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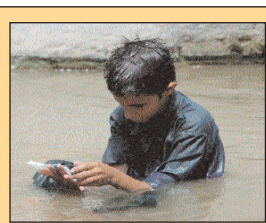
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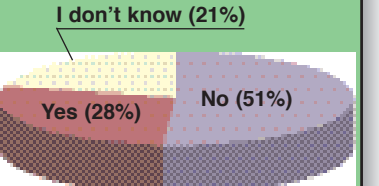


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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
For several years, authorities have been unable to contain the ongoing crisis with Al-Houthi followers. Do you think followers of Wahhabi (also known as Salafi) doctrine are behind the Sa'ada bloodshed and aim to get rid of followers of 12th Shiite doctrine?



This edition's question:

Competition over the presidency is heating up daily, with the majority speculating an overwhelming President Ali Abdullah Saleh victory. Who do you think will be able to win the majority of local council seats?

- General People's Congress (GPC)
- Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)
- Independent candidates
- I don't know

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

Unionist party makes amendments, reshuffles posts

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — The Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party (YUCP) is reworking the structure of its party. At the second General Conference last Friday, YUCP approved numerous amendments to their internal system and shuffled many party posts. The most important amendments were canceling the party's chairman post, appointing two assistants for the party's secretary-general and setting its executive board at 21 members to be elected at YUCP conferences. The reshuffling involved governorate YUCP chairmen who are added automatically to the executive board. YUCP amendments included a proposal to modify their name and that of its executive board, but most party representatives rejected the proposal. However, the hundreds of YUCP members from various Yemeni governorates approved most amendments concerning organizational issues. The conference resulted in several decisions and recommendations, the most prominent of which was the new leadership's recommendation to dialogue with various political parties about national issues.



Participants listening to amendments made by the Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party. PHOTOS BY TAWFIQ AL-ABSI

Decisions and recommendations emphasized the necessity restarting the party-run newspaper, Al-Tajamu, which stopped over a year ago. Conference participants formed a committee to examine the newspaper's situation, giving the committee a one month deadline to complete its task. Regarding the YUCP's program, the conference approved a new platform for leadership to follow accordingly, asking it to review the platform, as well as present all developments for discussion at the next conference. Attendees praised the Joint Meeting Parties selection of Faisal Bin Shamlan to run for president in the Sept. 20 election. Conference recommendations affirmed that the YUCP insists on free and fair presidential and local elections to strengthen democracy in Yemen and the peaceful transfer of power. At the conference's concluding session, participants elected the party's 12-member executive board from among 35 candidates.

Continued on page 2

Local council candidates begin campaigning

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Sept. 3 — As many as 2,240 local council candidates at the governorate level began their election campaigns throughout the republic last Friday following the withdrawal of 361 applicants, including five women. Contenders for local council posts at the district level amount to 22,110, including 164 women, after 3,450 candidates, 41 of whom were women, withdrew. Ten of 22 political parties are participating in the election. Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Sayyani, head of the Planning and Technical Affairs sector at the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER), confirmed in a Saturday press conference that there are 9,247,390 eligible registered voters, of whom 5,346,820 are men and 3,900,577 are women. He noted that 153,342 voters transferred from their original electoral domiciles at the voting center, constituency and governorate levels to new domiciles. According to Al-Sayyani, 248,664 names were dropped from voter registries under court verdicts for violating

election laws. Abu Al-Janadi, head of the SCER's Media and Electoral Awareness sector, announced that a press conference on election developments will be held daily. He asserted that every political party has violated election laws within the past two days by opening fire on other candidates' propaganda and tearing down their pictures. Al-Janadi called on mosque preachers not to inflame citizens to disturb the election campaigns' progress, pointing out that the mosque's role is to preach to people and guide them to the right track. "Mosque preachers did something wrong, as some supported ruling party candidates while others backed opposition candidates. This is a big mistake," Al-Janadi maintained. He called on parties and political organizations to be judicious and increase their members' awareness on how to abide by the law and stop violence and acts of vandalism.

Continued on page 2

Yemen to face strategic challenges

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Sept. 3 — In the coming presidential term Yemen is set to face new challenges, according to the Political Development Forum. In cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the Political Development Forum (PDF) organized a symposium to discuss many economic, social and cultural challenges, which Yemen is expected to experience, in addition to other challenges related with completing state

building and international policies. PDF-Yemen is a non-government institution for intellectual and cultural activities. It contributes to the realization of widespread and effective political participation to achieve safe and secure political development. Working papers, reviewed at the symposium, examined and diagnosed several issues in the social and cultural areas. They stressed the most important strategic challenges Yemen is bound to experience in various areas during the coming presidential term. According to the papers, issues concerned with citizenship, women and marginalized classes, cultural and ethnic plu-



The panel opening the symposium. Y.T. PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

rality, and education are due to top the strategic challenges. Continued on page 2

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In brief

Lahj

Two dead in tribal killing

Sept. 3 — Two individuals from Al-Kullah tribe were found dead Friday on the road leading to Al-Shaet of Al-Madharebeh district, Lahj governorate. The killings took place when a group of Al-Aghberah tribe made a trap for a group from Al-Kullah tribe, firing bullets at them and shooting two. A war, involving revenge between both sides, erupted at the onset of this year and the authorities have not intervened to stop fighting between the two tribes.

Al-Jawf

Dead and injured following rally

Sept. 2 — Two people died and another four injured after an exchange of fire at the end of rally for the General People's Congress. Two individuals belonging to Al Musallam were killed in Al-Ghail district after returning from the rally. These two were killed in gun-fire exchange with an armed group belonging to Al-Ashraf tribe who came to revenge one of their relatives whose killer fled to Al Musallam tribe. Two injured individuals were rushed to a medical center in Al-Atheen Market area while the other two from Al Musallam were moved to Al-Hazm Hospital.

Taiz

Dermatologists conference

Sept. 2 — The 10th Conference of the Pan Arab League of Dermatologists concluded yesterday. The conference hosted more than 30 delegations representing Asia, Europe, Africa, South and North America. The participants attended 12 workshops discussing scientific researches handling many issues including surgical treatment of vitiligo, hair transplant and phototherapy (Laser & IPL). Local, Arab and international medical companies showed their products and medical equipments during the conference.

Sana'a

Flower arranging

Sept. 3 — A demonstration of "arranging Japanese flowers (Ikebana)" is to take place today from 10:00 am until 12:30 at the Cultural House (Bait Al-Thaqafa) in Sana'a. The demonstration, which is organized by the Japanese Embassy and Ministry of Culture, will also take place on Wednesday Sep. 6. Ikebana is a Japanese tradition art form — in contrast decorative flower arranging in other countries, the Japanese flower arrangement create a harmony of linear construction, rhythm, and color.

Indonesia comes to Yemen

Sept. 3 — Aiming to introduce the Indonesian folklore and enhance the cultural cooperation between Indonesia and Yemen, an Indonesian band for public dancing organizes an artistic party at the cultural center in Sana'a next Friday evening. The band will also host a party in the Movenpick celebrating old relations linking Yemen to Indonesia centuries ago, right from the arrival of Yemeni merchants to spread of Islam. The population of Indonesia exceeds 220 million people and 8 millions are from Yemeni origin.

Aviation strike

Sept. 2 — Yemeni aviation engineers went on strike right Saturday, Sep. 2 on in protest of the lack of action by Yemeni Airlines to reach the engineers' demands. The strike will involve overtime work only, after the syndicate reached a closed door with the Yemeni Airlines board of directors who have not paid for overtime in over 5 years. The engineers threatened to stop working on the Arab planes heading to Sana'a airport if there is no response to their demands within two days.

Costly firearms

Sept. 3 — Yemen's financial cost due to fire arms mishandling reached YR 18 billion in the past 20 years, a study said. MENA Report 2006 said there were more than 77,000 medical cases registered in the past three years, and 25 percent of them were caused by arms mishandling and random firing in celebrations. Official statistics issued by the Ministry of Interior showed there were 45,000 crimes over the last 4 years involving arms misuse. Recently, crime rates are on the rise as well as weapons spread, smuggling and trade.

Hezbollah member
in Sana'a

SANA'A, Sept. 3 — Hezbollah has a stronghold throughout the Arab region and Yemen has shown its support, said a member of the Hezbollah political office who was in Sana'a.

A public demonstration, organized by the Joining Committee for Resistance Support (JCRS), invited Mohammed Al-Mulla, of Hezbollah, as well as number of Arab intellectuals and Yemeni politicians.

The demonstration started at the Kana'an Association for Palestine, in Haddha, and marched to the Resistance Tent, on Lebanon Street.

Al-Mulla commended the Yemeni stance for the resistance before and after the Israeli aggression. He insisted Israel cannot defeat Hezbollah because its borders are spread throughout the Islamic World. He said the recent war was an important turn in the Arabic and Israeli conflict. "It exposed the weakness of the Israeli forces," he



Part of the demonstration in support for Palestine and Lebanon.

YT PHOTO BY KHALIL AL-KHAIBARI

said.

During his speech in the conference Yahia Mohammed Saleh, chairman of JCRS, denounced the negative international stance toward

the legal resistance in Palestine and Lebanon. He insisted the Israeli blockade on Lebanon is just a failed attempt to hide the military failure by the resistance.

Yemen jumps onboard
Kyoto campaign

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Yemen is looking to keep pace with global goals to cut down on carbon dioxide by joining the Capacity Development for Cleaning Development Mechanism Project.

The project is known as CD4CDM and Yemen is a new member in the project which falls under the Kyoto Protocol.

"Yemen, as party to the Kyoto protocol, is fully committed to fulfill its national and international environmental targets" said Minister of Water and Environment Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Ariani at the press conference announcing Yemen's green step forward.

"I am happy to say that Yemen will be one of the new nine countries that enjoyed lately the Capacity Development for Cleaning Development Mechanism project," said Al-Ariani.

CDM aims to direct private sector investment into emission-reduction projects in developing countries while also promoting sustainable development. In return the industrialized countries investing in projects will receive credits against their Kyoto target.

"Ideally, it will encourage additional capital flows into developing countries, accelerate technology transfer, create new job opportunities and enable developing countries to leapfrog to cleaner



Deputy Head of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Minister of Water and Environment, and Second Secretary for Commercial and Economic Affairs at the press conference.

YT PHOTO BY AMEL AL-ARIQI

technologies," Al-Ariani remarked.

Yemen needs 4 more million jobs over the next years to cope with the excessive growth of labor force in the country.

"On the global level job creation in the environmental sector, especially in the field of clean technologies, is large and expanding and global expenditures on the environment are in the range of US\$ 525 billion per year," Al-Ariani added.

The project, funded by the Netherlands Government and implemented by Untied Nation Environment Program, will aim to enable Yemen to fully engage as a partner in the global carbon market.

Deputy Head of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Roelof Buffinga, said CD4CDM's activities include support for establishing a designated national authority, organizing practice-oriented workshops for CDM stakeholders, civil servants, local experts, academic and staff members of relevant financial institutions to enable them to identify, design and implement CDM projects.

Buffinga mentioned that 12 pilot countries started the program in 2002 and they will finalize their programs at the end of the year. Another nine countries, including Yemen, have joined the program.

"Let Me Learn" launched

SANA'A, Sept. 3 — In a hope to bring down the illiteracy rate UNICEF launched a program to get girls into schools and to keep them there.

The "Let Me Learn" campaign is a collaboration between the private sector, the Yemeni government and UNICEF and the project will be attempt to create a partnership within society working together to get rid of rampant illiteracy within the Yemeni society and help poor families make their girls and children study.

The awareness campaign will provide food and material support as well as creating a dialogue within the government to make girls' education free at all levels, not just the three primary years of education.

The UNICEF office in Sana'a tries to decrease the large amount of illiteracy among girls, but the rate is on the rise. The recent official statistics indicate that education and illiteracy eradication represent a challenge for Yemen.

About 70 percent of rural girls, at school age, are out of schools and 76 percent of girls, aged 10 years and above, are illiterate in comparison to under 30 percent among male children. Only one in every three girls join the



UNICEF and private sector announce education program.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

first year of primary school.

The statistics of 2004 indicate that over 60 percent of children did not join schools and Yemeni's and government face great challenges to meet education requirements. They're also having difficulty making education accessible to all and helping drop-outs rejoin schools or encouraging those not in school at all.

The participants from the private sector stressed the importance of join-

ing efforts to upgrade the girl's education in Yemen, particularly in rural areas.

Seven districts were selected by the project to execute the Let Me Learn plan concerning girl's education and these districts are Al-Muniria district in Al-Hodeidah, Al-Azarrek in Al-Dhala, Sanhan in Sana'a, Tour Al-Bahah in Lahj and Lawder in Abyan. The project hopes to extend to all governorates after implementation in these districts.

Free and fair elections
seminar at Yemen Times

SANA'A, Sept. 4 — The Elections Monitoring Team (EMT) and the Yemen Times will jointly conduct a seminar on free and honest elections at the Yemen Times premises coming Tuesday, 5th September 2006. The seminar aims at providing an opportunity for interested media activists, political parties, and international and local monitors to obtain and provide information on the course of the coming presidential and local council elections.

Yemen Times continues to play an active role in providing information and promoting democracy and human

rights. The EMT is a non-governmental organization working to establish a democratic culture by promoting democracy and good governance in Yemen. This seminar is a joint venture to establish connections and alliances between concerned organizations to achieve satisfactory results in the coming elections on the 20th of this month.

The seminar will be attended by representatives of the national and international monitors, NGOs, political party members and media. It will take place at 10 AM on Tuesday morning at the Yemen Times premises at Hadda Street. *Everyone is welcome to attend.*

Bakari and Al-Qirbi
discuss bilateral relations

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Iran and Yemen plan to bolster bilateral relations following meetings between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mohammed Redha Bakari, and

Yemeni Foreign Minister, Abo Baker Al-Qirbi.

The three-day meetings were used to review international and European actions and also discuss new developments in the international sphere — particularly the Iranian nuclear file for which a copy of the Iranian reply to the European initiative was given to Al-Qirbi.

Additionally, the two parties discussed the developments in the Middle East, especially concerning Lebanon, and the importance of exerting joint efforts to rebuild destroyed regions there. They also asked for a move to create a fair solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Bakari expressed his country's appreciation for the initial Yemeni attitudes of the Iranian nuclear file.

For his part, the Yemeni foreign minister highlighted the deepness of relations linking Yemen to Iran, assuring firm Yemeni attitudes concerning the right of Iran to have nuclear energy for peaceful uses.

Al-Qirbi pointed out the importance of existing cooperation between Iran and neighboring countries for this issue, as well as the cooperation and coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency for observing Iranian nuclear activities.

Al-Qirbi also assured the Yemeni attitude calling for dismantling all mass destruction weapons from the area and the importance of making all countries commit to treaties in this respect, particularly Israel who has yet signed any treaty.

5 million students back
to school nationwide

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Nearly 5 million boys and girls rushed back to their primary and high schools in all Yemeni governorates, as the new educational year began.

"The Ministry of Education has completed all the arrangements for the new school year and provided schools nationwide with books, teachers and labs to help make this year a success," said Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Habtour.

"We are to distribute more than 450 thousand benches and 450 labs during the year to meet the growing demand for education equipment throughout the country."

The Deputy Minister has called on all students and teachers to return to their schools and commit themselves to regular attendance and hard work.

Bin Habtour reminded school principals in different governorates not to collect tuition fees from schoolboys and girls in the first three grades and schoolgirls enrolled in grades 1 - 6. The warning was made in response to a government decision for the year 2006 to exempt students enrolled in these grades from tuition fees to boost school numbers. They established the principle of equal opportunities to reduce the gap between boys and girls enrolment in education by 2015.

Continued from page 1

Unionist party makes amendments, reshuffles posts

At its first meeting, the executive board elected the YUCP's nine-member general secretariat, including: Secretary-General Dr. Abdullah Awbel; Dr. Ali Abdulkarim, Assistant

Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Abdu Ahmad Abbas, Assistant Secretary-General for Organizational Affairs, among others distributed across several units.

Yemen to face strategic challenges

The papers diagnosed the legislative areas that hinder building the new state and reviewed the programs presented by political parties and civil community organizations regarding political reform requirements and reconsidering the state's authorities.

