300	351.9100
Euro	242.9700	243.2300
Saudi Rial	52.3300	52.3800
Kuwaiti Dinar	672.0100	672.7300
UAE Dirhem	53.4300	53.4900
Egyptian Pound	34.1200	34.1600
Japanese Yen	1.704076	1.705900

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

French legend Zidane to retire after the World Cup

By: Jack Rashleigh

Zidane scored 28 goals for France including two in the 1998 World Cup final in Paris. Zinedine Zidane, one of football's greatest players, has taken heed of what his body is telling him and decided to retire from the game after the World Cup.

The Real Madrid midfielder, who will celebrate his 34th birthday during the finals in Germany, said yesterday: "I have to listen to my body and I cannot carry on for another year."

The Frenchman cited Real's poor season as another reason for calling it a day. "I think it is better to clarify the situation now," he said. "It may

seem strange that I am announcing it now, two weeks before the end of the [Spanish] championship, but this is a decision I have seriously reflected on, and one I had to make before the World Cup.

"When you do not reach your objectives, you ask yourself questions. I know I cannot play better than I have up until now.

"I am at an age where it is getting more and more difficult. I do not want to have another year like the one I have just had."

The injuries and inconsistency that have dogged him over the past two seasons may have also influenced his decision, even though he still has another year left on his contract.

He said he wanted to focus on the World Cup - "my last objective" - and give Madrid time to find a replacement.

"This is something that has been running around in my head for quite a while," Zidane said. "I wanted everyone to know so that I wouldn't be asked the 100 questions one gets when there are doubts."

The announcement will signal the end of one of the most remarkable careers in football history.

Zidane delivered the French their first World Cup win in 1998 when he captained the side and scored twice in the 3-0 final victory against Brazil. Two years later he captained them to a European Championship victory in the Netherlands. After a poor Euro 2004, when France were knocked out in the quarter-finals by the eventual winners Greece, he announced his retirement from international football.

He was named Fifa's World Player of the Year in 1998, 2000 and 2003. The 33-year-old's swansong will



Zidane

be captaining his country in the World Cup this summer but he will not, as previously planned, return for a final season with Real Madrid up until his contract ends in 2007.

He became the world's most expensive player when Real signed him from the Italian giants Juventus for £46m in 2001. A year later, he scored a superb 30-yard volley, considered by many to be one of the

greatest goals ever scored in a final, to earn Real their ninth European Cup in the 2002 final against Bayer Leverkusen in Glasgow.

He won La Liga the following season but has since been a victim of, and party to, the decline of the Spanish club.

The player is believed to have broken the news to his team-mates, coach and president last Friday.

At club level he won the Serie A twice in Italy with Juventus before he joined Real Madrid. Real's president at the time, Florentino Perez, was questioned for signing a player who was fast approaching 30 and who, some commentators said, was past his peak.

This season Zidane has struggled with injuries and has decided to quit a year ahead of his contract. He seems unlikely to accept Real Madrid's offer of an ambassador's role at the club.

Zidane is suspended for the weekend's trip to Osasuna but will return for the visit to Racing Santander. He will then play his last match in the Bernabeu against Villarreal on 7 May, followed by his final game for Real Madrid a week later in Seville.

Life and times of a master

Born 23 June, 1972, in Marseilles

Clubs

1998-1992 AS Cannes Games 61 Goals 6
1992-1996 Bordeaux Games 139 Goals 28
1996-2001 Juventus Games 151 Goals 24
2001- Real Madrid Games 142 Goals 34

National team

1994-2004 Caps 98 Goals 28

Honours:

France

1998 World Cup; 2000 European Championship

Juventus

1996 European Super Cup; 1996 Intercontinental Cup; 1996-97, 1997-98 Serie A championship; 1997 Italian Super Cup

Real Madrid

2001-02 European Cup; 2002 Intercontinental Cup; 2002-03 La Liga championship

Personal honours

1998, 2000, 2003 Fifa World Player of the Year
1998 European Footballer of the Year (Ballon d'Or)

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وكل المحبين

CONSULTANT ASSIGNMENT ON MANAGEMENT TRADING EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Credit Administration Unit-CAU (Client) within Ministry of Health and Population intends to hire an individual consultant who will be contracted to carry out the evaluation of the management training delivered by the Health Management Training Center (HMTc).

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the consulting assignment are: (i) to evaluate the training programs delivered, and (ii) based on the evaluation to prepare suggestions on improvement of them.

SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant should

- Evaluate of the physical and financial capacity and sustainability of the training programs to meet MOPHP strategic needs:
 - Relevance and coherence of the training programs to the National Health Policies;
 - Relevance of training programs to trainees needs;
 - Capacity of the training programs in supporting life-long learning.
- Evaluate the quality of training in term of input, process and output dimensions concerning:
 - Training resources;
 - Training competencies and skills;
 - Training materials used;
 - Training methodology;
 - Quality of curriculum
- Evaluate the impact of the training
 - Improvement of the trainees' skills and knowledge;
 - Improvement of trainee's performance;
 - Improvement of trainees' behaviors and attitude;
 - The impact of the external and internal (working) environment on the optimal use of the acquired knowledge and skills of the trainees to improve their performance;
 - Changes in the health services performance (organizational and managerial change).
- These tasks should be achieved through
 - Visits to the HMTc to examine samples of the trainees' field reports, training materials and methods as well as trainees' evaluation;
 - Meeting with MOPHP leadership;
 - Field visits, development and examination of scientific sample groups at governorate and district levels to measure the impact of the training on improving trainees' performance, to meet their supervisors and colleagues, and to study the internal and external environment that might affect their performance.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Submission to CAU Director a draft written technical report on the results of the evaluation and recommendations. The report should be submitted in 3 months after the commencement of the assignment. A team of MOPHP staff will review and comment the report in 15 days. If the consultant did not receive any comment, he/she may consider the report accepted.
- Submission to CAU Director the final technical report on the results of the evaluation and recommendations. This report should be submitted in 15 days after receiving the MOPHP Team's comments.
- Submission to CAU Director a proposal on setting up a mechanism for ongoing monitoring of training effectiveness. This report should be submitted to the CAU Director with the technical report. The reports should be submitted in English language in 2 hard copies and 1 electronic file.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

- PhD or Master Degree in Public Health or Health Management;
- 5 year experience in training;
- Experience in training evaluation;
- Fluent in Arabic and English languages.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The Consultant should provide (i) technical proposal containing the methodology, the work plan an organization, (ii) itemized financial bid, and (iii) his/her comments on this TOR.

The Consultant will be expected to hire and manage a competent team to carry out the data collection and evaluation. His/her bid should include the composition, tasks, cost and qualification of this team. The cost of the work of the team should be given as separated items in the above mentioned financial bid.

Deadline for application is 3rd of May 2006

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Yemeni doctors: To heal or to steal

By: Samar Mujalli

Healthcare is considered a major factor in a country's development. In Yemen however, the healthcare system is weak, its development is stagnant and people's lives are being destroyed due to improper healthcare. And then again, no one seems to care enough to do something about it. Yemen is indeed going through a serious healthcare crisis.

Corruption in Yemen comes in all shapes and sizes; corruption in healthcare is definitely the most rampant in the country. According to World Health Organization (WHO) Yemen is the lowest ranked Arab country in the healthcare fields and in any healthcare progress or development. With more than 2000 hospitals, laboratories, and care centers in Yemen; it would seem the only reason these exist is to collect money. According to world development indicator statistics, there are not enough doctors in Yemen. There is only one doctor for every 218 patients while in European countries there is one doctor for every 7 patients. Not only do we not have enough doctors in Yemen, we don't have sufficiently qualified doctors. The World Health statistics sites Yemen as having an annual growth rate of 3.44 (2004 est.). That means more people every year are born and less qualified doctors to do the work, unless something is done to solve the problem.

Horrible medical mistakes have led to patient deaths. "My sister was having a minor problem so we took her to the hos-

pital. The doctor gave her a shot. He was not qualified and didn't pay attention to his job. The shot he gave her contained a small amount of air which led to her death. My sister is dead because of a doctor who doesn't know basic, essential medicine," said Mohammed Falah a language teacher in the capital. "Hospitals and doctors are just for money. Surgeries in this country kill not heal," he angrily added.

Most hospitals and health centers are in Sana'a, leaving most villages are without qualified doctors. Citizens living in rural areas who need treatment have to travel to major cities. But after spending time in these hospitals and clinics and knowing how harshly doctors treat patients, they'd rather die than be treated in these locations.

Since 26% of Yemen's population is centered in urban areas, the health care problem will continue to worsen due to the bad treatment, bad medicine, utter lack of experience, and absolutely no accountability. Unfortunately, in this society bad health care is a problem for the poor. When the rich have health issues they prefer to travel outside Yemen for treatment. They understand the weak infrastructure of the healthcare system in Yemen and won't risk being treated locally. "Government officials are known to seek treatment abroad for the simplest illnesses," Mohammed Salah said.

According to world health statistics more than 15.7% of Yemen's population is living below the poverty line. Doctors should consider this before using their knowledge to gain money. Unfortunately they don't and they continue shameful

practices to get money despite a poor, desperate person's need for treatment.

"I make deals with doctors to advise their patient to come and buy from my pharmacy in exchange for a certain percentage of the total amount of sale at the end of the month. I also agree to write more than three prescriptions for each patient even if even if they don't need them. I take all the free samples the doctors get and sell them for profit," a pharmacist said. "Doctors go to medical conferences sponsored by pharmaceutical companies in order to get free drug samples and free food. I saw a doctor sleeping during one of the conferences because he didn't particularly care whether the medicine was good or not. He didn't even know what the medicine was supposed to be used for as long as the company would give him free stuff in exchange for recommending their medicine," he added.

Private hospitals are usually everyone's first choice. Yet not everyone can afford them even when they try very hard to get treatment there. People think that private hospitals are better because of all the advertisements and foreign doctors. But are private hospitals trustworthy? "Some private hospitals do have good doctors but not all of them. Most private hospitals are not there for treating patients, they are only there for the money and they don't really care about a patient's health," Dr. Entesar said. "I recommend everyone go to public hospitals; they have good doctors and we know for sure that doctors don't work there for the money because it is not that much," she added.

Private hospitals have a variety of

excuses to make people pay large amounts of money for their healthcare. One is that they convince you to have an operation. "I was pregnant in my ninth month when I wanted to check if my baby was alright. I went to a doctor in a private hospital thinking it was the best thing to do. The doctor told me that my baby was in danger and I needed emergency caesarian section. I wasn't convinced so my husband took me to Althoura Hospital. They told me that everything was normal and the baby was healthy and no operation was necessary. That I only had to wait and have a normal delivery - which I did," Sosan said. "Now, I don't trust that hospital or any other private hospital at all. I've learned my lesson," she added.

Private hospitals make patients stay longer at the hospital just to get the money for the room. "I work in a private hospital and I am not proud of it. They make me run unnecessary tests on patients even if they were poor and I feel bad about it. But it is because of this job that I can feed my family; I can't quit," a laboratory worker said. "If doctors can't think about the poor patients they should think about their religion, about Allah who is watching them do these shameful things," a nurse said. "We hope their conscious will wake up someday," she added.

Private hospitals and clinics are much more expensive than the public facilities. "When I go to a private hospital or a clinic I feel like they have a machine that tells them how much money we've got so when we finish being treated they make sure we have nothing left," Hanan said. "Because of the prices they charge the patient you

would think they give lives back not only cures," she said.

Yemen's health problem is worsening. According to Demographic and Health survey 71.7% of Yemenis children are not fully immunized, only 15.5% of children are taken to healthcare facilities when they have acute respiratory infection or fever which can lead to their death. A lot of people can't understand the necessity of immunization, and they don't even know the concept of preventive medical treatment. We can't blame them. More than 51% of Yemen's population is not educated and they don't trust doctors or hospitals.

Why should doctors even try to make the right diagnoses? Why should they give the right medicines? Why should they care? Is there no one to observe their actions and punish them if they make mistakes? Doctors have no fear of being questioned about their actions. I have never heard, in this country, that a doctor was sued and not allowed to practice medicine any more. "Non-professional doctors" can easily get a license to open their own hospitals just to have to bribe any one in the ministry of health. Government is not doing anything to stop it. They are all selfish and believe it is not their problem. Doctors don't care about patients, they only care about themselves, and anyone who has the power to do something is the same. The ones who really care can't do much of anything. We just have to wait and find out if this problem is ever going to be solved.

What ever happened to the Hippocratic Oath a Doctor is sworn to abide by?

The stupid cat

By: Muad Ali Dabwan

In my long way I found a Cat!
Chasing greedily the poor Rat!
I stood gazing at that deed;
Neither could write nor could read!
Thinking wisely how I might,
Take the Rat away from the Cat?
Then the Dog came at that night,
Aiming at damaging this and that.

Hope! Where is hope in this case?
When destruction shakes each race!

But before the fight they start;
A twinkling starry ray of green light,
Trembling with fear were their heart;
That a nice tiger joins the fight!
What such animals so can do?
But to bid souls a big adieu!
As a keen hunter, I have won;
Making these animals my gun's fun,
Finishing the Tiger and the Cat;
Dying therefore the Dog and Rat!

Since, all at peace, yes; since then,
From the Bird's nest to the Lion's den.

Yes love!

By: Abdulkarim Ahmed Dida

Don't cry ! Don't be sad !
Smile at life !!
Look at the moon, it's bright !!
It's beautiful !!
It gives us light and enjoyment
When we see it !
Sit outside at night !!
Shut your eyes !!
Ask your self
What does life need ?!
Don't answer, ! Don't talk!!
Only remember !
This big world !!
Everyone in this world!
Needs love, needs peace !!
No war, no crime !
Get a happy world !
Tell them !
Yes love !!
Yes loving people!!

By: Syed Rehan Ali

Effort & patience

Truly believe that effort and patience can make a man fortunate because with hard work and devotion one can attain success in life. This world is not the world of dreams; we should be practical and should face the reality of this world. To gain something, effort and devotion are the two main ingredients. To quote Jesse Owens "We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and effort."

In this world nothing is as easy as a pie

to eat. We have to put into our efforts and take pains to gain something! To be something! Nothing gets done on its own. We have to put in our effort and hard work, only then will the results be positive. Paul J. Meyer said "Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning and focused effort."

The soldiers of countries put in all their efforts to fight with the enemies and save their countries from enemy aggression. Soldiers made this effort so that the citizens of their country can enjoy freedom. A mountaineer wants to climb a mountain; he will slowly and patiently

make an effort to climb it. There may come a moment when he will think that it is impossible but a little more persistence, a little more effort and what seemed hopeless failure can turn into glorious success!

Wait! Not only will our hard work and devotion make us reach the sky but also the ability to endure delay - that is patience. Patience is also a very important ingredient in becoming successful. Benjamin Disraeli has said, "Patience is a necessary ingredient of a genius." With patience and effort you can achieve all the luxuries of life. The unreachable thing becomes reachable, the unattain-

able becomes attainable and the unavailable becomes available.

Take for example a hen. The hen waits for the eggs to hatch and the chick to come out. It has the patience to wait. Had the hen not waited for the eggs to crack and instead would have smash them just to get the chick. The eggs would have spoiled and all of her efforts would have been for nothing! Benjamin Franklin said "He that has patience can have whatever he wills."

I'd like to say that in the end, with effort and patience, anyone can make his fortune. Effort and patience is the secret of winning everything in life.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

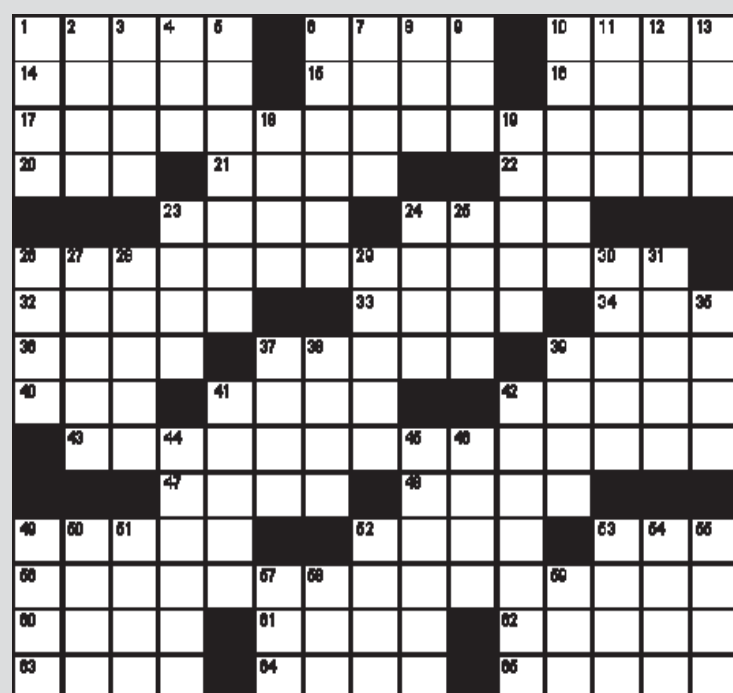
- 1 It could be a board member?
- 6 Midwife's action
- 10 Pre-storm status
- 14 Unrivaled
- 15 Garb for Galba
- 16 Featured instrument of "Peter and the Wolf"
- 17 Philip Roth book
- 20 Suited to the task
- 21 It's what you may be happy as
- 22 Election Day goals
- 23 Top-notch
- 24 Capricorn, symbolically
- 26 Certain sale-closing words
- 32 Samms and Peel
- 33 Unwonted
- 34 Remain extant
- 36 Prison sentences
- 37 Great deal
- 39 Geneticist's studies
- 40 Ship's dir., perhaps
- 41 Rat tail?
- 42 Utah mountain range
- 43 Memorable ballad
- 47 Klutz's remark
- 48 British corps.

DOWN

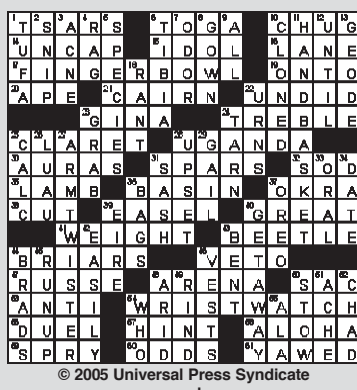
- 1 Multigenerational story, e.g.
- 2 Hoofbeat sound
- 3 Prefix follower
- 4 Abolish
- 5 Online journals
- 6 Typical introduction?
- 7 Wrestling hold
- 8 In the past
- 9 One close to you
- 10 Regain consciousness
- 11 "Take a Chance on Me" singers
- 12 Barbarian
- 13 Base fare
- 18 Yin go-with
- 19 Application
- 23 Collections of miscellany

- 24 Black fly
- 25 Fairy-tale monster
- 26 "Sommersby" star
- 27 One from the Gulf of Masirah
- 28 Urge forward
- 29 More than peevish
- 30 Many a pram pusher
- 31 Sister of Terpsichore
- 32 Hairy one of Genesis
- 37 "___ this way!"
- 38 Bidder's option
- 39 Archaeological sites
- 41 Type of boa or serpent
- 42 Prepare for a change?
- 44 Dawdled
- 45 Texas city on the Rio Grande
- 46 Road, for Caesar
- 49 "What a relief!"
- 50 Satisfy completely
- 51 River through Leeds
- 52 Way out there
- 53 Martial artist's pride
- 54 Oodles
- 55 "Not only that ..."
- 57 Badminton need
- 58 On the wagon
- 59 Begone beginning

"TA-TA" by Fran & Lou Sabin



PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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Beit Baws village: a coronet upon a bride's head

By: Ahmed Al-Shariqi

Situated on the southeastern side of the capital city, Beit Baws village used to lie 10 km. from the Old City, but due to urban expansion, it has become part of Sana'a and now stands on an island in the deadly sea of increasing construction.