With respect to the international policy and regional integration, they discussed the nature of the security role that controls international relation requirements.

The symposium laid more emphasis on challenges related with Yemen's admission to Gulf Cooperation Council, security issues with bordering Saudi Arabia and the U.S. and international demands in the war on terrorism.

Other issues, covered by the discussion, are the ongoing developments in Somalia, the local and regional arms trade and the spread of arms among tribesmen and influential persons.

Local council candidates begin campaigning

Al-Janadi called on mosque preachers not to inflame citizens to disturb the election campaigns' progress, pointing out that the mosque's role is to preach to people and guide them to the right track. "Mosque preachers did something wrong, as some supported ruling party candidates while others backed opposition candidates. This is a big mistake," Al-Janadi maintained.

He called on parties and political organizations to be judicious and increase their members' awareness on how to abide by the law and stop vio-

lence and acts of vandalism.

Al-Janadi emphasized that parties must circulate general notices to their members and supporters to respect other candidates' election campaigns because such acts violate true democracy.

As an example, the General People's Congress (GPC) announced Friday that one of its members was shot in his right hand while hanging a picture of a party candidate. According to a GPC source, the incident occurred in Ibb governorate's Constituency No. 84.

Palestinian despair as donors meet

By Alan Johnston

Diplomats and aid donors are gathering in the cool and the calm of a conference centre in Stockholm to consider the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories.

And a world away, in the heat and the clamour of Gaza's alleyways, Imad Marzouk is living that crisis.

The stumps that are all that remain of his legs are still heavily bandaged.

He remembers doing ordinary things on an ordinary evening. He had just propped his bike up against a wall on a street in Gaza City, and started to chat on his mobile phone.

All our dreams are cancelled - everything's cancelled - our priorities are feeding ourselves and just living

Government worker Nidha Younis Ramallah, West Bank

But then out of nowhere came an explosion - and horror, and agony.

An Israeli rocket had torn both his legs off.

Sitting in his wheelchair after several operations he said: "I'm looking at myself. I'm looking at my legs, and at what I've become. I didn't have any weapon to go and shoot at Israelis. I never did anything."

It seems that the rocket was meant



War has left its imprint everywhere.

times intense military pressure.

There have been more than 270 air strikes, numerous ground raids and many days of incessant artillery fire.

The United Nations says that \$30m worth of damage has been done in this poverty stricken place.

The Israelis are trying to counter the militants who fire crudely made rockets from Gaza randomly into Israeli towns and villages. And the army is also trying to find and free an Israeli soldier captured in late June.

The Hamas government has suggested truce talks, and has proposed swapping the soldier for some of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

But there has been no deal so far, and the killing goes on.

The casualty figures show how very one-sided the recent conflict has been.

More than 200 Palestinians have died - including many civilians - and hundreds more have been injured. One Israeli soldier has been killed - shot accidentally by his own side.

Eleven Israeli civilians have been wounded in rocket fire from Gaza. Darkness

In the course of the campaign thousands of people have fled their homes to escape Israeli artillery shells or advancing tanks.

But even for those unscathed by the violence, Gaza has become a darker place.

The Israelis bombed its only power plant, and now there is as little as six hours of electricity a day.

On many nights the alleyways of the refugee camps are lost in complete darkness. Behind the doors of crowded homes, life goes on by candlelight.

And on top of the stifling summer heat, Gazans are enduring serious water supply problems.

'Yoke of anarchy'

But even the Hamas government spokesman, Ghazi Hamad, has conceded that not all Gaza's problems can be blamed on the Israelis.

In a recent article he seemed to despair at the very poor law-and-order situation.

There are numerous militia groups and powerful clans that operate beyond the control of the weak security forces.

"Gaza is suffering under the yoke of anarchy and the swords of thugs," wrote Mr Hamad.

"We're used to blaming our mistakes on others. [But] what is the relationship between the chaos, anarchy, lawlessness, indiscriminate murders, theft of land, family rivalries... and the occupation?" he asked.

'Strangled' Meanwhile, the Palestinian economy is being brought to its knees.

Business activity of all kinds is continually hampered by the growing

number of checkpoints and barriers and controls across the occupied territories.

Israelis say they are securing themselves against attack - but Palestinians are convinced that they are being deliberately strangled.

On top of this, Israel, the European Union and America are preventing all funds reaching the Hamas government because it refuses to renounce violence and accept Israel's right to exist.

The administration is so broke that it has been able to pay its workers almost nothing for six months. The entire civil service - which normally supports a quarter of the population - is being forced into poverty.

Like many government workers in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Nidha Younis is eating through the last of her savings. She is fending off a landlord who is demanding rent that she cannot pay, and all the time she slides deeper into debt.

"All our dreams are cancelled," she said. "Everything's cancelled. Our priorities are feeding ourselves and



Rubbish mounts after municipal workers go on strike.

just living."

The United Nations puts the poverty rate in Gaza at close to 80%. And the spokeswoman for the UN agency monitoring humanitarian affairs, OCHA, had this message for the donors at the Stockholm conference.

"What we've seen in the last year is a pattern of serious decline. Something must be done to avert a real, real disaster."

Source: BBC

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Iran backs UN Lebanon truce

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has agreed to support the Lebanon ceasefire, but refused to halt Iran's nuclear programme following talks with UN secretary general Kofi Annan.

Annan's two-day visit to Tehran comes after Iran ignored a United Nations deadline to halt uranium enrichment by the end of August, opening the door to possible sanctions.

At a joint news conference with Iran's foreign minister Manoucher Mottaki on Sunday, Annan said "on the nuclear issue, the president reaffirmed to me Iran's preparedness and commitment to hold negotiations" to find a solution to the impasse over Tehran's nuclear activities.

However, Annan said Ahmadinejad "reiterated that he did not accept suspension before negotiations".

The suspension of uranium enrichment is a condition set by the five permanent members of the security council plus Germany.

Ceasefire support

With regard to the recent ceasefire in Lebanon, Annan said that Ahmadinejad had "reaffirmed his country's support for the implementation of resolution 1701".

Resolution 1701 drew up the terms for the ceasefire, including expanding an existing UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon and calling for an arms embargo on Hezbollah.

Annan said his discussions about the resolution included measures to prevent the rearming of Hezbollah.

But the UN chief did not disclose the specifics of his talks on the topic with the Iranian president.

Annan also reiterated his displeasure over an exhibition in Tehran of cartoons on the Holocaust, drawing attention to the outrage among Muslims caused by the publication earlier this year of the Danish cartoons of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

The comments came just hours after an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said Iran plans to hold a conference this autumn questioning the extent of the Holocaust.

Source: Aljazeera

14 British soldiers killed in crash

Accident occurs during major foray against Taliban

By: Donald McArthur,

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan Sept 3 - Fourteen British soldiers were killed in a plane crash as hundreds of Canadian and coalition soldiers launched a major offensive yesterday to drive Taliban insurgents from a stronghold west of here used as a staging ground for deadly ambushes and terror attacks in Kandahar.

A Canadian armoured vehicle struck a Soviet-era anti-tank mine and a rocket targeted Kandahar airfield late yesterday, but there were no Canadian casualties in the fighting, part of Operation Medusa, that began around daybreak.

Troops with the Royal Canadian Regiment met little resistance as they pushed up from the south through the Panjwahi district before stopping on the banks of the dry Arghandab River, looking north toward the Pashmul area -- a Taliban hotbed where hun-



A British Royal Air Force Nimrod aircraft is shown in Bahrain.

dreds of insurgents are believed to be entrenched in defensive positions.

The area, between the Panjwahi and Zhari districts, has been the site of fierce fighting over the past four months that has killed at least six Canadian soldiers and left dozens wounded. It has spiritual and symbolic significance to the Taliban and is considered key ground for exerting control on Highway 1, a vital economic artery, and Kandahar, the economic centre of southern Afghanistan and the country's second largest city.

The military describes the terrain as "tough" and "complex" because of its clustered villages, maze-like, mud-walled compounds and grape-drying huts, and sought to negate that defensive advantage from afar. Canadians fired 50-kilogram shells from Howitzer guns and called in air support, including attack helicopters, bombarding insurgent positions relentlessly through the hot afternoon and evening with precision missiles and bombs.

"There has been essentially no resistance because the Taliban do not have the ability to engage us at the distances we're talking about right now," said Col. Fred Lewis, the deputy commander of the Canadian contingent here.

"They do not have the ability to

shoot back."

Insurgents earlier claimed they shot down the British spy plane, which crashed just west of Kandahar during yesterday's fighting, but coalition officials quickly discounted the claim. The Royal Air Force Nimrod MR2 went down because of a technical problem, they said. The dead included 12 Royal Air Force personnel, a Royal Marine and an army soldier.

The Taliban often falsely claim to have shot down aircraft that foreign forces and the government say came down accidentally.

Nevertheless, the speed of the Taliban claim suggested that their forces were in the area of the crash, which may hamper the recovery operation.

Abdul Manan, a witness in Chalaghor village in Kandahar province, said the plane crashed about 100 metres from his home and pieces of wreckage landed nearby. He reported seeing a fire at the back of the plane before it hit the ground with a huge explosion that "shook the whole village."

The crash was the biggest single British loss of life in Iraq or Afghanistan since the war on terror began in November 2001.

Meanwhile, Canadian Brig.-Gen.

David Fraser, commander of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan, told soldiers they would eventually have to go "house to house" mopping up insurgents in order to re-assert government control in the area.

"You've got three choices," he warned insurgents as artillery guns boomed in the desert behind him. "You can either support the government of Afghanistan, you can leave or we'll give you the third option if you stick around -- but we're coming and we're not leaving."

Coalition forces have bloodied the Taliban in the Pashmul area before, only to withdraw and watch as insurgents overrun the mud-walled villages they earlier fled. But this time will be different, the coalition promised, because Afghan national security forces will remain in force to maintain stability.

The goal of Operation Medusa, which could take weeks, is to drive away the insurgents who have been "intimidating the local population" so that the thousands of civilians who have fled the area in recent months can return and reconstruction and development proceed, said Col. Lewis.

Source: The Windsor Star, with files from Citizen News Services

Europe space mission ends with a bang

Sept. 3 — Europe's first spacecraft to the moon, the Smart-1, has ended its three-year mission with a planned crash on the lunar surface, hitting its target at 2km per second, or 7,200kph.

The impact, in a volcanic plain called the Lake of Excellence, was photographed by observers on earth on Sunday.

Scientists hope the resulting cloud of dust and debris will provide clues to the geologic composition of the site.

Octavio Camino, the spacecraft operations chief, said at the European Space Agency's mission control centre in Darmstadt, Germany: "That's it, we are in the Lake of Excellence. We have landed."

Minutes later, a video screen on the control room wall showed a picture of the bright flash from the impact relayed from an observatory in Hawaii.

Mission manager Gerhard Schwehm said: "It was a great mission and a great success and now it's over."

Pushion system During its months in orbit around the moon, the spacecraft scanned the lunar surface from orbit and took high-resolution pictures.

But its primary mission was testing a new, efficient, ion propulsion system that officials hope to use on future interplanetary missions, including the BepiColombo mission to Mercury planned for 2013.

The engine, which uses electricity from the craft's solar panels to produce a stream of charged particles



The Smart-1 spacecraft hit the moon at 7,200kph.

called ions, generates only small amounts of thrust but only needed 80kg of xenon fuel.

The craft's X-ray and infrared spectrometers have gathered information about the moon's geology that scientists hope will advance their knowledge about how the moon's surface evolved and test theories about how the moon came into being.

Stressful end

On Saturday, mission controllers had to raise the craft's orbit by 600 metres to avoid hitting a crater rim on final approach.

Had the orbit not been raised the craft would have crashed one orbit too soon, making the impact difficult or impossible to observe.

The manoeuvre had to be carried out quickly in the early hours of Saturday and operations chief Camino admitted that "we were under some stress".

Source: Aljazeera

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Providing regular indepth analysis, reporting and coverage of the Yemeni elections.

Fighting corruption is a must, survey finds

In a survey the Yemen Times recently conducted, many Yemeni citizens demand the elected president fight corruption and raise their living standard. While many doubt the election's fairness, they will participate so they can change the current situation for the better. Respondents in various Yemeni governorates were asked the following questions:

- 1- Will you vote in the upcoming September election?
- 2- Do you think the election will be fair?
- 3- What's the first thing you demand the elected president do?

By: Yemen Times Staff

Accountant Samah Al-Fusil:

Yes, I'll vote in the upcoming election. I believe it'll be an honest election because it reflects the public will to put the right man in the right position. I want the next president to save Yemen from wars and spread peace. The first thing the coming president should do is reform the political system as well as economic conditions. Although primary indicators don't make us optimistic, we hope the elections will be fair.

Secretary Hana Al-Sanhani:

I'm not going to vote for anyone because I believe this election's result will be the same as the previous one, so there's no need to vote in an election where I know the result. I don't think the election will be fair or honest. I only want the elected president to save Yemen from the effects of external wars.



Yaqoub Nahsal:

Participating in the election neither serves citizens nor the candidates. For one thing, the situation is the same: increasing poverty, all-encompassing unemployment, a deteriorated economy, rampant corruption, a dependent judiciary, low education, military governance and the list goes on. The candidates seek only to satisfy their parties and their parties seek to satisfy them, thus forgetting about the voters. Candidates are very kind and modest during the election, but after elected, they just think of their future. What I want the elected president to do is see with his own eyes and feel with his own heart. I want him to live just one day among the poor and then decide who cares for whom. I want to tell the foreign observers to go to the remote areas where the elections are likely to be unfair.



Grocer Mohammed Amin:

I will vote in the election. For one thing, we look forward to many projects and ensuring state interest and

reasonable prices. As usual, elections aren't fair in villages and remote areas because they always have violations. I've seen them. But elections are fair in major cities because you know they don't dare violate the election there. The first thing I want the elected president to do is pave the road in our village, Ubais.



Grocer Abdul-Fattah Al-Jaberi:

I won't vote in the upcoming election because there's no advantage in doing so. Of course the election will be fair. The elected president should stop bribery, lower foodstuff prices and raise the Yemeni riyal's value.



Security guard Rami Ghaleb:

I'll do my duty by voting in the election, but I'm in doubt as to its fairness. The first thing the elected president should do is raise employee salaries and specify payments of those working for the private sector.



Mansour Asa'd:

I will vote in the election in order to change the current situation for the better. We'll elect as many Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) members as possible to local councils. As for the presidential election, we'll vote for the JMP candidate to build a state of law and discipline.

Abdul-Karim Al-Shahari:

Participating in the elections is an axiomatic matter. I will vote and I think no Yemeni citizen will abstain from voting in the elections because it's a national duty for achieving the hopes of the people. As for me, I'll vote for Ali Abdullah Saleh because

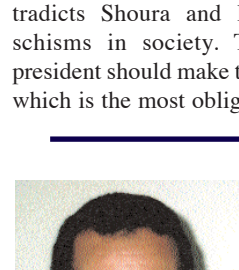
he's achieved things no previous president has. What we want from the next president is to improve basic services like water, electricity, health and education. He also should eradicate corruption wherever it is.



Writer Mohammed Taher:

I don't think I'll vote in the upcoming elections because organizing and promoting them, as well as the practices of all candidates from both the official authorities and the opposition is like a comic play, with everyone looking out for their own interests and the interests of their parties. We can't find real, sincere platforms. In the five presidential candidates' platforms, we can't find anything to do with Islamic rule or how to discard legal violations rife in our social, economic and political life. These elections only spend people's funds uselessly.

We hold a different view in the Salafite movement. In Islam, democracy contradicts Shoura and leads to more schisms in society. The upcoming president should make the law Islamic, which is the most obligatory matter.



Local council candidate Hazza Mohammed Ghaleb:

I expect the presidential election to be fair with varying proportions in some constituencies. The first thing the elected president should do is eliminate corruption, determine the presidency budget and improve the economy.



Physician Yahya Sa'eed Al-Salehi:

I will vote in the upcoming election in order to implant the principle of peaceful transfer of power and change

citizens' status for the better. Voting in the presidential election is both a national and a religious duty. Above all, the elected president should raise the living standard, dry up the spring-heads of corruption, make expenditures in unnecessary fields reasonable and secure peace and security for both citizens and investors.