Beit Baws has been endowed with nature's blessings, including its invincible position atop a flat mountain, which has kept it safe throughout time. Beit Baws is fortified on three sides: east, north and west. Moreover, it has only one gate on the southern side.

Ancient history

Beit Baws is one of Yemen's most ancient villages, characterized by distinctive fortification style reflecting its military role.

Beit Baws is believed to date back to pre-Islamic times when it was part of the Mathin tribe's property. Pre-Islamic remains, such as musnad (an ancient Yemeni script) engravings, exist in the western part of the village.

Among the village's ancient Islamic landmarks is a small nicely built 10th century mosque constructed upon directive of Imam Yahya bin Al-Hussein Al-Rassi.

The village also accommodated various peoples, for example, besides the original Bawsi inhabitants, Jews also lived in it, which is apparent from houses in the village's western portion.

Stone-made village

Beit Baws houses are as tall as four floors, with visible and invisible passages and other facilities. There are also remains of Jewish houses and a Jewish temple. But the architectural style is the traditional mode found in other Yemeni villages and cities.

If one was going to describe the village, he should begin at the gate, which as stated above, is a single gate leading up into the village's courtyard. There are ruins of walls adjacent to the gate, as well as guardrooms located on both sides of the inner courtyard beyond the gate.

Stone slabs pave village lanes and a number of wide passages can be found, some passing through the ground floor of several homes. Some house fronts contain a few black stones brought from quarries far from the village. This is evident as nearby quarries yield a different type of stone from which Beit Baws mostly is constructed.

Some household devices can be seen in the village, which were of great service to village dwellers, such as grinding stones used to grind grains. Other stone devices like mortars and pestles were used to crush and grind nuts and coffee. Visitors also can find the remains of traditional kitchens with clay ovens.

Beit Baws village hardly lacks Jewish remains, which are stylized like other Yemeni buildings. Some are quite old, like the temple in the southwestern quarter where Jews used to live.

Seen from a distance, the plateau-topping village seems like a coronet adorning a bride's head. Once inside, one will be attracted to ancient Yemeni scripts engraved in rocks and some stones in house walls; however, experts are needed to interpret them. Other incomprehensible signs on the rocks also require research activity. One of the village's mysterious phenomena is the presence of an underground tunnel not far from the gate.

Natural assets

Beit Baws village site represents a historical and tourist attraction with fertile lands surrounding it and sublime scenes. It has been inhabited continuously, even by those from other areas.

Not from the village itself, 70-year-old Saleh Rajeh works as a shepherd, but he is from the neighboring Bilad Al-Roos district. He noted that Beit



A view of Beit Baws village.

Baws is an ancient village which used to be inhabited by Bawsi people and later Jews. When asked why he is in the area, he replied that he had been in Beit Baws for two months because there is an abundance of pasture and water for his sheep.

Revenge is another motive

A family not native to the village and originally from Baraqish in Al-Jawf province spoke about their reasons for coming to Beit Baws. The father said due to scarce water and pasture and because of revenge, he decided to abandon his home and come to Beit Baws. He said he is happy to be in the village, which provides a good substitute for

his hometown.

Ten-year-old villager Ibrahim Al-Haimi was marvelous, as he could explain many things about Beit Baws village because his grandfather had passed on the knowledge to him. Moments later, flocks of visitors poured into the village, among them was Talal Al-Fari'i, a Yemeni immigrant in the U.S. He said he came to Beit Baws because it is a place "worth visiting."

He also stressed the importance of Yemenis themselves knowing the different areas of their country and encouraging local tourism. "Such visits soothe the soul and provide valuable entertainment, recreational time and

enjoyment of Yemen's natural assets." Al-Fari'i called on Yemenis abroad to return regularly and visit unmatched attractions like Beit Baws.

A boost to tourism

Part of efforts that are sure to boost tourism is taking care of such important places like Beit Baws village by saving them from the encroachment of urbanism and stopping their decay. Then comes the role of restoration and rehabilitation efforts, culminating in organized visits to these places.



An old house with an arched entrance inside the village.

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Education

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No. 3

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Improve Your English: 290

I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (88) Advertisement Idiom: Consumer non-durables

“Advertisement of consumer non-durables tend to be innovative, extra-factual, exaggerated and abstract in nature. They use larger-than-life images, use make-believe appeals and use all that is possible to hit the vulnerable areas of consumers to take the proposition offered. Purchasing decisions take place beneath our level of awareness.”

- Satisfaction beyond the price - more value to your money.
- It is not the engine of the future, but future of the engine.
- Reflections of your home... where every mode meets a perfect match.
- Kenstar: the promise of purity.
- Open your eyes. It's for real. Luxurious living now at affordable price.
- What to get is more than what you see. A dreamland covering every aspect of your life.
- You don't rent a family. So why rent a home.
- To love a home, you have to own one.
- A new chapter in style and luxury. Unveil the ever-loving life.

II. How to Say it Correctly Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. I'd like this parcel to send to India, please. How much will it cost?
2. I asked the way to him.
3. She said me goodbye.
4. 'Why isn't Ali coming to eat with us?' 'He didn't say he was very hungry.'
5. I suggested Moin that he should be more careful about his health.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. I heard a bottle **smash**.
2. I **told him** where we should meet. (an object is necessary because 'tell' is a transitive verb)
3. She asked me the way **to the** city center. Or She asked me **how to** get to the city center.
4. She debated **whether** to tell her mother about the accident.
5. When I went to the dentist last week I **had** two teeth taken out.

III. Increase Your Word Power

- (A) How to express it in one word
1. Cry out suddenly and loudly from pain.
 2. Of a shop of the sort not found elsewhere.
 3. Person who carries out what has been planned or decided.
 4. Serving as an example or a warning.
 5. Illustrate by example.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. Stretch a description beyond the truth: **exaggerate** (vt)
2. Make or uncover by digging: **excavate** (vt)
3. Passage, extract, from a book: **excerpt** (n)
4. Government department in charge of public money: **exchequer** (n)
5. Government tax on certain goods manufactured, sold, or used within a country: **excise** (n)

(B) Words often confused

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

1. holly, holy
2. exercise, exorcise
3. credible, creditable
4. anxious, eager
5. immunity, impunity

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **lassitude** (n) (tiredness): Lassitude made him feel inactive at the function.
latitude (n) (distance north or south of the equators measured in degrees): You should know at what longitude and latitude Yemen is situated?
2. **coalesce** (v) (come together and unite into one substance): Experiences coalesce to help a person mature up.
collate (vt) (to arrange the sheets of a book in proper order): He collated the papers carefully.
collect (vt) (to cause to gather together): Please collect my books and put them in a pile on the table.

3. **censer** (n) (a vessel in which incense is burnt in a sacred place): The priest put the censer near the idol.
sensor (n) (an official examiner of films, etc.): The film has been cleared by the censor board.
censure (n) (an adverse criticism or condemnation): The Parliament passed a vote of censure against one of its members.
4. **immoral** (adj) (corrupt, wicked): Desist from immoral practices.
amoral (adj) (not concerned with morals): Art is not moral or immoral, it is amoral.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms
Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one given at the top

1. **parochial**
a. pertaining to teaching b. limited
c. monastic d. universal
2. **primeval**
a. wooded b. savage
c. primitive d. swampy
3. **abeyance**
a. obedience b. suspension
c. servile humility d. lassitude
4. **concomitant**
a. that which accompanies or attends
b. agreeable friend
c. contestant d. collaborator
5. **impetus**
a. courage b. impatience
c. driving energy d. arrogance

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. insatiable | greedy |
| 2. supercilious | scornfully superior |
| 3. infringe | to encroach |
| 4. accrue | to accumulate |
| 5. reticence | tendency to keep silence |

(i) Antonyms
Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top

1. **mellifluous**
a. mutual b. common
c. hoarse d. contented
2. **pejorative**
a. critical b. down-graded
c. decorated d. meliorate
3. **debilitate**
a. strengthen b. rehabilitate
c. torture d. soothe
4. **sparse**
a. assault b. dense
c. point d. deficient
5. **juvenile**
a. senile b. trope
c. delinquent d. kneel

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|---------------|----------|
| 1. harbinger | follower |
| 2. morbid | healthy |
| 3. pathetic | farcical |
| 4. endear | alienate |
| 5. voluminous | slight |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

1. a. delivery b. delivry
c. delivary d. deliveri
2. a. defianse b. defyance
c. difiance d. defiance
3. a. dilogue b. dialogue
c. dialoge d. diylogue
4. a. dansuese b. dansusee
c. danseuse d. densuace
5. a. enemity b. enimity
c. enmity d. enymity

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. more power to (someone's) elbow
2. make hay while the sun shines
3. look as though butter wouldn't melt in one's

4. have a down on
5. ready to drop

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **get (something) off the ground** (to get something started and operating successfully): The government planned a massive project for educational reform, but couldn't get it off the ground due to financial constraints.
2. **have a fit** (to become very angry): 'My father will have a fit if I return home late', said Aisha.
3. **shake in one's shoes** (to be very nervous or scared): The students shook in their shoes when the Dean interrogated them.
4. **below par** (not as healthy or well as usual): Dr. John left the lecture early. He has been below par since morning.
5. **pull strings** (to use personal influence or power to gain some kind of advantage): When he was transferred from his present position, he pulled a few strings to get back his former post.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Put the jobs listed below into any of these categories

forestry, fisheries, agriculture, education and librarianship, health, business and commerce, community and social development, technical trades, crafts and engineering

List of jobs

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| community workers | town planners |
| computer programmers | doctors |
| fishermen | tree preservationists |
| teachers | librarians |
| carpenters | social workers |
| business entrepreneurs | boat building |
| health educators | computer analysts |
| agricultural engineers | technical teachers |
| petrol mechanics | building instructors |
| accountants | tree surgeons |

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | (mode of transport) | (type of journey) | (type of baggage) | (route) | (destination) |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| tube | outing | suitcase | track | harbor |
| taxi | tour | rucksack | lane | station |
| jet | trip | luggage | way | port |
| motorbike | excursion | briefcase | path | airport |
| hovercraft | journey | handbag | route | docks |
| liner | drive | hold all | line | quay |

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
108: LIVES OF GREAT MEN TEACH US TO MAKE OUR OWN LIFE SUBLIME

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

107: BEAUTY IS TRUTH AND TRUTH BEAUTY

John Keats, in this beautiful poetic dictum, has enunciated a profound truth. The word 'beauty' doesn't connote physical charm, but anything that embodies the 'fragrance of goodness'. And goodness heightens beauty. In fact, beauty and goodness are cyclical. Beauty radiates goodness and goodness enhances beauty. R. W. Emerson defines 'beauty' as 'mark God sets on virtue'. Thus beauty which is but a natural superiority, refers to moral beauty and not merely animal charm and vigor. 'Whatever is beautiful is good, and who is good will soon also be beautiful', as Sappho puts it. Human life is enriched, enlightened and ennobled not only by perceptions of beauty, but by the pursuit of the path of virtue and nobility. Since beauty and goodness are complementary, each draws its sustaining spirit from the other, as much as it sustains the other. The noblest purpose in life is to realize the inscrutable kinship bond between beauty of thought, beauty of action and perceive it as manifestation of truth.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision; He is subtle well-aware."

—S6:A103

VI. Food for Thought

"We create and destroy

And again recreate

In forms of which no one knows."

The Holy Quran 56:61

Where phonetics and culture converge The Baghdadian method



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Before the advent of the new state educational system in Yemen, both in the southern and northern regions, the traditional school was called [Kuttab] (pre-elementary school), the word being derived from [Kataba] which means (He wrote...). Perhaps some of the old people now still remember their glorious days, going and coming to and from the [Kuttabs]. The learning mechanics were not simple or naïve, and the educational atmosphere was full of ardour and respect.

This article sheds light on the process of first language learning (Arabic) through focusing on the skills of listening and reading as manifested in the Baghdadian Method where the link between phonetics (the scientific study of speech sounds) and Islamic culture is quite evident and prevailing.

The process

The learners were first introduced with the 29 Arabic alphabetical letters associated with the individual sounds, each consonant accompanied by the front-central vowel [a] as in [ba], [ta], [da], [ka] etc. The second stage was to introduce each letter followed by the three Arabic short vowels respectively as in [ba], [bi], [bu], [ta], [ti], [tu], [da], [di], [du], [ka], [ki], [ku] etc. The next stage was to introduce each letter followed by the three short vowels sealed by the nasal [n] as in [ban], [bin], [bun], [tan], [tin], [tun] etc. This nasalisation is called [Tanween] in Arabic or nunna-tion. The following step was to introduce the [Shaddah] or doubling sounds as in [balla], [talla], [dalla] etc. A series of nonsensical utterances were introduced in various phonetic contexts to help learners practice pronunciation of different complicated utterances. Learners were then gradually trained to read meaningful words, first decontextualised and later put in partial contexts

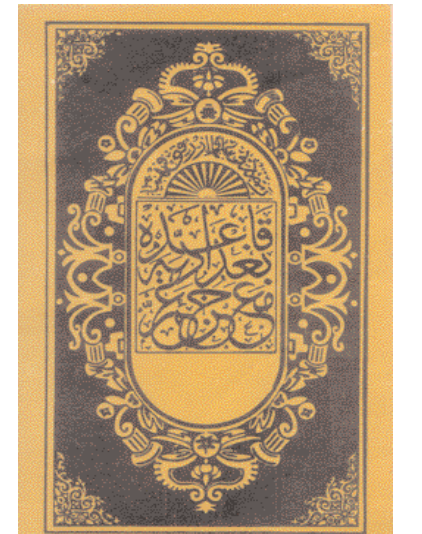
Quraan and other relevant texts. Learners did not experience any kind of alienation concerning the content or the form of the linguistic reservoir.

Memorization played a significant role in this method where selective linguistic chunks were stored and retrieved in need, mostly because of the effectiveness of the techniques applied such as the rapid repetition of the phonetic models used in this Baghdadian method. The rhythmic and intonational-syntactic groupings did help enlarging the working memory (Rivers, 1971) and made it easier for learners to retrieve what had been stored in a very smooth and systematic way.

Some useful implications

Most of Arab learners of English including Yemeni learners of course are not benefiting from the Baghdadian method in assimilating their L2.

Whether applying the Direct Method or any of the other oral methods, the pronunciation drills used in classrooms



are usually designed to meet the needs of imaginary learners everywhere in the Globe. I assume that we could benefit from this analytical method in several directions exploiting both the cultural and phonetic aspects to enhance English language teaching-learning process. To mention but one example, we can draw parallel phonetic drills to emphasize the pronunciation of English phonemes which do not exist in Arabic, like, for example, [feeb,veeb], [feep,veep] (using the nonsensical utterances). The role of memorization could be stressed through introducing certain lines of the most appealing and fine English poetry.

Finally, one can say that drawing on our first language in terms of both the phonetic system or background culture

Some of the nonsensical utterances	Some of the meaningful words
maanakum, mainakum, meenakum, mawnakum, moonakum	kallama (he spoke to...) saffaqa (he clapped...) qaala (he said...)

Some of the meaningful contexts
Aamantu Billahi was malaikatihī wa kutubihī wa rusulih.
(I believe in Allah and His Angels and His Holy Books and His Messengers.)

extracted from the Holy Quraan or from the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), or from Arabic literary texts.

References:

1. The Holy Quraan
2. The Baghdadian Method (Textbook for children)
3. McDonough, S.H., *Psychology in Foreign Language Teaching* (George Allen & Unwin, 1981).
4. Rivers, W.1971, *Linguistic and psychological factors in speech perception and their implications for teaching materials*, in P. Pimsleur and T. Quinn (eds), *The Psychology of Second Language Learning* (Cambridge: CUP)

Culture and religion

The process finally led the learners to reading the first Surah, the Opening verses of the Holy Quraan. The learners then proceeded to read the last Surah of the Holy Quraan (Al-Nas) and on to the first Surah of Part 30 (Al-Naba) thus applying the principle of simplicity in grading the materials of the language concerned. Arabic was introduced at this phase almost solely through the Islamic culture represented in the Holy

ELT Panorama

Book Review

Scenes from the Untold Story of William Cooper



Anil K Prasad, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University.

"Scenes from the Untold Story of William Cooper: A Book for the Common Reader."

"If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

—Toni Morrison

The book, *Scenes from the Untold Story of William Cooper*, is about Harry Summerfield Hoff, the British novelist who wrote under the pen-name of William Cooper. It is "a whirlwind tour" (p 8), as the author says in the 'Preface', brief and rapid, of his personal and literary engagements - from Scene II, "Who is William Cooper?" to Scene XVIII, "The Making of William Cooper, the Novelist", during which the author seems to have used the cinematic techniques of long shot, medium shot and close-up, and sometimes crane shots. He served in the Royal Air Force in World War II, and later became a civil servant, associating closely (Scene IV, "William Cooper Meeting C.P. Snow") with C. P. Snow, who appears in "light disguise" as Robert in the *Scenes* novels. After retiring from the civil service, he held an academic position.

The book contains eighteen 'Scenes' in addition to, 'Foreword', 'Acknowledgements', 'Preface', and 'Appendices'. In the 'Foreword', the Author says that "this little book is a new experiment in story-telling" (p 5) and through his effortlessly succinct yet multi-layered tale he provides the reader with a three-fold aim of the book: a) "the book presents the struggles of the artist and the critic in mutually complimentary relationships and unfolds the trials and tribulations of the novelist and the critic trying to carve out their destinies in spite of the numerous challenges confronting them", b) "to give the reader an

insight into the inner labyrinths of artistic creation"... to enable the reader "to see what are the things that go on in the mental laboratory of an artist." and c) "the book also makes a small contribution to the understanding of the Modern English Novel" (p 5).

The very first paragraph of the "Foreword" attracts the reader towards two points and invites comments, firstly, on the author's observation about the way the story has been told and secondly, on the book's attempt to foreground "the flowering of a friendship spread through a considerably large span of time, covering two countries-India and England." (p 5). Looking at the extension and expansion of the Novel as a literary form in recent years it can be inferred that Professor Sinha is not unaware of the latest experimental trends in storytelling (Cooper in his lecture that he gave at the University of Rajasthan, India, also talks about the inclusiveness of the novel form, "The novel is wonderfully inclusive: there is room in it for all sorts" (pp 68-69). His sense of detachment and understatement remind one of Jane Austen. In his write-up prefixed to the manuscript, Prof Krishnamurthy has noted this characteristics of Professor Sinha's art of critical narration, "Not only Cooper, but his critic, Dr Sinha is capable of understatement" (emphasis added).

Secondly, the author-protagonist relationship in this book divided into "Scenes" also points to the fact that he is not only the author but also one of the characters in the "Scenes from the Untold Story of William Cooper" who played his part, first of doing his Ph.D. on William Cooper and while writing his dissertation corresponding with him and interviewing him and slowly and steadily in the process becoming from "Dr Sinha to "Ashok" and "My very dear Ashok" (p75) being transformed in the process as a teacher of "English at a remote provincial college in a distant place in India" into a person who could "slowly but surely establish a lasting relationship with a famous modern English novelist" (p 9). In other words, the author is also a persona, by whom the various scenes unfold themselves through the shifting narrative perspectives of an "I". Another significant aspect of this book is the author's address to the common readers, the "young people of today" for whom the author likes to emphasize that "[H]uman relationships are possible, cutting across the boundaries of nations" (p 9). But to my mind this book is an inter-



Dr. A.K. Sinha

esting and profitable reading for any reader who is interested in the development of the art and craft of William Cooper, the novelist and an everlasting friendship between a researcher and a writer. The author, it seems from his brief comment at the end of each scene, is inviting reader's response as if to urge him/her fill the "gaps" in his story. For example, at the end of Scene XI, he says, "So the common reader must have noticed through the foregoing analysis that..." (p 53). And again, like other concluding authorial intrusions which connect one scene with the other, in Scene XIV, "Cooper's brief passage to India proved to be only a wonderful lull before a storm that was soon to break into his life. Cooper was soon to lose his wife Joyce, forever" (p 74).