Ali Ahmed Sa'eed:

I will vote in the upcoming election to elect a good and honest man who can elevate citizens' living standard and also become closer to them. The upcoming president should lift Yemen to progress and development and not leave the situation as it is.



Zaid Abu Arejal:

Voting in the election is an important way to change into peaceful transfer of power. I think the elected president should have priorities, such as inclusive political reform, fighting corruption, equal job opportunities for all etc.

Executive coordinator Fatima Al-Ajel:

Of course I'll vote in the upcoming election. I hope this election will be honest because international supervisors will monitor the voting process. I want the elected president to eradicate poverty and widespread corruption and preserve Yemen's security.



Journalist Saleh Bin Mohanna:

I want the elected president to raze

corruption, raise the living standard and care for education and culture. I will vote in the elections because my voice is very important for the one who deserves to direct the country. Talking about the elections' fairness is premature because there are observers to monitor them and decide whether or not they are fair.



Qaid Al-Radfani:

I won't vote in the September election only because Ali Abdullah Saleh will win, whatever the results and whatever number of voters are in favor of or against him. There are never fair elections in Yemen or in the Arab world. Elections are false. The first thing the elected president should do is reform the judiciary, provide security and apply the law to all.

Lecturer Hamed Mohammed Dahhan:

As an academic, I hope the elected president will care for the education sector, especially universities, by qualifying local citizens because we don't want to depend on foreigners. The elections will be fair if under supervision of the United Nations and the election committee. Of course I'll vote in the elections because it's one of my rights.

Security guard Abdul-Rahman Ahmed Al-Attas:

We request the upcoming president to focus on and uplift citizens and change Yemen into a Gulf-like country, as far as its economy is concerned. I will vote in the elections, but I really don't know if they'll be fair or not.

Zaid Al-Duwailah:

I want the elected president to spread justice among citizens because we need financial and administrative reform. I think the elections will be fair and I'll vote in them.

Education inspector Haj Bin Dehri:

What I want the next president to do is improve the status in general, focus on education, improve living standards and reform the social status. In order to contribute to selecting the appropriate person, I will vote in the elections, which I hope will be fair.

Mohammed Ali Basameer:

To change the current situation is what we request of the upcoming president. We also want him to eradicate the tree of corruption, care for education and give Yemen a valuable position. I will vote in the elections only to make a change and I hope they'll be fair, although I doubt it.



Security guard Mahmoud Abdul-Wasei:

Of course I'll vote in the election because it's a desire to change for the better. I hope the election will be fair, but its fairness isn't for sure. What we ask the elected president to do first is apply the financial liability law to all state officials.

Taha Mohammed Al-Basi:

I hope the elected president will demolish corruption, improve citizens' living standard, care for education and provide job opportunities for youths. With the desire to give my voice to one of the candidates, I'll urge my family to follow suit so we can achieve true democracy and peaceful transfer of power. We hope the election will be free and fair, although indications prove otherwise.

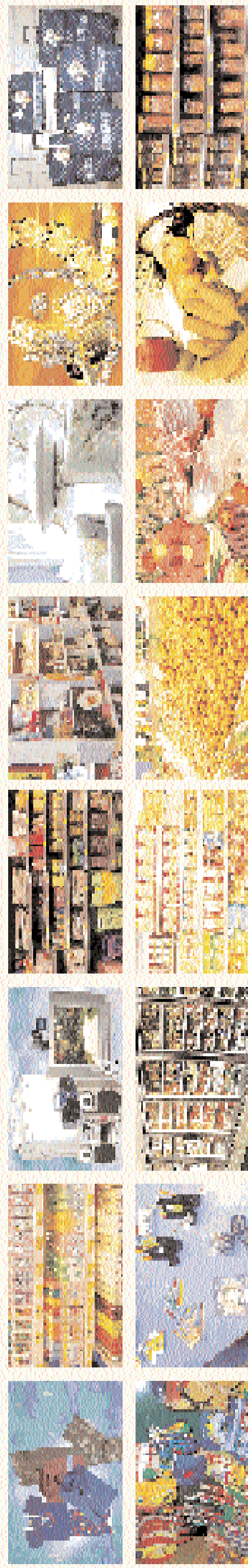
Student Abdullah Khalid:

I hope the elected president will work sincerely for Yemen's sake and replace his bad companions with good ones capable of helping him serve the nation. I want to vote for change in the elections, which I hope will be free and fair.

Presidential Candidates and their electoral symbols

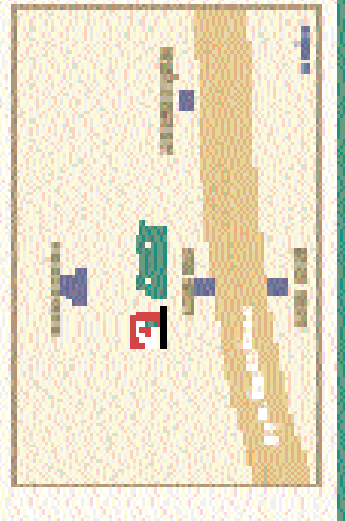
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- Fresh baby supplies - Imported from the USA, Europe and other countries
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- Fresh garden supplies - Imported from the USA, Europe and other countries
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- Fresh lighting - Imported from the USA, Europe and other countries
- Fresh home decor - Imported from the USA, Europe and other countries
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- Fresh plants - Imported from the USA, Europe and other countries



Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Al-Kushani
Governor of Aden Governorate

You are cordially invited.

“Mus’id and Mus’idah”: Yemeni radio’s most public and famous program for 18 years

Interviewed by: Fatima Al-Ajel
Fatima_fnfr@yahoo.com

Abdurrahman Mutaher has been an artist, writer and famed radio broadcaster for 40 years. He’s known as “Baba Abdurrahman” for his great efforts in preparing and presenting numerous children’s programs and songs like the famous program, “The Best Tale.”

Mutaher also is known as Mus’id, a beloved radio character reflecting the nature of Yemeni man – both his positive and negative aspects. He has received several international, Arab and local prizes for his great radio work.

Please briefly explain “Mus’id and Mus’idah” and how it began.

“Mus’id and Mus’idah” is an accomplished experience in 40 years of radio broadcasting. It began in 1988 during a health campaign about six children’s diseases in Yemen. Various media outlets were to prepare a special program about the diseases to enlighten the nation on their dangers and how to deal with them.

I started to arrange a program with the idea of presenting a dialogue between a wife and her husband, portraying them while they were discussing the diseases and how to handle them. When those in authority and international organizations like UNICEF heard the program, they commented that it was simple and sought to present the message to the nation easily. So, it has continued ever since.

What kind of issues does “Mus’id and Mus’idah” discuss?

Generally, the program discusses all social problems relating to local Yemenis like motherhood and childhood, the relationship between husband and wife, youth issues, farmer’s lives, etc., but it also attempts to tackle new phenomena that come into view in society.

How does the program cope with new progressive development and changes in society?

I believe the essential problems are the same but the difference is in the style of handling them with the changing issues in society. For example, when talking about marriage problems, such problems were just as present in the past as they are now, but how to solve them is something different. Everything was simple in the past and marriage requirements were simple too. But now, many things are passed down to society and marriage requests are more, so we must discover the change or the problem and try to solve it.

“Mus’id and Mus’idah” is a four- to five-minute daily Yemeni radio program presented in Sana’ani dialect between 10:30-11 a.m.

Throughout its long history, have just the two of you presented “Mus’id and Mus’idah” or have other actors participated?

Only I have presented Mus’id, while Mus’idah’s character has been acted by four famous actresses and broadcasters: Safah Hazam was the first, then Ahlam Al-Ansi and Zahur Nasser. However, Habibah Mohammed has played the role for the past 15 years and has made a mark on the audience.



Abdurrahman Mutaher (right) with Habibah Mohammed recording one of the ‘Mus’id and Mus’idah’ episodes.

What’s audience reaction to the program both inside and outside Yemen?

Yemenis are nice and their reaction is instinctive. The audience is vast, so you can go out and ask people about it. Also, many studies and surveys are made about the program and how it

I’m not interested in politics but the program is absolute social criticism.

affects Yemenis’ daily lives. The studies say the program echoes among the people and is near to their simple life.

Regarding its audience outside Yemen, “Mus’id and Mus’idah” is translated into English and spread among Yemeni immigrants in the U.S. via cassettes and books with little change, except in the program’s title. Instead of “Mus’id and Mus’idah,” it’s called, “Nadi and Nadia.” Yemeni student Eman Barkat also prepared a study on the program, receiving her M.A. after investigating its effects upon the audience. Moreover, British university professor Janet Watson visited Yemen, translated “Mus’id and Mus’idah” and published the transcripts in a book.

Why did Watson select your program and what was her goal in visiting Yemen?

Professor Janet Watson was assigned to study Yemeni life in general, its local dialects and their changes. She came to Yemen, spent two years researching changes in Yemeni dialects and then published a book. While here, she was surprised to hear about “Mus’id and Mus’idah” and concluded that by listening to it, it was easy to learn everything about Yemeni life and simple to dig deep into Yemeni social life.

Therefore, Watson translated approximately 200 episodes and selected 50 to publish in a book. The university now considers her book a bridge between cultures via their languages and includes a huge number of local dialect vocabulary translated into English and not found anywhere else.

Habibah Mohammed, as a senior radio broadcaster, what motivated you to work in media?

As you know, women’s opportunities were few and it was rare to find women working in media. Fortunately, my husband was a theater director. He was preparing a play and looking for a woman to play the heroine, when he discovered my artist talent in acting. My first media role was in the play, “Everything has an end.” After this theatrical role, I played many roles on TV, radio and in the

theater. I also participated in many Radio programs, but I continue working in radio until now.

When did you begin playing Mus’idah and what are listeners’ reactions when they learn you’re Mus’idah?

I started playing Mus’idah more than 15 years ago until now. Actually, I feel shy and happy at the same time when people learn who I am. They always call me Mus’idah and not by my real name. When I go to parties or weddings, women crowd around me and start asking me personal questions, always asking about Mus’idah, how we prepare the program and many other questions. You know, I must answer their questions because Yemenis are kind and simple but they’re quite curious.

Do you participate in preparing episodes of “Mus’id and Mus’idah”?

Absolutely not, I’m just a presenter and only play the role of Mus’idah. I wish he’d give me a chance to prepare some episodes, but he rejects this. However, he’s amenable to any suggestions I have and he accepts changing something if necessary.

The program discusses social, cultural, religious and economic issues, all of which relate to the lives of Yemeni citizens.

Abdurrahman Mutaher, you’ve been the only actor and preparer of Mus’id since 1988. Do you accept participation from others?

Candidly, I’ve been the only presenter of Mus’id for 18 years and I don’t accept any participation from others. This isn’t because I’m selfish or others aren’t qualified enough to prepare “Mus’id and Mus’idah” episodes, but I believe everyone has his own talent and his own style of presenting to audiences. However, I may accept ideas from others and then write the episode my own way.

Is the program critical?

Without a doubt, it’s completely critical. I use different styles of criticism depending on the topic and the audience to which I’m speaking. Sometimes, I have to be strong and my speech has to be dry, as the Yemeni proverb says, “Hit him and then he’ll know you;” whereas at other times, listeners need nice criticism to attract them to the topic and the problem.

Do you discuss political issues and can we consider “Mus’id and Mus’idah” a political program?

No, absolutely not. I hate politics, I’m not interested in political issues and I don’t accept programs led and directed by political ideas. I refuse to present ideas that form listeners’ opinions. Generally, I like to get ideas and problems and search for solutions from citizens themselves.

After such a long time, why is “Mus’id and Mus’idah” still presented on radio and not developed into a TV program?

First, the program’s current format as a radio program is more related to and closer to listeners – it’s easier to hear because everyone can listen to it wherever they are. Secondly, the dialogue style and way of performing affects the audience more when it’s easy and simple. Additionally, since there are only two characters, they can discuss their daily problems in a few minutes.

However, presenting “Mus’id and Mus’idah” on TV would require other characters, tools and elements and the program might lose its specialization. I’m seriously thinking to present it as a one-act play on a 10-minute show and that’s enough, but it’ll require more facilities and characters. For example, when I talk about my aunt Tashah or my sons, they would have to be there. The Minister of Culture has discussed the idea of producing “Mus’id and Mus’idah” for television as a cartoon or a 30-episode Ramadan serial in coming years.

There are rumors that Mus’idah is your wife. Is this true?

She’s my wife only on the program. In reality, she’s not. Some listeners think this and many ask me about Mus’idah and how she deals with me in real life. These rumors sometimes cause problems for me.

For example, one day I was walking on the street and someone stopped me to comment on the previous day’s episode, saying, “Yesterday’s episode was great and nice.” He then started asking personal questions about my wife, saying, “You know it’s a shame for men to talk about women in our society.” I angrily replied, “Whose wife is she? Why put your nose in my personal life?” to which he replied, “I’m asking you about Mus’idah. She’s your wife, isn’t she?”

I then understood that he thought Mus’idah was my real wife. I explained to him that she’s a good friend, a great actress for the role of Mus’idah and that she’s married and has children, as I do.

Habibah Mohammed faces the same situation.

Everywhere I go, I have to explain that I’m not a wife of Abdurrahman Mutaher. I only perform the role of Mus’idah. I’m married and have my own life with my husband and children.

“Mus’id and Mus’idah” theme song:

*“The house is the wife and the kernel is the corn.
Talk to Mus’idah to be a good housewife,
educate her children, thank her God,
make Mus’id happy and help him face life’s difficulties.
The house is the wife and the kernel is the corn.”*

Radio show transcript: Mus’id and Mus’idah

Mus’id: Dear Mus’idah!

Mus’idah: Yes?

Mus’id: Do you remember how the local proverb goes?

Mus’idah: May Allah save you, what does it say?

Mus’id: It says, “We allowed him to see and he came in to dance.” [Meaning we allowed someone to do something only up to a certain point, but he overstepped the boundary and went even further.]

Mus’idah: Yes, this is the reality of political movement in Yemen, particularly when our nation’s local and presidential elections are on our doorstep.

Mus’id: Yes, with the doors of freedom and democracy held wide open, those with political aspirations and greed hastened to form political parties and organizations in no time.

Mus’idah: Yes, what’s surprising is that we now have three parties in our zone.

Mus’id: This is one point and the other is that each party is trying to exploit the atmosphere of democracy, opinion and peaceful transfer of power, chanting the Yemeni proverb, “If it’s fitting, ok; otherwise, it’s just chatter.”

Mus’idah: It is nonsense and chatter because you can see with your own eyes that [political] newspapers outnumber their readers.

Mus’id: This already is well known and it’s disgusting.

Mus’idah: What’s surprising is that each newspaper has a rival – as if they’re fellow wives – somewhat matching the proverb, “What will you say about me? I am far better than you!”

Mus’id: Yes, Mus’id. Each newspaper works according to the proverb, “If it wasn’t for Sai’dah of Beit Radam, there would be no Radamis.”

Mus’idah: Another newspaper will say something like, “I have a wife for you – but when her husband dies!”

Mus’id: The other newspaper will claim that if it wasn’t there, Aiyban and Shamsan Mountains wouldn’t be there, while another warns of the genie coming out of his bottle!

Mus’idah: Another newspaper will say it taught Plato and Sophocles philosophy and wisdom!

Mus’id: A newspaper will ask people not to eat shafout before hot porridge, particularly in winter, and everyone should commit to this fatwa lest they be subject to torment.

Mus’idah: Another newspaper will claim it can transport people to the moon by pressing the democracy button, which they believe others abuse.

Mus’id: Another newspaper will claim to possess a magic wand able to make this nation a paradise.

Mus’idah: Another newspaper will come up with different advice, teaching people what and when to eat!

Mus’id: Each newspaper boasts about itself while heaping abuse upon others in a manner violating all traditions.

Mus’idah: Another newspaper will prepare for the enemies who lie in wait for Yemen’s disunity, despite the fact that both the agent and the enemy know very well that unity is like the soul of every Yemeni.