The various scenes the book is composed of are important for a variety of "common readers". For example, to the reviewer of the book *Scenes*, XII, XIII, XIV, and XV are of special attraction for they are expressions of and are appealing to the intellectual and emotional sides of the same personality. In the case of a student of English Language and Literature, a research scholar doing work on the modern English novel, or a "common reader" in the sense Virginia Woolf used it, or as Dr Johnson referred to the reader who differed from a scholar or a critic, the book is interesting and invaluable. Besides, it is useful for the teachers of English for it provides many "real" examples of letters and interviews in well-written modern English prose which are indispensable to a course on English Discourse Skills. Evidently, the book ends with the oft-quoted lines of Christina Georgina Rossetti: "Will there be beds for me and all who seek?/Yea, beds for all who come" (p 104).

The subtitle of an article published in the *Guardian* on Saturday, September 7, 2002 appropriately calls him the "Novelist who depicted the mysteriousness of ordinary people through a naturalistic eye". "He was one of those novelist-individualists" "...stretching from Arnold Bennett to John Braine... who have tended to forfeit the critics' interest because they lack experimental urges". William Cooper is quoted by Norman Shrapnel, the author of the article mentioned above, "I've always said I can't write an autobiography." The author of *Scenes From The Untold Story of William Cooper* has written a biography of William Cooper to commemorate his friendship with the novelist. But this book is not only a biography. It is a reassessment of William Cooper and a tribute to the genius of "an increasingly honest man and not too proud of it, conscious that the virtue can embody a multitude of sins. Undoubtedly a man of our time." It is also an *aide memoire* that William Cooper's *Scenes from Provincial Life* (1950) was acknowledged as having inspired the new writers such as Kingsley Amis, John Braine, John Wain, Stan Barstow, Colin Mac Innes, Stanley Middleton and Allan Sillitoe" (p 92).

I think it might be a good idea to include an index in the book to make the book more convenient and useful for the students and researchers and to add some photographs to the book to bring the scenes alive for the common reader who, like an Alice in wonderland, harbours a love of a mental sketching out of whatever he runs into. And as Zhuangzi (also known as Chuang-tzu), the Chinese philosopher and teacher says, "Both small and great things must equally possess form. The mind cannot picture to itself a thing without form, nor conceive a form of unlimited dimensions". This "little book" (pp 5, 6) is Professor Sinha's little masterpiece which thoroughly proves that he has an aesthetic feel for the form and "an eye for a nuance, an ear for irony" and makes him a storyteller with a distinctive voice. The common reader "will perhaps not mind spending sometime to see how things are not bad as they really seem to be" (p 10).

Prepublication Review of *Scenes from the Untold Story of William Cooper*, (2006) A. K. Sinha, Faculty of Education, Hodeidah University, Republic of Yemen. Foolscap typed pp. 112.

A letter to the teachers of English: 108 Conversation skills

Nooradin meets the Indian teacher



Prof. M.N.K. Bose mnk_bose@hotmail.com Professor of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb

Nooradin: Hello, teacher. Good morning.

Teacher: Hello. You are Nooradin, aren't you? I'm trying to remember names.

Nooradin: Yes. You're right. It's difficult to remember all the names, isn't it?

Teacher: Insha Allah. I'll try and remember many. Where are you from?

Nooradin: I'm from Ibb, the old city of Ibb.

Teacher: The old city? How old is it?

Nooradin: May be a few hundred years. This part of the city is newer.

Teacher: There must be old buildings and mosques there. Is there a palace too?

Nooradin: I don't think there is a palace, but there is an old mosque called Al Kabir mosque. It is a very old one with beautiful architecture and four porticos.

Teacher: Must be a big one, as the name suggests. Kabir means big, does-

n't it?

Nooradin: Yes, it is a big one too.

Teacher: What else can one see in the old city, Nooradin?

Nooradin: There is an old gate called Al Rakezha gate. It is one of the five gates in the strong wall around the city; the other gates, I'm told, are damaged.

Teacher: Oh. What a pity! The wall must also have been damaged.

Anything else?

Nooradin: If you walk through the streets of the city, you can experience the ancientness of the city; the structure of the houses and the roads and everything. There are traditional markets in the city and traditional food items in the restaurants.

Teacher: Are you saying that the city is still kept old?

Nooradin: Unfortunately not. The people prefer modernity and so they are spoiling the antiquity of the city, demolishing the old buildings and constructing modern ones.

Teacher: It's a pity. Ibb should also become a tourist attraction, shouldn't it?

Nooradin: You are right. Tourism is our government's priority now. Would you like to visit the old city one day with me, teacher?

Teacher: Certainly. I'll be your guest. Ok?

Nooradin: With pleasure, teacher.

Your words will be respected if they despise evil.

Poetry: Elixir of life



T. Mohamad Khoshafah Teacher of English Ibb

We ought to know what poetry is before we know its benefits. As a matter of fact, there can not be an adequate or comprehensive definition of poetry. Like life and love, poetry is difficult to define because there are no limits to the range of text and context in poetry.

The word 'poetry' is derived from a Greek word 'poesy' which means creating or making. Poetry, therefore, is a form of literature spoken or written. Johnson says poetry is "a metrical composition". It is "the art of uniting pleasure with truth by calling imagination to the help of reason"; and it is "essence and invention". Macaulay says "by poetry we mean the art of employing words in such a manner as to produce an illusion on the imagination, the art of doing by means of words what the painter does by means of colors". While to Carlyle poetry is a "musical thought"; to Shelley "poetry is the expression of the imagination". Poetry is the rhythmic creation of beauty. Plato and Sidney say poetry is an "art of imitation".

Poetry is an interpretation of life as life shapes itself in the mind of the interpreter. The poet, indeed, is a better teacher than either the philosopher or the historian. The poet has been deservedly honored and respected in all countries. The Romans called their poets "Vates" which

means a diviner or prophet. The poet, by his own imagination, can go into another nature and make things better than the real nature. He aims at the purification of mind, enrichment of memory, invigoration of judgment and enlargement of the human intellect. The poet leads to the elevation of the human soul above the limitations of the degenerate body in which it is imprisoned. All kinds of poetry lead to the same goal - "to lift up the mind from the dungeon of the body".

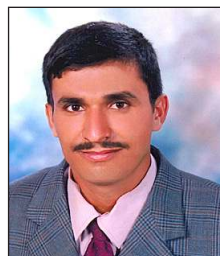
The poet appeals to our emotional self. Poetry reports to us the things from their emotional and spiritual perspectives. It opens our eyes to the sensuous beauties and spiritual meanings in the world of human experience. This is why Browning calls the poets "makers-see". Poetry reveals fresh beauty and undiluted charm in the commonplace objects and situations in life. Poetry strengthens our own vision and develops within us the latent faculty of poetic interpretation.

The immediate object of poetry is to give pleasure. The quality of the pleasure must depend upon the nature of the subject matter and the manner in which it is presented. Poetry is made of life, belongs to life and exists for life. We can say "art for art's sake". The poetry of revolt against moral ideas is the poetry of revolt against life itself. The poetry of indifference towards moral ideas is the poetry of indifference towards life.

Poetry reflects the culture and social life of any country. All the things under the sun are the subject matter of poetry. Poets talk in their poems about war, peace, love, happiness, experiences, battles, life, death, etc, so it is the criticism of life. As far as I am concerned, I feel more elevated when I read poetry than reading ordinary writings. The language of poetry is different from the ordinary writing. Some critics have said that we must look into our hearts and write but not all people can do so. Only talented individuals can create and compose verses.

Campus Clippings

In service teacher training program at Hodeidah: Revitalizing the classroom ecology is the need of the hour



Hamoud Yahya Ahmed II M. Ed. Student

Under the auspices of the Department of English, Faculty of Education, Hodeidah University, an in-service training program for teachers of English in the schools of Hodeidah was held from 10 to 12 December, 2005. The programme was attended by over sixty teachers of English from the schools of Hodeidah and over 200 students and luminaries of the University.

At the outset the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Ahmed Al Qudaimi in his inaugural address expressed his appreciation regarding the commendable work done by the Department of English. He appreciated the pioneering efforts of the Department under the leadership of the Head of the Department of English, Prof. A. K. Sinha and his team.

Then, the Vice Dean for students' Affairs, Dr. Abbas Abbas Al Harazi welcomed all the participants in this workshop. Dr. Radwan Al Shaibani, Dean Faculty of Arts, spoke a few words commending the efforts of the Department for Teacher Development at the secondary level. After this the Head, Prof. A. K. Sinha, presented a detailed report on the purpose and the academic value of this workshop. Welcoming all the participants he remarked that the programme was intended to provide insights into teaching / learning English in the schools of Yemen.

The opening session had Dr. M. Kundu approaching the topic of teaching English in difficult circumstances in the context of teaching English in Yemen as an example. He showed the participants how to use "chain - drill" as an effective technique for teaching, while characterizing language learning as a "mental activity". Then, he elicited some of the practical problems that the participating teachers faced in their teaching / learning situation in Hodeidah schools, suggesting some solutions. The post-tea session concentrated on "Trainees' brain - storming and interaction" with Dr. M. Kundu and Dr. A. K. Sinha. They highlighted:

- Some very general problems in ELT in Yemen.
- Some very common errors of

Yemeni learners of English and some wrong strategies often adopted by teachers.

- Solving some of the practical EFL problems
- Principles of good teaching
- Guidelines for classroom management.
- Guidelines for the use of black-board.
- Guidelines for correcting students' errors.

The meeting concluded with a question answer session.