Mus’id: This rough political movement has proven the limitations of these greedy individuals who are trying to reach power as soon as possible, as it is the case with Hezbollah, which unveiled other Arab regimes’ weaknesses via its encounters with Israel. This goes along with the proverb saying, “Live long in order to see great wonders.”

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Business Arbitration in Yemen

In August 2006 a number of training activities and events have been organised by the "Center for Business Arbitration and Conciliation at Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry" which is based at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Taiz. The center was established in November 2005. It comprises of 12 Yemeni Chambers, namely Aden, Mahweet, Sada, Sana'a, Al Jawf, Mareb, Dhamar, Mukalla, Al Baydah, Shebwa, Al Dalee and Taiz. For the present activities representatives from the Chambers Amran, Abyan and Ibb participated. The latter two applied to become a member at the Center.

The first training session was conducted at the Chamber in Sana'a by Dr. Moellering, Head of the Legal Division, German Federation of Chambers, Berlin. The training subject was to follow up on the arbitration rules developed last year by the participants of the center and to carry out a number of practical arbitration case exercises. The aim was to ensure proper and professional implementation of business arbitration and conciliation cases and their procedures.

From 12 to 16 August the center welcomed Dr. Mohammed Abu Hussein from Bahrain, a lawyer, arbitrator and member of the Commercial Arbitration Center of the Kingdom of Bahrain (GCC). He advised the members of the center on how best to perform arbitration and explained on the procedures applied in Bahrain and internationally. In addition, three "Arbitration Promotion Days" were conducted by the expert in Aden, Sana'a and Taiz. Numerous business people, commercial judges and lawyers attended the events, which were organized by the respective Chambers. The aim was to promote the services of the center of arbitration, thus attracting the business community to make use of the center and to discuss ways of cooperation, particularly with the commercial courts and lawyers.

Starting 19 August a five days training on negotiation skills was conducted by a German expert at the Chamber in Aden.

Business Arbitration and conciliation has always been part of the Yemeni society and the Chambers. Since 2002 the German Government through GTZ is supporting activities to professionalise these traditional skills. Yemen is in the process of accession to the WTO and therefore professional systems to solve national and international business disputes are of great need, particularly considering the difficulties of legal security in the country, business arbitration and conciliation can provide an appropriate alternative. Many countries of the world applying business arbitration because of its advantages such as being cheaper, faster and more problem oriented than courts. In countries like Germany business arbitration has become an efficient part of every contract and is a good business as well. The Center for Business Arbitration and conciliation at Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry is trying to achieve the goal to contribute to an improved business environment in Yemen, thus also attracting investment. It is presently reaching out to increase its cooperation with the Gulf countries and other Arab countries.



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EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #03/2006

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the position of a **Assistant Project Officer Health** based in **Sana'a**. Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Officer Health (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

Responsibilities:

- Assist in collection and analyzing data for situation analysis. Programme/project planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation purposes. Analyze programme implementation reports and evaluate against established programme recommendations and plans of action.
- Undertake on going visits to UNICEF project sites, assess local conditions and resources, and monitor UNICEF inputs. Communicate with local counterparts authorities on project feasibility and effectiveness including monitoring the flow of supply and non supply assistance,
- Undertake follow-up action on programme implementation activities and prepare relevant reports Draft changes in programme work plans as required,
- Attend technical cooperation meetings, prepares notes and undertake follow-up action related to programme implementation and monitoring,
- Assist in identification and selection of technical supplies and equipment,
- Assist in the preparation of country programme recommendation by drafting CPSS, PSS and other relevant documentation ensuring accuracy and consistency with established rules and regulations. Maintain computerized programme system and submit relevant reports,
- Select and compile training and orientation materials for those involved in programme implementation including donor and media visits,
- Draft relevant sections of reports (required for donors, management, annual reports etc.)

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS REQUIRED:

- University degree in Public Health-related field,
- Two years progressively responsible experience in programme design, administration, monitoring and evaluation in public health related field Good knowledge of computer applications,
- Strong management, initiative, and high sense of responsibility,
- Good judgment, initiative, and high sense of responsibility,
- Fluency in English and Arabic (speaking, reading and writing).

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to-The Operations Officer, UNICEF Sana'a P.O.Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Applications received **after September 15, 2006** will not be considered.

"UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment."

Job Vacancy

The Maritime Consultancy Bureau wishes to identify Yemeni nationals, fluent in Arabic and English, for work on projects funded by International Agencies. Specific Technical skills are not essential. Graduates in economics and business administration/management are eligible to apply. Computer literacy and email/web searching skills will be essential to the likely posts. Candidates must be able to work within a team and be able to fulfill their own specific tasks and meet defined delivery dates for the required results as they work in a challenging environment.

Salaries and other benefits are expected to be in accordance with International standards.

Projects are likely to commence early in 2007 and will last for 2-3 years,

Potential candidates are requested to notify the Maritime consultancy Bureau of their interest by e-mail to sayafai@hotmail.com or by fax to +967 (1) 423058. Any enquires to 01-423056/7

Candidates are to submit their CVs within 2 weeks of the date of this advertisement.



Jannah Hunt Oil Company is currently recruiting for the position of **Purchasing Representative/Expeditor**. The minimum requirements for this position are as follows:

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education: B.S Degree in Business
Experience: Must have 3 years experience purchasing in the oil and gas industry
Skills: Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications
Language: Proficient in English and Arabic (oral and written)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Procures technical and/or oil field equipment supplies.
- Coordinates schedules for deliver of materials.
- Coordinates with other departments for the purchase of new equipment including products specifications.
- Facilitates communication between suppliers and freight forwarders.
- Prepares/updates schedules and reports for field facilities.

If you meet the above requirements please e-mail your CV to the following email address.

jannahrecruiter@y.net.ye

Please note we will only accept CV's through email submission.

All candidates must be Yemeni nationals – deadline for submitting your CV for this position is September 15th, 2006.



Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen announces the following vacancy:

IT Programmer Analyst

CPF

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or diploma in Computer Science or Computer Engineering.
- 3 years experience, which would include a strong programming background specifically with new PC based development tools. Computer skills such as Lotus Notes, Visual Basic, Access, Paradox, Oracle, Visual Foxpro, Windows NT & XP and Office 2000 & XP/2002.
- Good knowledge of English.

For further information or to apply for this position please visit our website:

<http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/>

Application Criteria:

- All applications **must be submitted** through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than September 16th, 2006.**
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, **contact** and **qualification** information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered.**

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP) Credit 3625
Credit Administration Unit (CAU)

Announcing Vacancy for the Post of Financial Assistant of the CAU

The World Bank financed Health Reform Support Project (Credit 3625) seeks applicants for the position of **Financial Assistant** at the CAU. The **Financial Assistant** will report and be accountable to the Financial Specialist and Credit Administrator, and will work closely with other staff of the CU, relevant departments of the Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the Ministry of Finance.

The procurement specialist assistant will be responsible for the following:

1. Collect and file all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project under CAU management.
2. Record on a daily basis all the financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the CAU procedures of internal control.
3. Prepare bank reconciliation between the bank's account and the Special Account (SA) withdrawals, on a monthly basis to reflect the monthly receipts and disbursements from the SA.
4. Follow-up on all financial matters with the relevant departments of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Central Bank of Yemen.
5. Assist the external auditors in performing their annual audit of the project by providing necessary documentation, written procedures, and annual financial statements.
6. Provide financial and accounting support to the CAU staff including verbal and written communication, documentation and archiving.
7. Clear the advances provided to the Project components.
8. Any other tasks as required by the project financial management specialist and Credit Administrator.

Qualifications:

The professional qualifications of the consultant should be as follows:

- A minimum of Three years of private sector accounting experience preferably with auditing or accounting firm.
- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accounting or auditing.
- A good knowledge, and use of the generally accepted accounting principles.
- The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project's financial statements and other reports as needed by the Project's management.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Proficiency with all office software.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in Arabic and English.
- Familiarity with the government and World Bank financial and accounting procedures and guidelines.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below on 15th September 2006 of the date of the advertisement. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Credit Administration Unit
Health Reform Support Project
4th floor – Ministry of Public Health and Population
P.O. Box 1330 – Al-Hasabah – Sana'a – Republic of Yemen
Tel: +967(1) 252224 – Fax: +967(1) 251622, Email: hrsp@y.net.ye

Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR OPINION

Women, elections and difficult times

During the preparation of these elections, many organizations sought women as significant participants. One rural woman was stunned by the notion that she can have a say in the presidential elections and commented, "We can't choose our husbands, how can we choose the president of the republic?"

The country has progressed a lot since the first elections in 1993, yet many Yemeni women are still deprived of many basic rights, consequently, democracy is not a big concern. Just last year I was talking to a few young girls in Abyan Governorate, their dream was to attend school and the highlight of their day was to watch soap opera shows on the old black and white TV operating on battery. "If I finish my chores early and the TV is working then I watch the episode and dream away with the characters. Before I sleep I would think of them and imagine what life would be like if mine was different," said 13 year-old Maha, a teenager from Abyan who takes care of the family livestock instead of going to school, told me.

Today, female Yemeni activists are upset that the political parties did not live up to their promise to promote female candidates in the coming local elections. They say they are shocked by the audacity at which the leaders could turn a deaf ear on women's rights and demands. Truth to be told, I think I would have been shocked if they did live up to their promise. Not that what happened is a good thing, but Yemen is still not ready for such transition.

One has to see the big picture to understand the situation. With increasing illiteracy, especially among youth, the deteriorating living standards and the complicated social problems it would be wishful thinking to assume that women's voices would be heard instantly.

There's a lot to be done for women in Yemen. It's not only in politics; it's in traditions, family relations, the economy, legal system, education and human rights.

Yemeni women have a long way to go, and experience has taught us we cannot rely on promises even if coming from the president of the republic.

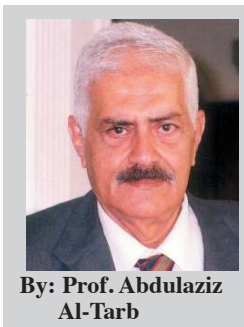
Maha and others will continue to dream, and a time will come when their dreams come true, maybe soon enough so that we all look back at these difficult times and smile.

*Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief*

House of corruption

There is no longer anyone to stand in the face of corruption. It seems that all are corrupt and those not yet committed corruption are pointed at with derision and accused of something in the standard of his cleverness and intentions. Everyday there is pressure on his conviction that the illegal money is a safe haven for him to avoid mockery and accusations surrounding him from all directions. If you read the other newspapers or the report issued by the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) you will read about millions that are squandered and other millions smuggled. A country with a small budget cannot bear people moving in the opposite direction of honor and honest earning.

It is in a country where the minister commits corruption and so the undersecretary follows suit and then followed by head of the establishment down in the scale of jobs. The norms of thieves descend from above



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

downwards and we begin to wonder: Did the seniors receive the price for their stands towards the war of secession in Yemen and towards the plundering of peoples wealth in Iraq or in agreement reached between traitors and invaders on seizing treasures of Iraq and the remains of Palestine before its liberation?

You can see the trail of corruption from the top to aides, ministers and leaders. You will see that those who ever think of mutiny are deterred, their legs tremble and obediently follow their master, like the sheep who

follow their shepherd. They wish to continue their organized plunder in the hope of filling their treasuries with properties of the people, but seawater does not quench thirst. The people remain preoccupied with earning their living or finding a wall to take as a lodging or a job for earning means of livelihood.

Thus the swords are drawn up in the face of those trying to live honorably with clean money until he yields and lives dishonestly. They join the thieves and accept cheating and reject honesty. Is hell so spacious to accommodate all those?

Is it possible that people read what is happening in Lebanon and Palestine and translate their anger towards the rulers via the upcoming elections in more than one Arab capital. If that's the case Yemen will be the first to effect change.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and

The president's campaign

Since the previous presidential elections the main concern of President Ali Abdullah Saleh is to avoid personal defamation and offence. Before the initiation of the presidential race, this concern was present in the process of talking about rivalry.

What is issued by the president is one thing and what is published in his party's media is something else and it has gone beyond personal criticism to accusation and use of calling names. What has been mentioned in one of online sites funded by the ruling party was that the family of Bin Shamlan has repudiated him for nominating himself for the presidential elections and this reveals the big difference between words and deeds.

The same thing can be found in al-Mithaq newspaper and 22 May newspaper. Moreover, the General People's Congress has in a short time created four electronic websites, one of them represented an excess to moral right of colleague Nabil al-Soufi, owner of News Yemen website. It has been clear that the goal of founding these sites is to assail the opposition candidate and to downplay his career and work.

When media of the ruling party indulge in accusing others with lies and corruption, those in charge of the media do not know their adversaries have thousands of flaws and realities regarding given promises and have not been fulfilled through-



By: Mohammed Al-Ghubari

out the past years. They possess declared acknowledgements from the head of the state and senior officials on the spread of corruption and absence of the state prestige. Those in charge of the president's media campaign and those accusing the opposition candidate by telling lies would help gain support of voters or expand the base of his popularity.

The expansion of poverty, unemployment and seizure of most properties by a group of persons, deterioration of education and health services has increased the number of the resentful people in Yemen. Reports by the World Bank, the International Transparency and the people coexistence with the two men will change the equation.

The question is how could a family unable to earn its daily food can support a candidate spending billions to put his large pictures in the streets and squares or a sick person who cannot buy medicine give his support while he sees the spending on posters in the streets and distributed to houses and shops and how

can such a candidate win the support of the hungry who see luxurious cars carrying pictures of the candidate to towns and villages throughout the country?

I am quite certain the people managing the campaign of the GPC candidate are ignorant of many of the rules of their job. How can we ask the citizen to chant for the president while we know the size of the social disaster he has caused and how to address a citizen who knows him as ruler for 28 years and talk to him about the future and a new Yemen?

The other astonishing point those claiming objectivity in their writings then consider the age of the candidates. We are an oriental society built on fatherhood and the older the human becomes the more mature and reasonable they will be in making decisions. The president himself has exceeded the age of 60 and the African leader Nelson Mandela ruled his country when he was 74.

In our reality the people are in need of president sharing the suffering of daily life and not spend millions for buying houses or expensive sport tools to practice his hobby while our children do not have playgrounds and playing in the alleys. The people here look for bread. As for indulgence in following up the latest fashions and tools of fitness and beauty, they do not care for.

Mohammed Al-Ghubari is a Yemeni journalist. He is the correspondent of UAE Al-Baian Newspaper.

SILVER LINING

Learning a good democracy lesson

I am really thrilled to see the ongoing debates and arguments between the ruling party and the opposition coalition. It is truly good to see people with high ambitions being very serious about the challenge between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Faisal Bin Shamlan. Different methods are being used in this contest which is the first election race Yemen has ever seen.

Some people are very worried about the climax that such vigorous competition will lead towards; potential violence and fighting. This is true and I do share their concern over a tragic end for the tremendous festival we are seeing these days.

However, I can say that we are learning the best lesson in democracy. I realize some people are still in a state of awe and disbelief because they do not believe that people have the guts to go to the street and openly oppose the president who has been in office for 28 years.

The ongoing debates and media barrage between the two sides are a marvelous shift in our democratic drive because it allows people to exercise their rights to differ as long as different choices exist.

This debate, which has been going on for some years in print media but with limited reach, has now moved to the broadcast media owned by the state. Despite complaints and shortcomings, the broadcasting of the candidates' elections rallies is a big change for the people who have been listening and watching only the same rhetoric and the same man for a long time.

I reported last Thursday the rally of President Saleh where I was amazed to see the streets of Amman, the stronghold of Hashid tribe, colored with the posters of the opposition candidate. This is really interesting to see some tribal figures like Hamid al-Ahmer leading the rhetoric of change, but a peaceful change. This marks that Yemeni society is also going through a good experience in terms of changing the tribal and family alliances.

We have exercised democracy since 1990, but for the first time in our history the current presidential race is the one that is able to stir up the tribal and family alliances. I guess that al-Ahmer is playing an important role towards this transition. By lobbying with the opposition candidate, he is avoiding any tribal or sectarian coalitions which hamper efforts of democratization. The change of attitudes now visible, but I was not happy to hear some people at the rally frightening people that Yemen will fall into chaos if the opposition wins.

I understand also that the experience of the Joint Meeting Parties grouping is impressive. It is providing a good protection to democratic experience, as this makes it difficult for the ruling party to think of disbarring multiparty system.

The blessing of the ongoing motion is partially attributed to the ruling party who accept challenge from the opposition. It preferred the challenge other than any compromise.

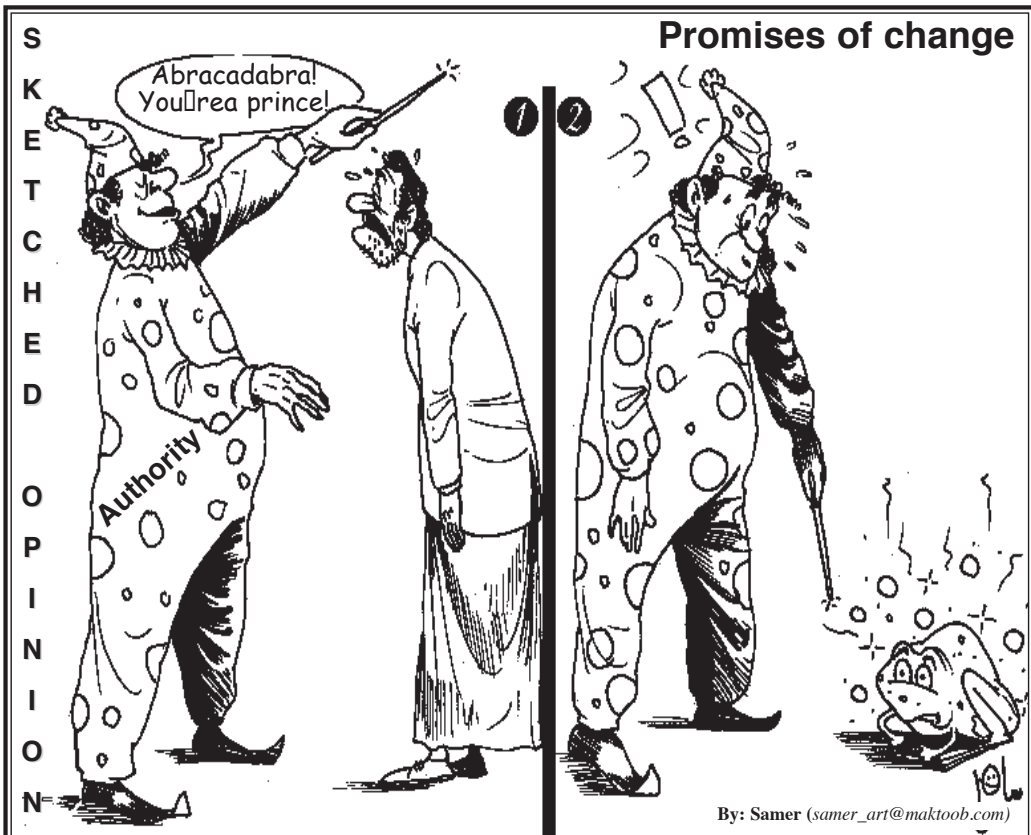
By and large, I do not care as much about the results of the elections as I do care about this momentum which should continue after the elections are over. The opposition should maintain this grouping experience which can act as a safeguard for democracy.

If it wins the ruling party should not manipulate its victory. The race should not by any means turn into hostility between the two sides. Both sides should respect the choice of the people and not spoil the blessing of democracy. For God's sake hold yourselves and let the people decide freely! For, a peaceful end to the elections means a victory for the country and the people at large.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi is a Yemeni journalist and columnist. (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com)



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi



By: Samer (samer_art@maktob.com)

Letters to the Editor

Underdeveloped Yemen

From 1992 to 1997 I was in the Yemen, working as a tour leader for a Dutch travel organisation, which obviously cooperated with a Yemeni agent. In 1997, with great pain in my heart, I left for personal reasons. This year I thought it about time to pay a visit to my Yemeni friends again, whom have been in my heart for the past nine years. It was not only the friends I wanted to see again, but also that very special country that captured my heart from the moment I set foot on its ground in 1992.

Last August 19 it was my personal "D-Day"; I landed at Sana'a Airport again for a two week visit. My dearest friends were there, and we made a wonderful trip to their hometowns (Hobeish in the Ibb-region, and al-Bayda). Their trust in me - as a non-Muslim -, their friendship and their hospitality was overwhelming. I have no words to express my gratitude for that, not even in my mother tongue.

The other thing I was very pleas-

antly surprised with, was the way your country has developed the last decade. I know that in the beginning of the nineties there was lots of talk about getting electricity all over the country, getting all roads paved, and there were great plans to end the waste and rubbish problem. Well, I must congratulate the Yemeni government and the Yemeni people with the great achievements that have been reached. In certain areas of the country you can compete with western Europe, meaning that in the Yemen it is obvious that a lot of work has been done in the last ten years, whereas that can not be said of most countries in Europe.

Last July the United Nations published a report in which was said that the Yemen is still in the top 50 of most underdeveloped countries. I wouldn't worry too much about that if I were you. With the pace your country is getting things organised and improved (due to good governmental skills), in combination with the positive attitude and greatness of heart of all

Yemenis, and Gods help of course, your country will find its place in the future, like it did in the past.

Thank you very much, Yemen en Yemeni's, for again a tremendous experience. See you soon.

Mart van de Mortel
oazefreek@skynet.be

Kidnapping Children

Recently, the phenomenon of kidnapping and smuggling children in our society has increased rapidly. These type of strange actions were unknown in the past. Most of the kidnapping take place in poor cities. Some of us blame this dilemma on lack of economical income ; others blame it on illiteracy. I think both are reasonable. Also, the lack of children's protection has helped in some cases to increase the problem. Who could be the kidnappers and why? This question has raised a lot of possible answers but reports have been revealed that most of suspects are unemployed people. Those people find in this criminal action an easy way to earn more money than

waiting for any other legal income. Most of the victims suffer from abuse by their families and society, and end up at the hands of these merciless people who are full of hate for all of society. The human rights authorities as the concerned department have established some legal laws to protect children from any kind of abuse, either by society or by criminals. But, it seems that they have faced a lot of obstacles which have prevented them from practicing those legal rules in the proper way. The principal obstacles are poverty, illiteracy, and the fallen-apart society. The kidnapping process was and still is a profitable project for kidnappers. Some of the children have been kidnapped to be sold as human spare parts to foreign rich people. Others have been sold to be adopted by rich families. Some of the female ones are forced to work as prostitutes. The question is, how can we prevent such criminal efforts?

Ali Alrubaa
Yemenia
rubaa64@yahoo.com



الاجتباب

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 29 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- Large-scale masses rally behind JMP presidential candidate
- Bin Shamlan: Change begins from head of power
- International report says Yemeni forces in continual deterioration
- Workers and employees of oil block 18 start open strike
- Head of supervising committee in al-Jawf killed
- While the minister in electoral mission, members of criminal investigation in Taiz kidnap a citizen
- Traffic police in Ibb retains cars carrying photos of Bin Shamlan
- Ministry of Civil Service postpones announcement of jobs

The political editor of the newspaper says in an article it is the right of any Yemeni social organization to dream of success of the candidate that it supports for the presidency of the republic but it is the right of Yemen more to have it succeed democratically. Democracy, as much as it is hope, it is historical responsibility dealing with great affairs in the first of which is that of change with its implications of habits and conditions leading the society to the extent of its preparedness and ability to practice moral discipline of democratic right, in the practice and in accepting the change. We think there is no democracy devoid of those two rights: the right of soundness of democratic practice and the right of accepting the political change democratically. Here Yemen will succeed twice; the first in the success of democracy and the second in having a president selected democratically.

There might be some mistakes

taking place here and there due to practice but they must not represent a state of wantonness deforming and marginalizing the democratic experiment

However, when we study the history of Yemen and ability of its people to solve their problems by themselves, we will find a unified people capable of practicing their options with the highest ways and means and in a civilized manner.



As-Sahwa weekly, 31 Aug.2006.

Min headlines

- Change, the solution
- Bin Shamlan: We shall make Yemen happy anew
- JMP refuses to deliver names of its representatives in sub-committees but after its receipt of the electronic record
- JMP condemns editing of paragraphs of its electoral platform
- Military commanders practice election propaganda, foment against opposition

writer Zaid al-Shami says in an article the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) has decided its position in the adoption of political struggle as its program and approach for changing the situations and embarked educating its bases and supporters to fully realize this is the best means for wringing out the rights and achieve justice and equality. Consequently, there is no need for wars, conflicts and vengeance and the use of force. The alternative of all that are the dialogue, agreement and balloting boxes as well as acceptance of the results.

This culture that is deepening day by day among bases of the JMP is alternative of the wrong mobilization that provokes the members and makes

them hostile. And although peaceful struggle needs longer time, its consequences are good and fruits are sure for the individual, the society and the state. The results will be quick if the ruling party obliged itself to the same approach and educated its members on meanings of dialogue, acceptance of the other. If it continues in the way of aggression with power, authority and money and imposing the opinion by the force of arms and frightening the citizen that change will threaten the unity, and end stability and security, this will slacken speed of the wheel of change but could not stop it.

The writer expresses his regret towards what he describes as ill practices by some officials in the ruling party, such as hostile statements and tearing photos of the JMP candidate. He says we are in dire need of the culture of peaceful transfer of photos before talking about peaceful transfer of power. If this situation continues in this way, how would it be in the day of voting and counting of votes and where would it stop after announcement of results?



Al-Wahda newspaper 30 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- More than 200 tribes sign document terminating vengeance
- PM Bajammal: Yemen proceeds from seeking cultural integration in its vision of accession to the GCC
- FM press conference clarifies Yemen's stand versus regional and international issues
- Nasserite secretary of the political office: The opposition reached a stage of political and program maturity
- In the first half of this year, more than \$ 2 billion the value of oil exports

- Japan writes off % 7 million, total foreign indebtedness amounts to \$5 billion
- Academics and politicians affirm importance of the political reform to tackle failures
- In the past 7 months, more than one billion riyals retrieved to treasury
- Yemeni-Saudi campaigns for combating malaria in border areas

Writer Taha al-Amiri says in his article if the beginnings are indicating the results we have then to revise our calculations in more than one direction. However, the more prominent direction is the political and party consciousness and the mechanism of its dealing with matters in a way that is not limited to boundaries of dereliction, though that is what characterized some of the speeches delivered in electoral festivals and the slogans raised there. It is a fearful action when we find those who are supposed to stabilize values of civilized changes are the ones carrying them out.

There is much evidence that the elite need to rehabilitate themselves intellectually and culturally in compatibility with the changes and in line with democratic values in order to be able to take part positively in rooting process of values of democratic awareness among the people and society through their media and political address. Democracy, as a civilized culture, is not based on compositional speeches and transient reaction. There are intellectual, cultural and political constituents leading to such an address.

True we have corruption and wish to get rid of it and those causing it but against that we have also political, democratic and cultural corruption. We have corruption in practicing, behavior and consciousness. All those forms of corruption represent the immoral base of the financial and administrative corruption. This cannot be treated in the way some parties are following. Corruption does not mean there is no

state. Elections are raging and all are engrossed in their ramifications. There is no talk about platforms and the criticism stamp has taken the shape of personification targeting the national political symbols. There is no critic of those criticizing a platform of those who are in power telling them you have said in your platform this and that and committed yourselves, so where is what you have promised to do? Instead of that we have so far found excesses and defamation.



Al-Wasat weekly, 30 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- The president stars his election campaign in Amran and Saada amidst difference with strong rivals
- The YSP member whose membership is frozen Amin Thabit offered to convert to the ruling party
- Bajammal assails the GCC
- Tribal mediation hands over two escapees of al-Qaeda
- Al-Baidhani drops intention to sue chairmanships of parliament and the Shoura Council
- The government bans exportation of fish to Saudi Arabia
- Al-Majidi cancels two of his elation festivals in the wake of the killing of his campaign coordinator

Editor in chief of the newspaper writes that the past weeks and the coming ones until the day of voting will not be confined to in it being an election season but also a fertile season for spreading rumors dealing accusations and trading with the issue.

What is going on these days of accusations against this or that calls shame and despair especially when they are issued by persons who have ridden the wave of opposition for

reasons having nothing to do with the people or their issues. They have embarked, instead of the authority, on distributing cars and monthly salaries in dollar to this or that who they have bought their loyalty, confirming truthfulness of their information from their secret and dangerous sources that have infiltrated the centers of decision.

It is regrettable that the rumor changes into a weapon directed randomly to a newspaper or writer merely because what he said was in variance with this party or that wants or an article was not equal to the anger of this person, has observed the fact I his writing. In a meeting of independent journalists with leadership of the opposition at the political development forum we asked them to help us preserve our independence by adoption of the fact and convey it poorly to the reader free from tendencies of power and the parties. I think those leaders blessed that approach. But the tragedy is those who cannot tolerate you unless you were a warrior with your sword without even informing you on the aim of the issue you are fighting for.

Maybe the motive behind arousing this topic is understood in this critical period. I this period there is inspection and search for evidence of accusation between the lines of what is written and to erect the gallows after secret trial, all of its components are one. All are unanimous on the evidence, not according to what is there but to what is derived from between the lines. Such a thing does not exceed its being a desperate attempt to annex what is independent not only to the authority but also to the opposition and even to persons.

However and in order to generalize this situation we have to admit that there are leaders from the opposition as well as from the authority who have encouraged the independent journalist to be a mouthpiece of the fact. That is what should be done if they wanted to establish a professional press work away from bickering of the authority and the opposition.

Extremism and Madrassas

By: Imran Khan

Many experts believe that Madrassas are playing vital role in promoting extremism and Madrassa students only get hate lessons from there. These thoughts are not related to few persons only but many governments in the West also believe in it. But is it true or has it been wrongly assumed? We need to look things in bit detail. Focus would be on Pakistan as it is in highlights all the time.

Madrassa is an Arabic word which simply means "School". The history of establishing Madrassas is about 1000 years old. Learning is a basic part of Islam and it is not associated with religious education only. So when Madrassas were initially started they had all the components of educational system prevailing at time. Including religious Islamic education and different other subjects like astronomy, architecture, philosophy, math etc. That continued for centuries and Madrassas produced some great scholars, researchers of that age. Muslim part of the world was a hub of knowledge. The work of Muslim scholars, scientists laid down the foundation of many new areas of learning.

After the defeat of the Muslims in many parts of the world and with the introduction of new education system by Europeans, the Muslim education system started to weaken. Before that religious education and other education was taught together but it was changed and religious education was given less importance. Especially in Subcontinent where after the war of 1857 British tried to rule strictly over Muslims. That created a tit for tat situation and new approach of education was not welcomed by Muslims. Ulamas (Muslim Scholars) were particularly against it. So a new kind of Madrassa system was introduced sticking with the religious education only. From then onward the same Madrassa system is still in place. Now modern education is

far ahead of that time but in Madrassas the old curriculum still prevails and literally there is no change. If someone had tried to understand the situation at that time the situation would have not been like this. Even after the creation of Pakistan in 1947 no one ever tried to analyze things that why Madrassas were established? Are they only meant for religious studies? Same situation exists in other Muslim countries.

In 1970s and 80s hundreds of new Madrassas were established in Pakistan especially near the Afghanistan border. The main aim was to produce a force which could fight against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan. USA at that time supported them fully and finally Russia was defeated and had to leave Afghanistan. Now USA believes that Madrassas are producing fundamentalists.

The real problem is not the type of education pupils getting in Madrassas. It is a fact that in major terrorist attacks in the world, the people who carried out those acts were not students of Madrassas but studied properly in modern education institutes. Many of them got education in Western countries. It is virtually not possible for any Madrassa student to be aware of any kind of modern technology as he studies old Urdu, Arabic and Persian books only.

Yes extremism is there but there are other factors behind it. A Madrassa student has no chance to perform any kind of work because of no knowledge of modern techniques. They can read books but they have no professional or any kind of education which could enable them to do a job so they have no other choice but to sit in the mosque. Certainly frustration would be there as they see the people living in good conditions but they have no option what so ever.