The second day's session opened with Dr. V. S. Dubey's one hour session on "Teaching Spoken English" in which he highlighted the common problems and errors in pronunciation associated with some Yemeni learners, as well as the causes and cure of such errors. He ended his speech with the remark, "these are the problems, and, it is your responsibility to overcome them and to be careful about them while teaching..."

Then, came the presentation captioned "Teaching Literary Texts" by Prof. A. K. Sinha. The participants listened to three well-chosen short poems, followed by a feedback session. Prof. Sinha remarked that teaching literary tests should be done in such a way that it matches the needs and interests of our learners.

The second day's programme ended with Dr. Abbas N. Nama'a's observation on "Testing and Evaluation at the school level". He gave some useful remarks about testing and evaluation of English at the school level. He presented samples collected from some schools in Hodeidah, and discussed with the participants the negative and positive features of these samples.

The third day's session began with a "One hour ELT World tour in Yemen" presented by Dr. M. Kundu in which he gave a quick and general survey on "Teaching English in Yemeni schools" with special reference to Hodeidah schools. He reflected on (i) the objectives of the College of Education, (ii) the major recent changes in Education all over the world, (iii) some problems related to teaching English in Yemeni schools, (iv) the Crescent package: strengths and weaknesses, and (v) some suggested methods and approaches to be adopted.

The presentation on "teaching grammar" by Dr. I. B. Sharma focused on "grammar" and "teaching grammar". He offered some suggestions about how we should teach grammar in English classes. He analyzed some of the "common errors" observed in the written scripts of some students at the school as well as at the college level and remarked that we must carefully remedy these grammatical errors.

QUESTIONS BOX

Any guesses?

1. Why is the lavatory called the 'loo'?
2. Who is referred to as the 'undertaker'?
3. What is the difference between a) I had my dinner b) I had had my dinner
4. What does the expression 'Thin on top' mean?
5. What is a 'General Purpose Vehicle'?

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

1. The 'American Dream' is 'an American ideal of a happy and

successful life to which all may aspire'.

2. 'Dutch courage' is false courage that is gained from alcohol.
3. 'French leave' refers to one's unauthorized absence from work, that is, when one is absent from work without actually applying for leave. One stays away without getting anybody's permission.
4. A 'doubting Thomas' is 'a man who doesn't easily believe things.'
5. A 'peeping Tom' is 'a person who secretly looks at others who think they are not being watched, especially when they are undressing.'

Preface to vibrant moments



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Poets, philosophers, lovers and madmen are of the same class—thus goes an ancient, much clichéd, and much abused saying. And there it is not without any truth in it. For, every one of this clan of men is possessed by a mania – a mania for fighting wrong, evil, and untruth. An individual – whether a poet, philosopher, lover or madman – is genuinely agitated about the imperative need to establish order, peace, reason, freedom and above all the common weal of humanity. They strive tirelessly and ceaselessly for individual and social justice and peace. Until and unless the goal is attained, such men cannot rest in peace. As such they are part of a process of change, flexible and fluid, ever flowing into a vibrant tomorrow. They only facilitate and expedite this process and never let themselves fossilize into a definable product of their times.

A poet or a philosopher is fired by an afflatus that seeks to guide the human destiny on the right path to its salvation. A salvation not in any religious sense but in the true, essential, humanistic sense of liberation of the individual from many a bond and help him live his life on moral, ethical, and righteous principles. Thus the parameters of this salvation are distinctly different from those of the religious salvation which are good and evil, sin and virtue, etc. This distinction helps show the poet in the light of a genuine agent of social change, not a priest preaching bigoted, acrimonious sentiments.

A lover is in quarrel with himself and with the world only for the realization of his love which in turn can a) free him from the bonds of a meaningless humdrum existence, and b) lead him on to a concentration on affairs that will bring about a happy, interdependent, satisfying, and healthy commune. Likewise, a madman wags his tongue in an inimical world only to crush deception and foul play.

As Sir Philip Sydney thundered into the ears of a bygone era, these lunatics are “the unacknowledged legislators.” And we unhesitatingly claim them to be the ‘unacknowledged saviours of humanity’ which in the absence of the former may imperil its own very existence.

Certainly it can be argued that all these so-called madmen are in reality zealots struggling selflessly to establish the kingdom of peace and prosperity, brotherhood and freedom on this earth that in every era is hijacked by self-seekers. It may be a paradox that these unselfish souls are surely selfish to the core in their solemn zeal for human welfare. And this selfishness is the benchmark of every great soul, be it the poet's, philosopher's, lover's or madman's.

History is replete with instances of poets, philosophers, lovers, and lunatics

who were dubbed crazy and treated dangerous. They are crazy, of course, about the welfare of the human soul, mind, and body but certainly not about the irrational desires, dreams, and demands; and definitely dangerous to the decadent, destructive, and deceptive but not to the decent, decorous, and disciplined members of the civilized society. The various parameters that go into the calling of a great soul as crazy, in fact, constitute the authentic sophisticated sensibility that synergises the contemporary outlook in all periods of human history.

Of late, there is a tendency, of course, as had always been there in every era of human existence, to browbeat and discredit this clan of men. In spite of this continuing vicious tendency to denigrate the high and noble among the occupants of this beautiful planet, we can see that there is no dearth of such souls who defiantly continue to give the clarion call for a change. These initiators of change strive quite selflessly to voice their inner stirrings irrespective of the potent threats to be stoned or clubbed to death or incarcerated to insanity. And thus is saved the sanity of the *homo-sapiens*.

I take great pride in joining such a band, a tiny one though, through this volume of poems written on occasions of great pains and pleasures, painful pleasures and pleasurable pains; joys and sorrows, joyful sorrows and sorrowful joys both of the narrower personal sphere and of the much broader public domain. It is quite heartening to note that such a band is made vibrant and electrifying by men as great, colossal, and edifying as our philosopher-statesmen like Mr Atal Biharee Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister and Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of this ancient land of acclaimed wisdom. The members of this band of muse-inspired, reforms-fired, and conscience-stirred men and women do not have any axe to grind nor selfish ends to serve except the lunacy to save this corrupt and contaminated world.

I wish I should continue to pour out my self and soul, wit and wisdom however diminutive they are, as long as a Dante or Virgil, a Chaucer or Shakespeare, a Shelley or Keats, a Kamban or Ilango, a Bharathi or Bharathidasan is not dismissed as a liar or lunatic. The relevance of these revered ones cannot be reversed at any point of time and so shall I also be, a tiny speck though in the firmament of maniacs possessed by a desire deep and strong for change – a change for better tomorrow, if not a better today.

I wish, in the ambience of globalization, privatization and marketization around the dawn of the third millennium, it is all the more important that sensitive souls stirred by social sensibilities shall blossom in numbers large to counter the effects of mechanization of human existence, unmindful of the humiliation heaped and the much-longed for recognition ever dodging.

Lastly, a word about the theme and technique: I would like to admit that the form and substance of each of the poems included in this volume are as they were sub-consciously churned out of a soul in torture and not the products of any conscious diktats.

I have another wish also that the poems in this modest volume shall be well received by the reading public at large, and the poetry lovers and the campus community in particular so that the intended initiative for the change is well accomplished.

Famous women in Art and Literature: Helen of Troy



Hussien Al-Noori
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In Greek mythology, Helen was the daughter of Zeus and Leda. A paragon of beauty, she was wooed by many suitors who failed to win her hand. Finally, she married Menelaus, king of Sparta. During her husband's absence, however, she was carried off to Troy by Paris, a Trojan prince, whereupon the Greeks sent an expedition against Troy to recover her. This led to the outbreak of the Trojan War which ended with the destruction of

Troy. After the war she returned with her husband to Sparta and lived with him in happiness and concord, as the legend says.

According to another story, Paris did not carry Helen off to Troy, but a phantom of hers created by Hera, who had wafted the real Helen through the air to a safe place until the war was over, whereupon Hera sent Helen back to her husband.

There are yet other versions of Helen's story, but whichever you choose, Helen remains a symbol of beauty, but beauty that destroys, in the *femme fatale* tradition.

In Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus, she appears as the object of all Faustus's sensual desires. Faustus is aware of her attractive and destructive nature. He realized that her face 'launched a thousand ships', yet asks her to make him immortal with a kiss, which is hopelessly ironic. This is the motif that Helen embodies in Western literature.

Improve Your English: 291

I. What to Say
Situations and Expressions (89)
Social Ads

Social ads are a catalyst in the social development process. They are a part of social marketing.

- The bitter pill, that's your power bill
- To win doesn't mean somebody else has to lose
- Literacy: A mission towards securing futures. Lets secure a future in each hand.
- Each one, teach one

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Your mother tells me you were still hoping to become a teacher.
- The student confessed that he hasn't done his homework.
- Fatima said about her holiday to the rest of the class.
- The doctor advised to cut down on fatty foods.
- I asked to my brother if I could borrow his bike.

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- I'd like this parcel sent to India, please. Or I'd like to send this parcel to India, please. How much will it cost?
- I asked him the way.
- She said goodbye to me.
- 'Why isn't Ali coming to eat with us?' 'He said he wasn't very hungry.' (Reporting: 'I'm not very hungry'.)
- I suggested to Moin that he should be more careful about his health.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Collection of things shown publicly.
- Fill with high spirits.
- Advise earnestly.
- Take out a dead body from the earth for examination.
- Condition of great need.