One can say that Taliban (a common name for Madrassa student) ruled Afghanistan with force for few years. But one should also look the factors behind it. After Russian left Afghanistan there should have been peace and government should have

worked for the betterment for common Afghani citizens. Infect it was not the case and for many years warlords fought against each other only to rule and no one thought about the people. Since there was no justice, resultantly it created a Taliban movement which eventually took the whole country. 5 years ago Taliban rule was over and a democratic government is ruling Afghanistan. But is there any improvement in the lives of commoners there? The answer would be No. Afghan government receives millions of dollars as aid. Where they are spending it? Though there is a central government but in many areas still warlords have their own rules. This kind of situation can create real extremism in masses and who takes advantage it is another thing. It is not necessary that only Taliban could go to extreme but anyone in this situation could be.

The other problem is the political use of Madrassa. In Russian - Afghan war USA and Pakistan government tired to take advantage of Madrassas and now Pakistani religious parties are trying to do the same. Madrassas are educational institutes and no one should be allowed to use them for their political purposes.

Any attempt to closedown Madrassas will not be a solution to prevent extremism. Even it will trigger more hate and reaction. The best solution would be to bring Madrassas back into mainstream, where students may get religious education as well as modern education. So when students complete Madrassa education they should have a chance to get jobs, do professional work and make positive contribution in the society.

It can't be done overnight and it will take a long time but still making an educational institute performing better will be beneficial for all.

Muhammad Imran Khan is assistant director of Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). He is an economic and commerce specialist and a freelance writer for several international newspapers.

Lebanon for the Golan

By: Marc Gopin

The long-term goals of those who want a lasting peace in the region are a Lebanon freed of a militarised Hezbollah and the influence of external states, a full normalization of relations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon, and the Golan returned to Syria... Israel, in order to survive in the long-term, just might be ready to extricate itself from ideological confusion in the United States and go for a political alternative to un-winnable wars against terrorists."

Washingon - In the past Syria has used Lebanon as a card to be traded against Israel. It maintained quiet on its own border with Israel while it kept Israel's Lebanese border a nightmare in order to get it to give back the Golan. Israel can no longer tolerate proxy warfare in Lebanon, especially now that the next stage of modern warfare, rockets on cities, has traumatized the Israeli population. Something utterly new must happen politically.

The long-term goals of those who want a lasting peace in the region are a Lebanon freed of a militarised Hezbollah and the influence of external states, a full normalization of relations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon, and the Golan returned to Syria.

Here is how the liberation of Lebanon and the return of the Golan work in steps pursued simultaneously:

- Western and Muslim states provide a security force for South Lebanon with Syrian collaboration.
- Western and Muslim states provide a massive aid and reconstruction package for all of Lebanon (to which Israel should heavily contribute as a gesture), including the largest fund specifically for the South to be administered by Shi'ites.
- Syria quietly cuts off the military Iranian supply line to Hezbollah.
- Syria quietly pushes Hamas' military in Damascus over the next year

- toward the PA's posture.
- Israel publicly places the Golan on the table of a renewed peace process over the next year that will include cultural confidence-building gestures.
- The West rehabilitates the Assad regime in stages, but only contingent upon steady evidence of return to the Damascus Spring and a decline in threats to various Lebanese political figures.

Here are the objections:

- There is a wing in Syria that wants to keep the wars going so that it can hold on to power. Answer: There is decisive evidence, which I have personally witnessed, that there is a range of opinion, and that the more militant and corrupt are driven into the shadows when moderates demonstrate visible gains for Syria by engagement with the West.
- The Israelis will never be able politically to give up the Golan at the same time as unilateral withdrawal from the West Bank, which means that the Palestinians will be excluded. Answer: Real evidence of peace with Syria and a Syrian withdrawal of support for Arab movements that seek Israel's destruction will change the Israeli poll numbers dramatically in favour of diplomacy and an eventual deal on the Golan and other territories.
- Iran will keep the wars and radicalism going because the mullahs will have to give up power otherwise. Answer: there is strong evidence of considerable dissatisfaction with the regime, including even among leading clerics. Serious gestures by the West toward Lebanon, Iran, Syria and Palestine outlined above will strengthen moderate Shi'ite thinking even in Iran and discredit Ahmadinejad's apocalyptic interpretations of Shi'ism. This will be coupled with a re-assertion of a generous energy deal for Iran and an invitation to a more moderate Iran to join the Lebanese reconstruction project. Khameini, the cautious survivor, will soften and abandon his extremist president.

- Sunni or Shi'ite extremist movements will find some way to blow up the future in Lebanon and Syria. Answer: Political consensus by large numbers of states and major powers has always been the most stabilizing force of human civilization, and this consensus can survive isolated spoilers. But no one can survive the current situation of chaos, festering hatreds and injuries, because the major powers are impotent and divided. The key defence against extremism is determined coalitions. That is why the democracies, especially Israel, must rise to the occasion and present honourable, generous alternatives to war to the Arab populations of Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. This is what will make the tides shift.
- The Neoconservative grip on the White House will never allow this soft approach to occur. Answer: The U.S. will not stand in the way of a movement for change within the region because the U.S. position is moribund and everyone in Washington, and Texas, knows it. Gone is the fanatic confidence of Neoconservative ideology, and it is certainly not so strong as to go up against a determined position by the parties themselves. If Israel reaches out strategically to the region, it will pay no price in Washington for doing so because the Israel Lobby will defend it no matter what.

Marc Gopin is the James Laue Professor of World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

Ethiopian New Year Festival Celebration

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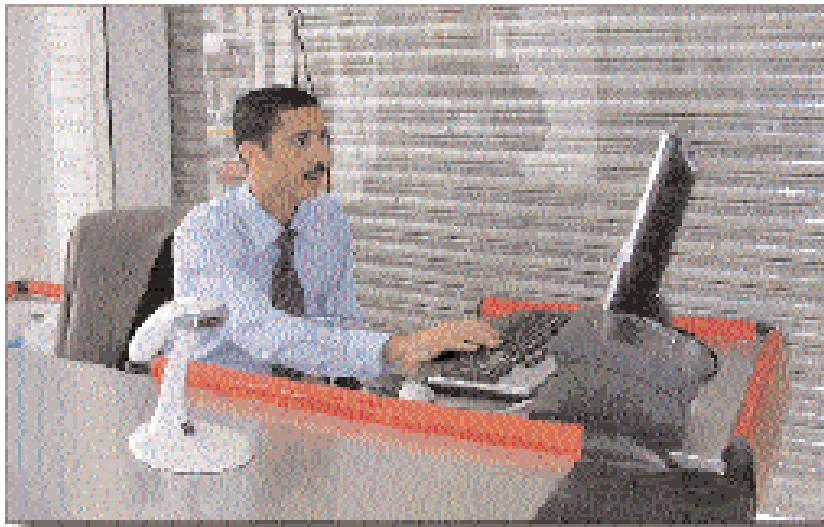
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Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group opens biggest bookstore in Yemen



SANAA, September 2 - Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group inaugurated a new book and stationery branch last Wednesday in Al-Dairi Street, west of the capital. The new branch, affiliated with Al-Jeel Al-Jadid, is the biggest bookstore nationwide.

The inaugural ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Hashem Ali Bin Ali, Deputy Minister of Culture, who confirmed in a press statement that the project is a crucial step that adds to the record of book printing and publication and the varied cultural produce in Yemen.

According to Bin Ali, the project reflects the private sector's interest in cultural and cognitive investments. "The project is a distinctive initiative, as it covers books with several titles for the Yemeni society in general and researchers in particular to benefit from," he said.

The Deputy Minister of Culture pinned that the project is a new step for displaying books in a comprehensive and attractive style.

"There are many bookstores and libraries but their contents are limited and cannot meet the growing demand of the Yemeni readers, who are characterized by curiosity. Yemeni readers' curiosity can be seen remarkably while staging the International Book Fair every year in Sana'a, as the turnout for buying books is higher than what is realized in other countries. The fact manifests Yemenis' interest in reading and seeking knowledge," Bin Ali continued.

He mentioned "the event reminds us of the ancient Yemenis, who cared for keeping old scripts in every house and the habit of keeping old scripts still is exercised despite the spread of the Internet."

Bin Ali ascertained the Ministry of Culture fosters such projects and "we are enthusiastic enough to encourage investment in the cultural field."

Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Anisi, General Manager of Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group affirmed that the project is the first of its kind in the country. "We provide the consumer with the books, stationeries and education equipments, required for a better quality of education. The consumer can buy all he/she needs at the same store and with reasonable prices that suit different social classes," Al-Anisi stated.

"This is the first Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group-affiliated branch that sells in retailers. Prior to inaugurating the project, we were running wholesale stores, however, our prices suits

different social classes," he said.

"We have special offers for the new school year. We are pleased to confirm to consumers that we have good experience in the field and have been exercising the business since 1960," Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group General Manager noted.

He went on: "Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group was established before 1960 and started providing Yemenis with books, newspapers and magazines for a short period of time. The group then imported books with different titles with some concentration on stationeries. We use the most modern technology in the sale process and have an electronic sale system that facilitates the process."

"We have the intention to open more than one branch in the same way in different Yemeni governorates and invite consumers to visit our stores to know the difference in price, quality and diversity," Al-Anisi stated.

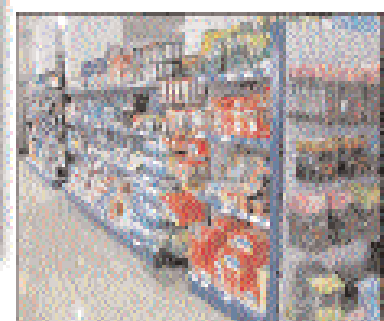
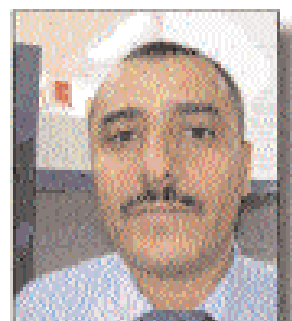
According to Al-Anisi, the project's location was selected for being in the vicinity of universities and densely-populated areas. Despite the fact the group started selling books, its business expanded over time to import stationeries from Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to meet the growing demand in the country. The number of book buyers declined during the last period of time due to a variety of factors such as the high prices of books.

The businessman said: "our bookstores embrace around 10 thousand titles in different sciences. We encourage the book. In our ground floor, we have books for visitors to read for free."

Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Bookstore got the official trademark No. 1032 for import in 1969 from the Ministry of Supplies and Trade. By the end of 1972, it started importing stationeries via Hodeida Port and since then it has become one of the biggest book and stationery importers in Yemen. Overtime, the store's name was changed into Al-Jeel Al-Jadid Group to be closer to customers.

Activities of the group
The group exercises business in seven departments as follows:

- Paper Department
- Pens Department
- Stationery and Geometrical Tools Department
- Notebooks Department
- Files & Covers Department
- Electronics Department
- Ink and Computer Equipment Department
- Books Department



Waterborne diseases threaten Yemeni rural communities

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
& Nawal Zaheed

Bait Al-Makali is a small village just north of Sana'a. Most of the people living in the village are farmers depending on the income from their Qat, bean, peach or apple crops. To help their crops flourish they use to dig wells to get the groundwater.

"We are around 5000 people living in this village, we use the five wells that we have dug in the past to get water for our crops," said Abdullah Al-Mrani, who has one well.

"Sometimes we prefer to use pond water for drinking and cooking, and we save the well water to irrigate the Qat crops which need a lot of water."

Having a well makes Al-Mrani one of the lucky people in Bait Al-Makali – he can get to the groundwater to irrigate his plants and his family has clean drinking water.

The majority of the villagers don't have the same luxury. They use the surface water they collect from rainwater in small ponds.

Most people are too poor to take on the cost of digging wells and they can only use water from the ponds, according to one-such resident, Mohammed Ali Ahmed.

"We don't even have the ability to buy water or to clean or expand the ponds to get more pure water, so they have no choice but to use the contaminated water in these ponds," he com-



Rural people used to water their animal from the same water they drink.

plained.

It's that water that causes the problems for Bait Al-Makali and it's the same problem all over Yemen – the water is sending people to hospitals.

At Matna Hospital, which serves Bait Al-Makali, people turn up with diarrhea, malaria and skin diseases and Dr. Mohammed Al-Btahi says it's the from the polluted water they use.

"Many people reach the hospital in very serious conditions and we cannot deal with these cases with the limited available materials that we have in the hospital so we have to send them to the hospitals in Sana'a," said Al-Btahi.

Each month Matna Hospital receives over 200 diarrhea cases with most of them children, more than 150 malaria cases, and more than 300 cases of people are suffering skin diseases.

Back at Bait Al-Makali the problem propagates itself. The same water is used for drinking, cooking, cleaning houses, washing, watering animals and even as a swimming.

In the village Abdullah Saleh Musaed knows they have a problem and he knows many villages suffer the same problems.

"Many people are suffering diseases in our village and in the villages around only because they have no access to pure water," he said.

The same scarcity of water in Bait Al-Makali village is found in many rural Yemeni regions where three quarters of the population live. According to a report by National Water Sector Strategy Investment Program (NWS-SIP) issued in 2003 only 25 percent of the rural population has access to safe water and only a fifth of all people have safe sanitation. There are now over 3 million Yemeni's without access to clean water.

The report said that many people in rural regions are using unsafe methods to get rid of waste, whether human or water waste that leaks into the ground. This behavior, the report says, damages both surface water and groundwater.

The solution to the problem is not easy because Yemen is one of the most water scarce countries in the world. People have to use any water source they find to cover their basic needs because Yemen only has one-tenth of the average in Middle Eastern countries and one-fiftieth of the world average.

Polio, malaria, typhoid, hepatitis, cholera, diarrhea and bilharzias – all the diseases caused by contaminated water and very common in Yemeni villages.



A boy looks at trash that he found in the pond during his swimming.

YT PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN

A report, prepared by a parliamentary committee for water and environment, in 2004 stated that 75 percent of Yemen's 20 million-strong population is threatened by waterborne diseases, due to unclean drinking. The report went to say that 55,000 children die annually due to diseases related to water pollution. The report, which warned of the spread of contaminated water use, confirmed that 50 percent of childhood death cases in Yemen are due to water pollution, 20 percent due to diarrhea and 30 percent due to malaria and typhoid.

The Environmental Protection Authority reports even more startling figures in their 2001 study by saying there were three million deaths in 2000 due to water pollution-related diseases. The report also confirmed that death occurs mostly among rural people where people are getting polio, malaria, typhoid, hepatitis, cholera, diarrhea and bilharzias – all the diseases caused by contaminated water and very common in Yemeni villages.

The Environmental Protection Authority

warn the situation will become more dangerous, noting that vaccine and fortification campaigns to fight fatal diseases are not enough. The only answer, the report maintained, is providing pure safe water and improving wastewater disposal.

Around the pond in the village of Bait Al-Makali people try to reduce their water consumption in attempt to

save as much water as they can and they now they need to protect their water.

"It is the only source and we try to save it, but it affects on the sanitary situation of the people in the village; there are a lot of diseases appearing in the village because of the poor sanitation," said Mohammed Ali Ahmed.

The water flows from the pond to

people's houses in the containers that women and children carry back and forth. Mohammed Ali Musleh, 13, knows the water is ending up in his house.

"I have to bring water from the pond to the my house seven to ten times a day," he said, but he also recalls that he spent hours swimming in the same pond with his friends.

Public doesn't understand global warming

By: Dr. David Suzuki

Have you ever been to a focus group? They're very odd. Often used in marketing research, these small selections of randomly chosen people are brought together as a sampling of public opinion to gauge how folks feel about a particular product or issue.

Recently, my foundation conducted a focus group about global warming to see where people are at in their understanding of this complex and challenging problem. The results? Let's just say they were disconcerting, to say the least.

Simply put, most people don't have a clue. The majority felt that global warming was a pretty important problem and they were concerned about it. But when pressed as to why it was a problem or what caused the problem, all heck broke loose.

Apparently, according to the average Joe, global warming is happening because we've created a hole in the ozone layer, allowing the sun's rays to enter the atmosphere and heat up the earth -- or something like that. The cause of the problem is cars, or airplanes, or aerosol cans. No one really knows for sure.

This is really quite remarkable. I would have thought that such confused understandings of the issue would have been commonplace five or six years ago, but with global warming being in newspapers on practically a daily basis this spring, on the front cover of magazines, in theatres (An Inconvenient Truth), and a hot political issue as well, surely people would get it by now.

Apparently I was wrong. People don't get it. This is a big problem, because if people don't get it, then they don't really care, so politicians and CEOs don't really care, and status quo rules the day. And blindly we march into the sunset.

But while science magazines are all talking about carbon sequestration and climate-forcing mechanisms, the aver-



Carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and other types of contaminants pouring from industrial smokestacks largely contribute to the world's atmospheric pollution.

age person is still trying to decipher the nature of the problem itself. True, few citizens need to understand the complicated nuances of atmospheric science or the various mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, but people cannot care about things they do not understand. If our leaders are to take the issue seriously, the public must have at least a basic understanding of it.

So, to clarify -- the ozone layer is a part of the atmosphere way up high that helps shield the earth from the sun's most harmful rays. A couple of decades ago, scientists realized that some of the chemicals we were using in our industries and homes were finding their way into the upper atmosphere, reacting with the ozone and destroying it. Scientists were concerned that if this continued, it would thin the vital protective layer, leading to increased skin cancers and crop damage. They sounded the alarm bell, the international community responded with the Montreal Protocol to phase out ozone-depleting substances, and today the ozone layer is gradually healing itself.

Global warming is a quite different

phenomenon. Again, it's a human-made problem, but this time it's due to the heat-trapping gases we are putting into the atmosphere from our industries, cars and homes. These gases act like a blanket, keeping more heat near the earth's surface. More heat also means more energy in the atmosphere, which means more frequent or severe extreme weather events like droughts, storms and floods.

With each new piece of research, the expected effects of global warming become clearer, more urgent and more disturbing. Scientists say this will be one of the biggest challenges humanity will face this century. Right now we are not tackling the issue fast enough or direct enough to escape the most severe consequence.

So if you understand what global warming is, and what it isn't, please tell your friends. Please speak up and help ensure that we don't continue to grope blindly into the future, searching in the darkness for a light switch. Because at this rate, by the time we finally reach it, it may no longer work.

Source: www.enn.com

Community groundwater management in Amran basin

By: Dr. Gerhard Lichtenthaeler

With more than 1,500 wells on the Amran plain and approximately 2,500 wells in the Amran basin water catchment, the area has experienced an annual decline in groundwater levels of up to six meters. Average well depth now ranges between 250 and 400 meters and annual abstraction levels exceed recharge by up to 10 times.

In the tribal homeland of Hashid and Bakil, solutions that are politically feasible, socially acceptable and culturally relevant must take into account and build on the social adaptive capacities of local communities themselves.

It's in this context that the National Water Resource Authority (NWRA) in Sana'a closely cooperates with German Technical Cooperation's Integrated Water Resources Management (GTZ's IWRM) and the World Bank's Groundwater and Soil Conservation Program (GSCP) aim-

ing to establish water user groups at the district level and a basin water management committee at the governorate level, as well as supporting local district councils in their legal role to manage their own water resources for the benefit of all.

Regular visits to the seven districts comprising the Amran basin area – with a total population of more than 300,000 – indicate that communities are aware of the need for collective action and support the idea of community groundwater management. And, more importantly, they welcome the assistance that the integrated team provides.

How are communities coping and dealing in the face of such dwindling resources?

A recent visit to Raydah district revealed that certain villages already have taken collective action to stop white tankers from transporting water from any of their wells to areas further away for qat irrigation. Through the local sheikh's initiative, the majority of farmers came to support the ban. A written agreement

binds all local well owners not to sell water to outsiders and a YR 50,000 fine was agreed upon and must be paid in cases of non-compliance.

This is evidence that Amran basin communities are beginning to protect their groundwater resources. Such community agreements and local regulation measures are important steps toward an Amran basin water resource management action plan that's initiated, owned and implemented by communities and local councils themselves.

One of the NWRA-Sana'a/GTZ IWRM/GSCP team's tasks is to look for, elicit and encourage similar initiatives and so facilitate community groundwater management, as foreseen in Yemen's water law.

Dr. Gerhard Lichtenthaeler is an Integrated Water Resources Management advisor working with the Ministry of Water and Environment's National Water Resource Authority through German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

Jewish Tombstones in Aden (Part 1)

Inscriptions on tombstones provide us with information about the family and society of the deceased. Through a reading of these inscriptions the individual is no longer anonymous. In addition to names, grave inscriptions often contain information on an individual's status and profession, offering us insights into the life of a community, which include different classes and professions. The information emphasized in grave inscriptions reveals the values of a society and its traditions. This study investigates the corpus of Hebrew inscriptions on tombstones in Aden.

By: A. Klein-Franke

Graveyards and tombstones provide us with an insight into the life of people who are no longer alive. Tombstones tell us the name and age of the deceased person, and about when and where the deceased person lived. Sometimes the name of the deceased person gives an indication of family origins. The style of the characters, the order of the words, and sentences in the inscription tell us of the funeral traditions and the culture of this specific community. The size of the tombstone, its shape, and the style of its decoration reflect the social status of the person it was made for. The shape of the stone and the way it was cut tell us about the manual skills of the masons.

Jewish cemeteries in Aden

Four Jewish cemeteries are known to have existed in the Aden area. Two of them were ancient and were closed to funerals before the nineteenth century. The third one was in the center of the

cemetery was called me'ara yesana, old cave. The ancient cemeteries were situated on the cliffs surrounding the Crater. The cemeteries had been abandoned for many generations by the time the British arrived. The cemetery in the Crater was situated near the Jewish quarter and was in use for many generations. There were many tombstones with Hebrew inscriptions scattered all over the area. Despite their relocation to a new quarter the Jews continued to use the Crater cemetery until approximately 1860. After the Crater cemetery was closed to burials, the British Administration granted the family of Menahem Messa, then head of the Aden Jewish community, special permission to continue to use the cemetery in the Crater for their family members until the middle of the twentieth century.

The cemetery at Ma'ala was used by the Jewish community of Aden from 1860 until 1967, when the Jewish community was dissolved. Today there are hundreds of graves with tombstones of different shapes and sizes at this cemetery. The earliest date of burial found in the Ma'ala cemetery



Epitaph of H asya, daughter of S emarya , from the year 5472 (1712CE) of the Creations calendar (courtesy D. Birnbaum).

city in the 'Crater' area, so-called by the British. This cemetery was still in use at the time of British occupation. The Ma'ala cemetery is the new cemetery. In addition to these cemeteries there is a memorial tomb in the Holkat-Bay area. The common Hebrew words for cemetery are:

bet-qebarot, the house of the burials, bet-'almin or bet-'olam, the everlasting house and bet-ha-h ayim, the house of the living. Among the Jews of Aden and in Yemen the word for cemetery is me'ara (pl. me'arot), which means cave. In Aden the ancient

was from the year 1863 CE (tav, res, lamed, gimel). The latest date was from 1967 CE (tav, sin, kap, zayin).

An overview of the discoveries of epitaphs under British rule

During building works under the British Administration, hundreds of Hebrew epitaphs were discovered and collected, but not all of them were documented. The discovered tablets were often taken and kept by private individuals, and many of those slabs were consequently lost. Seven tablets were transferred to the British



Epitaph of Ahron, son of Yesu 'a, from the year 32 of the Contracts calendar (courtesy David Birnbaum, director of the S. Birnbaum Z'L archive).

Museum. Slabs were also discovered in the Crater outside the border of the Jewish cemetery. The slabs discovered outside the cemetery were similar to the tombstones in the cemetery, suggesting that the cemetery had originally been larger and that this area had probably once belonged to the cemetery.

A fire, which broke out in the Crater in 1852, resulted in significant renovation work in the city. The reconstruction work was carried out under the supervision of Brigadier Playfair. Houses of mud and stone replaced the straw huts destroyed by the fire. During the digging further discoveries of Hebrew epitaphs were made. Many of the stones discovered were badly damaged, and some of the inscriptions were so corroded that their texts were illegible. Hebrew epitaphs were also discovered during reconstruction work at the water reservoir which was located on the hill, in the area called the 'Tanks'. The discovery of Hebrew epitaphs in the Tanks area suggests that there had been a cemetery earlier which, in turn, implies that there must have been a Jewish settlement nearby. Hebrew epitaphs were also discovered during the reconstruction works in the 'Aden Pass'. They were set deeply into the walls and secured with mortar. Slabs were also found in the caves in this area.

The calendars used by the Jews of southern Arabia

Until the middle of the twentieth century the Jews of southern Arabia used four different calendars. Whereas three of the calendars were common, the fourth was rarely used. All four dating systems are present in the inscriptions. The Seleucid calendar is related to the rule of the Seleucid dynasty and is called setarot in Hebrew, the Calendar of the Contracts or the Era of the Documents. The calendar begins with the first day of the month of tishri of the year 312 (or 311) BC. La-yes ira is the Calendar Beginning with the Biblical Creation of the World.

The CE calendar was often used after the British occupation began. In two epitaphs the dates are stated in relation to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Among the Jews of southern Arabia, the Calendar Beginning with the Dates of the Destruction of the Temples was rarely used to give an indication of time.

In the calendars of la-setarot and la-yesira the date is expressed by Hebrew letters. The numerical value of the letter is implied: 'alep = 1, bet = 2, yod = 10, qop = 100, tav = 400, tav + tav + res = 1000. In the Hebrew epitaphs from Aden the Hebrew letters are also used to indicate the day of the week or the day of the month. In some inscriptions the letters expressing the date are integrated into words which form the sentences of the text. In those cases these letters perform dual functions. The letters that are related to the date are marked above the words by a bold font, by a dot or by special symbols to differentiate them from the other letters. The CE date is

expressed numerically.

To convert dates into the CE calendar it is necessary to subtract 312 years from the Contracts Calendar, and 3761 years from the Creation Calendar.

Discoveries of Hebrew epitaphs by travelers

Jacob Saphir was the first to copy Hebrew inscriptions in Aden's ancient cemeteries and to publish ten of them. Looking for physical evidence supporting the legends of the Jews' arrival in southern Arabia in biblical times, Saphir felt that he had made an important discovery. In his opinion the ages of the inscriptions which he had copied corresponded to the time referred to in the legends. The earlier dates among the inscriptions copied by Saphir fell between the first and the sixty-first year of the Contracts Calendar. Saphir believed that these dates related to the third century BC. He also documented other epitaphs from the end of the first millennium CE and from the beginning of the second millennium CE. He noted that there were inscriptions written in different styles, despite the fact that those inscriptions gave closed dates and the epitaphs were found side by side in the same area. Saphir discovered a group of epitaphs from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries CE, which belonged to one family clan of H alfon, Bundar and Madmu n. According to Ben-Zvi and Goitein, Madmun in Hebrew means S emarya. Saphir's discoveries indicated that the cemetery was used by the community for many generations throughout the centuries and that individuals could own part of the cemetery for use by their families.

As a member of an Austrian scientific delegation, Heinrich David Müller travelled to southern Arabia at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1889 Müller brought to Vienna approximately 100 squeezes of Hebrew inscriptions. Among these was a group of inscriptions from Aden's Jewish cemeteries. Most of them date to the years between 20 and 54 in the Calendar of the Contracts. Izhak Ben-Zvi travelled to Aden in January, 1950. He visited the ancient cemeteries, the local state archaeological museum and a private museum, belonging to Mr. Kaiky Muncherjee, an Indian merchant residing in Aden. Ben-Zvi claimed that there were hundreds of sepulchral slabs in the ancient cemeteries. The deeper he entered into the ancient cemetery the earlier were the dates on the epitaphs. He mentioned that many people had epitaphs in their homes and added that it would be difficult to estimate how many slabs with Hebrew inscriptions there were in total. All the inscriptions he examined were dated in relation to the Seleucid Era. For the first time, photographs of four of them were published.

In 1951 Father A. Jamme rediscovered thirteen tombstones bearing Hebrew inscriptions in the courtyard of the Archaeological Museum of Aden.

Jamme heard from J. J. Gunn, then

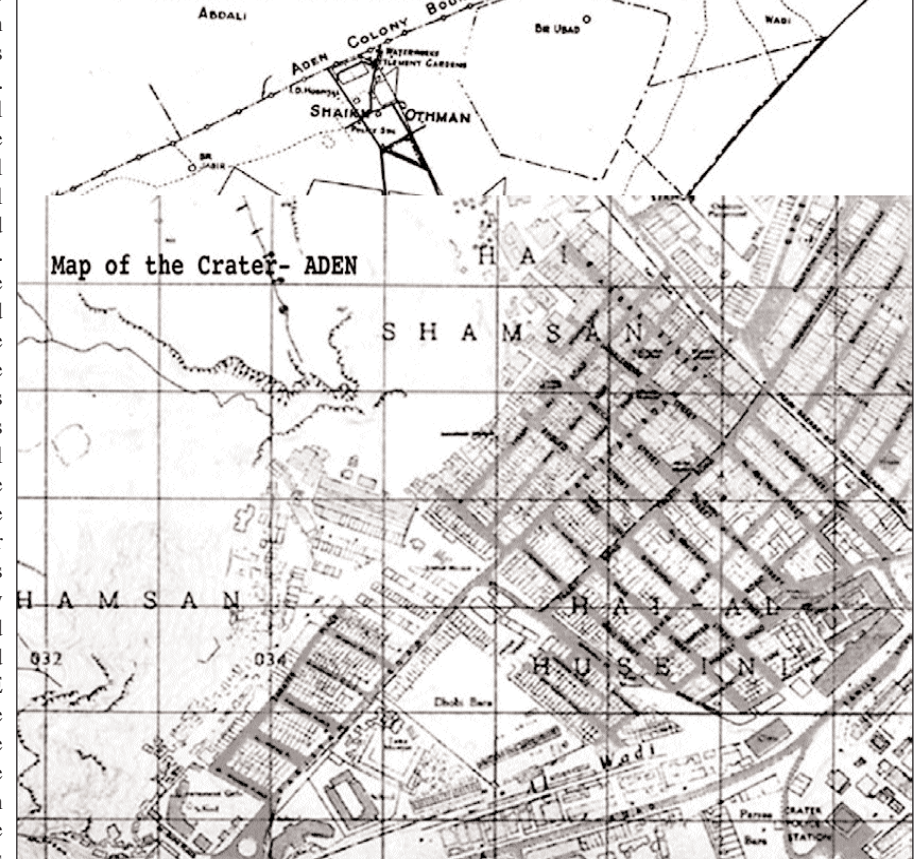
The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 45

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Listen again. One evening at the close
Of Ramazan, ere the better moon arose,
In that old potter's shop I stood alone
With the clay population round in rows.

Aden -British Colony Boundary Plan (1965)

A- Crater. B- Ma'ala. C-Holkat Bay
D- Jewish Cemetery. E-Tanks
F- Tawahi. G- Aden Pass



Aden Crater map, 1965.

director of the museum, that the tombstones had been found one hundred years earlier in the Crater. Jamme made latex squeezes of the inscriptions and passed them on to Eli Subar for publication.

Problems estimating the ages of the Hebrew epitaphs

Saphir's publication of the first inscriptions provoked intense discussion among scholars. The contents of the inscriptions and their possible ages sparked controversy about their age and the subject of the first arrival of the Jews in southern Arabia. Saphir's opponents thought that he had misinterpreted the dates; they believed that the dates given in inscriptions must have been incomplete, as masons might have contracted the dates—called p"q (perat qatan)—and engraved only the decade and the current year of the date.