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- Cry out suddenly and loudly from pain: **exclaim** (vi)
- Of a shop of the sort not found elsewhere: **exclusive** (adj)
- Person who carries out what has been planned or decided: **executive** (adj)
- Serving as an example or warning: **exemplary** (adj)
- Illustrate by example: **exemplify** (vt)

(B) Words often confused

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

- wooden, woody
- straight, strait straits
- consequent, subsequent
- repeat, repel
- ingenious, ingenuous

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- holly** (n) (evergreen shrub): There are holly shrubs in the forest.
holy (adj) (associated with God or religion): I read the Holy Quran everyday.
- exercise** (n) (practice of mental or physical powers): You must ensure good exercise of your mental faculties.
exorcise (vt) (drive out an evil spirit from a person or place by prayers or magic): The holy man exorcised the evil spirit by virtue of magic.
- credible** (adj) (that can be believed): Your account is anything but credible.
creditable (adj) (that brings credit): The team was felicitated for its creditable performance in the tournament.
- anxious** (adj) (implies a sense of worry or suspense): The whole family is anxious about the son's health.
eager (adj) (implies a sense of joyful expectation): My family waits for me with eager anticipation.
- immunity** (n) (freedom from infection of disease): Natural immunity in the human body helps prevent disease.
impunity (n) (freedom or safety from punishment): Often politicians carry on illegal acts with impunity.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

- abstinence**
a. self denial
b. lack of control
c. failure to be present
d. indifference
- contour**
a. route
b. appearance
c. outline
d. frame
- labyrinth**
a. bewildering maze
b. tunnel
c. temple
d. tomb
- annulment**
a. ignorance
b. boredom
c. abolition
d. numbness
- pontificate**
a. to speak authoritatively
b. to raise to higher office
c. to act clumsily
d. to constitute

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. parochial | limited |
| 2. primeval | primitive |
| 3. abeyance | suspension |
| 4. concomitant | that which accompanies or attends |
| 5. impends | driving energy |

(ii) Antonyms

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

- insipid**
a. separate
b. inhale
c. interesting
d. initial
- abridge**
a. summarize
b. dilate
c. over-bridge
d. curb
- predilection**
a. proposal
b. previous
c. aversion
d. boisterous
- nebulous**
a. stars
b. curved
c. homesickness
d. crystal clear
- reminisce**
a. remind
b. retrace
c. forget
d. curtail

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. mellifluous | hoarse |
| 2. pejorative | meliorate |
| 3. debilitate | strengthen |
| 4. sparse | dense |
| 5. juvenile | senile |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. exercise
b. exorsize
c. exarcize
d. exarsize
- a. enthosiasm
b. enthusiasm
c. enthuseesm
d. enthuziasm
- a. inergy
b. enery
c. enerzy
d. enerzi
- a. exillance
b. exellence
c. excellence
d. excellencee
- a. embarasment
b. embarrassment
c. embarrasment
d. embbarasment

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

1. delivery 2. defiance 3. dialogue
4. danseuse 5. enmity

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- go to the wall
- pop the question
- make waves
- scare/frighten (someone) out of (his/her) wits
- be itching to (do something)

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- more power to (someone's) elbow** (good luck to someone): Dr. Mahmoud is leaving Hodeidah and is going to work in Sana'a. More power to his elbow!
- make hay while the sun shines** (to make the most of an opportunity): You shouldn't let go this opportunity. You should make hay while the sun shines.
- look as though butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth** (to appear very innocent): He is a real ruffian although he looks as though butter wouldn't melt in his mouth.
- have a down on (someone)** (to be very hostile or opposed to someone): It's a mystery to me why he has a down on me.
- ready to drop** (very tired, exhausted): After the tiresome journey from Aden to Sana'a I was ready to drop.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A. Grammar

Read the following sentences then complete the replies using one of the phrasal verbs below

come off, come across, come up against, come round, come out

- A: Where on earth did you find that beautiful, old table?
B: I ... it in an antique shop.
- A: I thought you were going to work abroad for a year.
B: I was - but it
- A: I hear there were a few difficulties settling that big sales contract.
B: That's right! We ... a lot of problems.
- A: Weren't you planning to move house?
B: Yes, but it, so we decided to stay where we were.
- A: When did the injured man regain consciousness?
B: He just as we reached the hospital.
- A: So the party was a success?
B: Yes, it all right in the end.
- A: I gather the holiday wasn't as relaxing as you had hoped!
B: No, I'm afraid we ... a lot of unexpected problems.
- A: After all that worry, I'm glad you found your wallet.
B: Luckily everything all right eventually.
- A: I hear the patient died in hospital.
B: Sadly, she never after the accident.
- A: Are you still looking for a copy of that old book?
B: Yes. If you one, buy it and I'll pay you for it.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Categorization of job

- Forestry: Tree preservationists, tree surgeons
- Fisheries: Fishermen
- Agriculture: Agricultural engineers
- Education and Librarianship: Teachers, Librarians, technical teachers
- Health: Health educators; Doctors
- Business and Commerce: Business entrepreneurs, Accountant
- Community and Social Development: Community workers; town planners; social workers
- Technical Trades, crafts and engineering: Computer programmers; carpenters; petrol mechanics; boat builders; Computer Analysts; Building instructors.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

109: IF YOU THINK YOU'RE BEATEN, YOU ARE

Suggested answers to previous lesson's question

108: LIVES OF GREAT MEN TEACH US TO MAKE OUR OWN LIFE SUBLINE

Those people who have achieved excellence in some field of human activity and have immortalized themselves were great thinkers and innovators. Their greatness lies in their dynamic creativity to improve the lot of humanity. They lived and died for the welfare of the human race and progress of the civilization. Thus they have left behind them indelible footmarks on sands of time. Their lives are precious models for us to emulate. We should endeavor to reflect in our lives the ideas and ideologies they stood for. By closely following this role models, we too can try and mould our lives. We need to remember that the worth of a life is not reckoned by the number of years one leaves, but by the quality of life, by the number of eyes one wiped tears from and the number of lips one put smiles on. One can learn the ideals of putting service above one's self from the lives of great men who made relentless efforts, encountered unmetten hardships, yet were undaunted in their avowed path. They sacrificed personal comforts to uplift the down-trodden. Thus, they lit a candle amid the encircling gloom rather than cursed darkness. We too can do something similar, something for which the posterity would hold us in grateful esteem.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Follow what thou art taught
By inspiration from thy Lord:
There is no god but He:
And turn aside from those
Who join gods with Allah."

S6: A106

VI. Food for Thought

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

—Paul Boese

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. The food chain will not begin in the absence of

- producer
- consumer
- decomposer
- both the second and the third

2. During blood clotting plasma (fibrinogen) is converted into

- thrombin
- pro-thrombin
- fibrin
- dextrin

3. The source of nectar is communicated to other honey bees by performing dance of particular shape which is

- figure of 2
- figure of 6
- figure of 8
- none of these

4. Isotopes are characterized in having same

- number of positions and electrons
- arrangement of electrons
- number of protons
- number of neutrons

5. Give the full form of the abbreviation HP.

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- The normal temperature of a human body is **98.6°f**
- Newton's first law of motion gives the concept of **inertia**.
- The scientist who proved the existence of viruses is **Ivanowski**.
- Nitrous oxide** is also known as laughing gas.
- Soil erosion can be prevented by **afforestation**.

Noise pollution: A growing concern



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The disturbance produced in our environment by the undesirable loud sounds of various kinds is called noise pollution. Noise is among the most pervasive pollutants today. Like other pollutants noise is a product of industrialization and modern civilization. It is an inescapable part of everyday life. It has become a growing concern throughout the world as it affects not only daily activities of people but also their productivity, health and emotion. Noise pollution is one of the biggest problems in developing countries like India and Yemen who try to catch the modernity on the wrong side as they do not adopt the right technology and legal measures to control it.

Sound and Noise

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. It is the harsh and loud sound which is annoying, and uncomfortable. It inter-

feres with speech, damages the hearing capacity and reduces concentration and work efficiency. Noise is different from sound. Sound is considered to be useful and a welcoming element for our survival like water and air as it is an integral part of our speech system. A particular sound is not perceived in the same manner by all people. Many of the sounds we come across everyday are taken for granted. However, on different occasions and varying situations, attitudes and moods the common everyday sound can interfere with our routine task. When this happens, sound becomes noise.

Science of Sound

A sound which is pleasant for one person may be a disturbing noise for someone else. For example, the pop music which is relished by the youngsters may not be appreciated by the people of older generation. The patterns created by human voice have both regular and irregular sound pulses. Sounds that are considered to be pleasant have variations in pressure with regular pattern of vibration. On the other hand, the sounds which are termed as noise consist of irregular patterns of vibration. The frequency and intensity of sound are measured in hertz (Hz) which is calculated on the basis of cycles per second (cps). The most significant characteristics of noise are its "loudness" and "duration". In fact, loudness and duration are linked with the quality of noise.

They are used as the criteria to determine the level of noise. Frequencies between 2000 Hz and 8000Hz are considered to be most annoying. It is not the pitch or loudness of a sound that make it unbearable and unpleasant but it is its repetitive nature which causes distraction. A voice in normal conversation is normally around 60dB (decibel). Usually, traffic noise in a town is around 70dB.

Sources of noise

Noise is created by both people and the machines they use for their comfort. The use of various types of gadgets at home, machines in factories, construction equipment, manufacturing processes, lawn mowers, loud speakers in social functions, road traffic, jet planes and garbage trucks are some of the sources of noise.

Effects of noise

Mild noise can be annoying but excessive noise can destroy a person's hearing capacity. People take time to get used to noise. The slightest unwanted sound can become very annoying if it continues for a longer time. The ill effects of noise on human beings are many. It may affect physiology as well as psychology of the people. It may lead to hearing impairment, cardio-vascular problems, chronic high blood pressure, gastro-intestinal problems, constriction of blood vessels, decrease in alertness and ability to memorize, nervousness,

anxiety, depression, sexual dysfunction, annoyance, irritability and extreme emotional behaviour. It is observed that people who are continuously exposed to loud noise, no louder than people shouting, for eight hours per day and five days per week over a period of years may suffer from permanent hearing loss. The voice communication and thought process are normally affected if the noise level in a work place is above 58 dB. Employees who are exposed to a noise level above 85 dB for eight hours a day may suffer from hearing impairment and psychological disorder. Introverted people are affected much by noise than extroverted people. Individuals undergoing depression and anxiety out of unemployment and divorce are more sensitive to sound and consider it as noise.

Noise as an issue

Noise pollution is an increasing problem throughout the world. Traffic noise is considered as one of the major contributors to noise pollution. Particularly, road traffic noise is considered to be one of the most widespread and growing environmental problem in urban areas. The report of a study conducted by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in 1991 states that people consider noise to be the main local environmental problem, sometimes even more than air pollution or quality of drinking water. Due to the increase in trade and

mobility of people there is a pressure on the use of transportation. The public transports such as buses, trains and trams have been over crowded and irregular and fail to cope with the overgrowing population. So the individuals are compelled to have their private mode of transport which they believe give them reliability and liberty to travel. Eventually, that has led to the overcrowded traffic on urban roads and increased noise pollution. Now it is seen that a family of four members possesses five vehicles, while each member of the family possesses his own two-wheeler or car besides a family vehicle. Imagine the four members of a family start together from home at the same time and all the two wheelers without silencers gets on to the road!

Control Measures

In this age of technological advancement, it is difficult to control noise pollution completely. In order to control noise pollution completely, we will have to reduce or forgo using many modern gadgets and machines which make our life easy and comfortable. It is not possible to eliminate noise pollution totally. However, we can reduce the intensity of noise to minimize its harmful effects. Instead of forgoing the use of gadgets and machines we can reduce noise level by adopting various noise control measures. When complaints are made about noise, we should identify the offensive characteristics of the

noise, so that we can find measures to control it. Let us find out if the noise is too loud, too unpredictable, and too high pitched. Once we know the characteristics of the noise we can adopt various types control measures. For example, equipment can be serviced and lubricated regularly, or a noisy machine can be enclosed in a separate room. Both technical as well as legal measures should be taken to reduce noises created by home gadgets and public address systems. New technology and designs should be developed for such kind of systems which can reduce noise. We should restrict the use of loud speakers and amplifiers in public places. Industries should be set up far away from crowded localities. City roads should be designed to reduce noise too. For example, plantation of trees along roadside may help in absorbing sound. Use of silencers in motor vehicles should be mandatory to further reduce the noise on roads. Noise level can also be reduced at home and town by designing new building techniques. The harmful effects of noise on ears can be reduced by covering them with hands or using hearing protectors such as cotton plug. A country should have some regulations and acts of its own to maintain the standard and level of noise for machineries, gadgets, vehicles etc. Above all, this kind of hazard can be combated by public education and awareness of the problem and collective effort of both people and government.

Yemen: A gift from the sea?



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“Great things happen when men and mountains meet” said the legendary English poet William Blake. His words proved to be prophetic for me one day when I climbed the barren and formidable mountains at Al Garn in Seiyun where I live and work. Something great indeed happened that day. From the first moment when I began my lonely climb, I knew that this mountain was very very special. Every pebble, every rock and every huge boulder of the mountain spoke to me, not in the language of the mountains but in the language of the seas. I saw the imprint of an ancient sea; the fury of its waves, the mysterious contours of its abyssal depths, and the myriad forms of life that once teemed its churning waters—all etched so clearly on the rocks. With a shudder I realized that the lofty mountain on which I was perched was once under the deep sea. It slowly dawned on me that the ancient land of Yemen was the gift of the sea—a sea which roared for millions of years and died millions of years ago; and in its death it bequeathed to us this historic land of Yemen.

From my first expedition to Al Garn mountains, I returned with a handful of fossil sea shells. On that day I had amassed many fossil sea shells but the tricky climb down prevented me from bringing them down. I showed the fossils to my colleagues in the University and to my students. Then I understood that a fossil is something that people in Yemen do not comprehend at all. My students were asking me why I was interested in stones. When I told them that those were parts of animals that lived long, long ago, they looked at me in utter disbelief. I then tried to explain to them what a fossil is.

A fossil is the body or part of the body of a living organism preserved in rock, soil or ice. Usually hard parts like bone, nail, teeth or scales are preserved as fossils. Most of the fossils are found in sedimentary rocks—rocks formed from soil under great pressure. A small animal like a snail, for example, when dead, leaves behind its shell, after the soft body parts are decomposed. The shell made of hard material remains intact in many cases. It may later get covered with soil. Because of geological changes, it may be pushed further and further down. Due to the extreme pressure exerted by the millions of tons of soil in the top layers, the bottom layers may solidify to become sedimentary rocks. The change takes place over a period of millions of years. The shell of the snail also becomes a rock in the process, but it preserves its original shape. This is what is known as a fossil. Animal or plant parts preserved like this give us invaluable records of the past.

The fossils that I collected from my daily trips to the mountains were mostly sea shells like snails, clams, cones, oysters and conch shells. They are marine animals with soft bodies inside hard shells. By protruding some part of their



soft body outside the shell they move and eat. I also collected from the Al Garn mountains fossilized sponges, sea cucumbers and a variety of corals. The imprints of sea plants and many other organisms were clearly visible on many rocks on the mountains. I also found a remarkably well-preserved specimen of crab legs, an animal belonging to the family called arthropoda.

What does all this indicate? How can fossils of sea animals appear on a mountain? Scientists believe that mountains were formed when huge plates under the earth moved and collided with each other. At the point of collision massive quantities of soil and rocks were pushed upwards. These became mountains. Thus the mountain ranges in Al Garn were formed from the soil and rocks that were once under the sea. The telltale imprint of the sea comes alive when you look closely at any rock from the mountains of Al Garn. Later I found out that this was true of any mountain in Seiyun and the surrounding areas like Boar, Taribah and Tarim; and I am now convinced that

same is the case with almost all mountain ranges in Yemen.

Experts in this field can determine the age of these fossils using techniques like carbon dating or spectroscopy. Some fossils of animals known to have become extinct during a particular age will also help to date these specimens. To me, one point looks significant now. I have so far not been able to find any fossil of fishes; bones or scales of fish are also usually well preserved. May be a more diligent and extensive search will bring up fish fossils. But if there are no fish fossil it actually means that the specimens are from a time before fishes appeared on earth. That means at least 350 million years! I used to flout the experience of my 43 years of life to my young students. Now when I hold in my hand an animal which lived 350 million years ago, my ego is deflated pretty quickly.

The implications of this hidden treasure for Yemen are many. The government of Yemen, the local governments and the Universities in Yemen can do a lot to tap this rich resource in many

ways. The greatest significance of this is that it opens up a vast area for exploration by scientists all over the world. An extensive study of the fossils of Yemen is sure to expand our knowledge of the geological prehistory and evolution of life. Governments and universities should think of long term projects in collaboration with universities abroad. Universities may strengthen geological and palaeontological studies. A team of experts may be trained in fossil studies and put in charge of scientific studies in this area. The tourism potential of such places may also be explored. Fossil museums and fossil parks would attract many tourists. And finally, fossils can

also be sold! On the fossil sites in the internet, advertisements from fossil sellers can be seen in plenty. For even a small piece of fossil, the price quoted is 10 to 15 dollars. The Yemeni Government can also think along these lines. I hope to see in near future tourists clamoring to buy the fossil moments of Yemen. For me, climbing the mountains of Yemen, searching for fossils and finding some very beautiful specimens has itself been an experience of a life time. These mountains now instill in me a deep reverence. They are not barren lonely and formidable anymore. They speak to me the mysterious language of a bygone era—and I listen in rapt attention.

YOUTH FORUM

Peace hath her victories no less renown'd than war

Peace hath her victories
no less renown'd than war.
Your mind is now totally free,
Your destiny not so far away from
the stars you wish to touch.
Your ambition touches the sky
And in the infinite sky above
You let yourself fly.
Let peace spread over
When the war gets to settle
in which people fight
Like unruly cattle.
Peace means love,
War means hate
What peace wants
is love and faith.
Your mind is a lovely garden
that lets lovely flowers bloom.
Don't scatter your thoughts away
don't make it a dirty room.
Peace gives rest,



war gives threat
Peace gives love,
war takes blood
Peace is an ideal
which your mind seeks to
achieve.
War is the end
after which the story finishes
Peace is a dream
which can be fulfilled.
War is a nightmare
which makes us killed.
Peace is a blessing
from an old age heart.
War is a curse
which makes everyone apart.
Through peace for sure
you can win over everyone
Through war however
you can win over none.

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University life

University is regarded as a turning point in one's life. It nurtures human values in us and grooms us as future citizens.

Students who utilize this opportunity get as much benefit as they can, they succeed. They improve themselves, and develop their skills. As such, their university life becomes fruitful and productive. Of course, one needs qualities like ambition, patience, and grit for hardwork in order to achieve one's goal.

The other type of students who try to make university merely a place for luxury and entertainment, don't have any goals to achieve. Their goal is to live the moment and enjoy it in whatever way. So their life in university is of no significant outcome or result. Generally, life in university is full

of experiments and experiences, that makes it different and distinguished from other places. Students undergo a significant transformation of their personality. This stage is really very enjoyable. It gives chances to the students in all fields. Students there explore new skills and try to develop it. Finally I think university life is the most interesting and beautiful one. It inculcates in me a lot of positive values. It pushes me forward. It makes my life appear different. I hope this to be true of every student in the university.

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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 off 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

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Adventure | Engineer | Maps | Ride | Talent |
| Airplane | Entertainment | Model | Rocky | Team |
| Array | Evaluation | Motor | Safe | Technology |
| Attack | Fear | Movement | Scenery | Tests |
| Bell | Follow | Navigate | Screen | Thrills |
| Brake | Game | Noise | Shift | Tour |
| Bump | Goal | Number | Sides | Trade |
| Button | Graphics | Objective | Skill | Training |
| Cage | Hobby | Optic | Snares | Trap |
| Climate | Hops | Pattern | Sole | Travel |
| Cockpit | Hurdle | Phony | Sound | Trip |
| Coordinate | Leap | Pretend | Spiller | Turbulence |
| Course | Learn | Replicate | Steer | Turn |
| Develop | Level | Report | Stop | Version |
| Displays | Levers | Reproduce | Support | Visuals |
| Education | Machine | Requirement | System | Window |

FLIGHT SIMULATOR Solution: 5 letters

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

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Congratulate