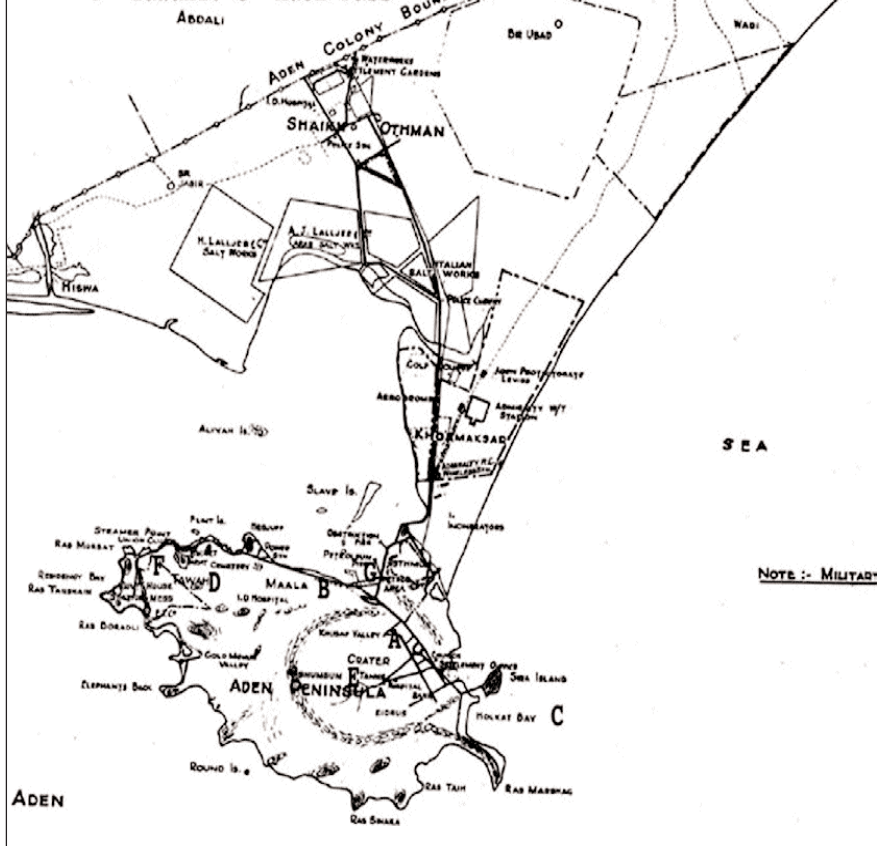
According to Joseph Hale'vy, who visited Aden and Yemen in 1869–70, the earliest inscription was related to 1816 of the Contracts Calendar, which is 1504 CE. Hale'vy's opinion was not only based on the analysis of his records from Aden, but also on his examination of the four slabs at the British Museum. The dispute between Saphir and Hale'vy ended when it turned out they were each referring to different slabs from different cemeteries. Saphir had felt offended and hurt because he was accused of falsifying the inscriptions and dismissed the accusation by saying: 'Who would invent so many names, dates and other details to falsify hundreds of inscriptions, and from where would one get so many old stones for this?' Saphir's opponents also claimed that some expressions, forms of eulogy and abbreviations in the text of the epitaphs were modern and were not attested in Europe before the tenth and thirteenth centuries CE:

examples such as (tav, mem, kap), tehu menuh atah or tehu menuh ato kabod (Isaiah 11:10 and 58:8), may her or his rest be in honour; and (res, yod, tav), ruah ha-Sem tanihennu (Isaiah 63, 14), may the Spirit of the Lord lead him. Saphir provided many examples of the use of such abbreviations in biblical times and in the Talmudic Era. Harkavy also mentioned that the expression TMK (tav, mem, kap) was in use in the Crimea in the first and the second centuries CE. On tombstones from the third century discovered at Beit Se'arim the expression (zayin, sade, lamed), zeker saddiq li-beraka (Proverbs 10:7), blessed be in memory the righteous, was used. Furthermore Saphir pointed out that the use of the name of the month instead of its number was a tradition among the ancient Babylonian Jewish Diaspora. He emphasized that in the inscriptions from the first century of the Seleucid Era, which his opponents considered to belong to a considerably later time, there were no rabbinical expressions, such as morenu, our teacher, rabbi or ge'onenu. Saphir was unexpectedly supported by Dr. Rabbi Eli'ezer Mordechai Halevi from London who examined the Hebrew epitaphs in the British Museum. Dr. Halevi wrote a letter to Yehi'el Brill, the editor of the newspaper ha-Libanon which was published with the title: 'Let us admit that Jacob (Saphir) is saying the truth'. His opinion was that the dates given on the epitaphs were not contracted and should be read as written and as interpreted by Saphir.

Professor Aviva Klein-Franke teaches at the Martin-Buber Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cologne, Germany. (avivakleinfranke@yahoo.com) This research was published in the Arabian Archeology and epigraphy journal, Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Aden -British Colony Boundary Plan (1965)

A- Crater. B- Ma'ala. C-Holkat Bay
D- Jewish Cemetery. E-Tanks
F- Tawahi. G- Aden Pass




British Colony Boundary Plan of Aden, 1965.



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Spikes and Smashes in Damascus



With the Third Asian Volleyball Under 17 Championship coming up Yemen's national youth team headed to the Syrian capital, Damascus, for an external training camp. The team will train there for seven days before the Asian championship in Iran's capital, Tehran.

The delegation includes 12 players, as well as the head of the delegation, the team coach and his assistant.

During the camp in Damascus the national volleyball team is due to play

three friendly games with Syrian teams before flying to Iran on Sept. 10.

The draw placed Yemen in the so-called "Group of Iron"- Group 4. The team is scheduled to play India, who ranked fifth in the previous competition, in the opener on Sept. 13. The team's second meeting will be with Pakistan on Sept. 14 before playing Thailand the following day.

The team's coach confirmed that preparing a strong team requires

many years, but "we had only three months to prepare the team for the event.

"However, I can say that the team's preparation for the competition is somewhat good," he added.

According to the coach, the team is mated with strong teams and there is huge difference in fitness, experience and tactics between the Yemen team and its counterparts in the group, particularly India, labelled among the strongest in the continent.

U.S. Men left to regroup after winning bronze

The U.S. men's basketball team won the bronze medal at the world championships Saturday night in Saitama, Japan, with a 96-81 win over Argentina. The final score -- 96-81 -- was less important than the act of winning on Saturday night at Saitama Super Arena.

It was the Americans' last game until next summer, when they will try to earn a 2008 Olympic berth in the FIBA Americas tournament in Venezuela. A gold medal in the worlds would have punched their Olympic ticket, but a loss to Greece in the semifinals eliminated that possibility.

U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski had talked about his short time at the helm as a process that'll take time. He noted that the Greeks have built a program for years, from the youth levels to the

senior national team.

With two years until the 2008 Summer Olympics, Coach K has the building blocks in place -- cornerstones/co-captains Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony -- to be a much-improved club.

The United States had been favourites to win the title but now have to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

France after a loss to Greece 73-56, in the last four, beat Turkey 64-56 earlier on Saturday to finish in fifth place. Spain and Greece will meet in the final on Sunday.



U.S. team in the world championships.

Karate competitions kick off

TAIZ, Sept 1 — The Republic Championship for under age 18 years karate teams kicked off Friday at Al-Sha'ab School in Taiz.

The event, organized by the General Karate Federation, was held in the presence of Secretary-General. It involves 12 teams: Shabab Al-Jeel

from Hodeida, Wahdat Aden, Ahli Taiz, Sha'ab Hadramout, Shabab Al-Mahweet, Shabab Al-Beidha, 22 May and Air Forces teams from Sana'a, Khanfar Abyan, Al-Semoud from Al-Dhale', Najm Saba'a from Dhamar and Salahiddin from Ibb.

These teams qualified from among

provincial counterparts for the competition in the following weights: 25, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, and 65 kg.

The men's karate competitions, at the governorate level, concluded with the Capital City's team winning the top place, Taiz ranking second and Hodeida third.



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Contact AMIDEAST offices for more information on the scholarship, the application process and application deadlines:

<p>AMIDEAST Sana'a: Algiers Street, #66, Sana'a. Tel: (01) 400-279/80/81. Fax: (01) 206-942. E-mail: aaighurbani@amideast.org Contact: Mr. A. Al Ghurbani.</p>	<p>AMIDEAST Aden: 162 Miswat Street, Khormaksar, Aden. Telefax: (02) 235-069/70/71. E-mail: fhesari@amideast.org Contact: Ms. F. Hesari.</p>
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The YES program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered in the Middle East and North Africa region by a consortium of organizations that includes AYUSA International and AMIDEAST.

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- Email their CV's to: nasir@dawapharma.com
- For related inquiries call, Tel. No.: 01 532831 / 32.



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Contract no.BMZ Nr: 2004 65 740
IFB:MSI/GOU/KFW YEMEN CSM

- 1- The Government of Yemen through the ministry of Public Health and population, has received funding from Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau for consulting Services for Social Marketing of contraceptives through the private sector Project Phase I (project component: Social Marketing of contraceptives); It is intended that part of the proceeds of these funds will be applied to eligible payments under this proposed project.
- 2- On behalf of the Government of Yemen under contract No. KWF 2004 65 704, Marie Stopes International has been contracted by the Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau to procure, through an open tender, 5.7 million male latex condoms, to be delivered to Yemen over 30 months.
- 3- Marie Stopes International intends to prequalify contractors and / or firms for the purchase of packaged, branded condoms. The format for this tender will be a "two-envelope" format whereby the prequalification and bid are submitted at the same time, but in two separate envelopes.
- 4- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and full bidding documents from:

Social Marketing Department
Marie Stopes International,
153-157 Cleveland street,
London
W1P 5PG
Tel: 44 207 574 7400/7372
Fax: 44 207 574 7428
Email: Tracey.Brett@mariestopes.org.uk

All correspondence marked for the attention of Tracey Brett (email preferable)

- 5- Deadline to request documents @ 17h00 GMT Tuesday 29th August 2006 (Document to be sent via email)
- 6- Deadline for submission of bid to Marie Stopes International: @ 17h00 GMT, Friday 13th October 2006

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Improve Your English: 295

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (93)

Wishes for a sister

A sister is bound to a brother by an intangible bond of filial obligation. They mean a lot to each other. Sister is an epitome of supreme, sustainable love and sacrifice that promises to stand all impediments of life.

- Sister! It's not easy to let someone take your credit. You've stood by my side making the path of life easier for me.
- A sister is a love that you never outgrow. No matter where our paths may wind, those childhood days we left behind, are always with me in my heart and mind. You mean so much to me, dear sister!
- 'Sister'... a bond which is combined with love and friendship, too. A comfort of knowing that somebody is there to understand and would always stand by you... it's a bond which is the most loving one, especially when the sister is as special as you.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Shakeer is layer, like his father.
2. For most of the journey there was the clear blue sky.
3. Can you shut a door after you, please?
4. When I was young, I used to collect some stamps as a hobby.
5. For some reasons, Tawfeek doesn't want to come on holiday with us.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Who's coming to your party?
2. She bought me a box of chocolates for my birthday. (A 'chocolate box' means a box designed for putting chocolates in)
3. There have been three break-ins this street this month.
4. I hope to go on to study for an M. A. in Applied Linguistics.
5. Have you got a pen you could lend me?

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Hand over a fugitive foreign criminal to the proper authorities of his own country.
2. Lecturers from outside a university.
3. Perception of events without the use of senses.
4. Going beyond what is reasonable in ideas or speech.
5. Operating from the outside.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Explanation of a theory: **exposition** (n)
2. Wipe or rub out words from a book: **expunge** (vt)
3. Brought to a high state of perfection: **exquisite** (adj)
4. Make wrong doings seem less serious by finding out an excuse: **extenuate** (vt)
5. Outward aspects or appearance: **exterior** (adj)

(B) Words often confused

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

1. misappropriate, expropriate
2. extant, extent
3. contemporary, extemporary
4. erosion, corrosion
5. contemptible, contemptuous

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **lateral** (adj) (related to sides): The gardener pruned the lateral branches.
collateral (adj) (secondary or subsidiary): I need to produce collateral security to get the loan.
2. **brisk** (adj) (active; lively; quick-moving): I took brisk steps to catch up with my friend.
brusque (adj) (rough and abrupt speech or behavior): Everyone is displeased with him for his brusque manners.
3. **expedition** (n) (journey or voyage for a definite purpose): The expedition to explore Antarctica was very productive.
expeditious (adj) (acting quickly): We are looking forward to an expeditious disposal of the matter.
4. **expose** (vt) (uncover): Don't expose yourself to nuclear radiation.
exposé (n) (orderly setting out or précis of a body of facts): The fact-finding committee's exposé of the malpractices shocked everyone present.
5. **expound** (vt) (explain, make clear): The speaker brilliantly expounded the complex scientific theory.
impound (vt) (take possession of by law or authority): The culprit's passport was impounded.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one

given at the top

1. **ameliorate**
a. to make better
b. to improve
c. to grow better
d. higher
2. **annihilate**
a. reduce
b. to put out of existence
c. to crush by word
d. to wither by look
3. **anomaly**
a. irregularity
b. deviation from the rule
c. incongruous
d. an oddity
4. **arrant**
a. downright
b. mitigated
c. out-and-out
d. notorious
5. **askance**
a. awry
b. obliquely
c. to look with suspicion
d. disapprobation

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. admonition | reproof |
| 2. adumbrate | to give a faint shadow of |
| 3. agrarian | relating to land |
| 4. alight | to dismount |
| 5. ambient | surrounding |

(ii) Antonyms

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

1. **cryptic**
a. wail
b. manifest
c. underground
d. rude
2. **contemptible**
a. foolish
b. unworthy
c. dull
d. likeable
3. **distinguished**
a. ordinary
b. marked
c. confused
d. straightened
4. **disparage**
a. eject
b. appreciate
c. compare
d. jump
5. **dissipate**
a. upgrade
b. lavish
c. spit
d. economize

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. benign | malignant |
| 2. credulous | unbelieving |
| 3. curb | incite |
| 4. conservative | iconoclast |
| 5. compliant | recalcitrant |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

1. a. grammar
b. grammar
c. grammer
d. gramer
2. a. heterogeneous
b. hetrogenous
c. heterogineous
d. heterogenous
3. a. humorous
b. humourous
c. humorus
d. humourous
4. a. harrasment
b. harrasment
c. harrassment
d. harassment
5. a. imitat
b. imitate
c. iminitate
d. imit

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. furniture
2. fermentation
3. fixture
4. financier
5. genealogy

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. pluck up courage/screw up one's courage
2. teething troubles
3. like a shot
4. hit the hay
5. take a shine to

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **in the bag** (certain): You are most certainly going to get the award. Think that it is in the bag.
2. **put the tin lid on** (something) (to add the last unpleasant detail to something unsatisfactory): The boss hurled all kinds of accusations on Nasry and put the tin lid on his chance of a promotion.
3. **hang on like grim death** (to take a very firm hold on something in a difficult situation): The drowning man was hanging on like grim death as the rescuers were trying their best to save him.
4. **one good turn deserves another** (if someone does one a favor one should do that person a favor in return): This is a small token of my appreciation for your nice gesture. After all one good turn deserves another.
5. **dead on one's feet** (totally exhausted): After return from the trip to the mountains I was dead on my feet.

IV. Grammar and Composition

Grammar: Giving and refusing permission

Bassim is staying as a paying guest with a host family in England. Look at what he asks for and match his requests with suitable replies.

1. Would it be all right if I did my homework in the dining room?
 2. Would you mind if I made myself a cup of tea?
 3. Do you mind if I come back quite late this evening?
 4. Is it OK if my parents phone me here?
 5. I was wondering if I could borrow your bicycle tomorrow.
 6. Would it be possible for me to invite some friends over?
- A. No, not at all. We'll let you have a spare key, if you like.
B. Yes, by all means. Do they know the number?
C. Yes, that would be fine, as long as you clean everything away before dinner.
D. Sorry, that's not possible. It's got a puncture.
E. I'm afraid not. We've already got some other people coming over.
F. Of course not. The kettle's just boiled.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Dialogue

Officer: Good afternoon, sir. May I know your name, please?

Peter: Jackson, Peter Jackson. It's on the passport, if you'd care to look.

Officer: No need to be like that, sir. Now where are you coming from?

Peter: From Switzerland

Officer: What's your nationality?

Peter: I'm British. Actually, it says that on the passport, too.

Officer: Have you anything to declare?

Peter: No, nothing to declare. Just the 200 cigarettes and a bottle of gin.

Officer: Did you pack everything yourself?

Peter: Yes, I packed everything myself.

Officer: Can I check the suitcase?

Peter: Yes, of course you can, but you won't find anything.

Officer: What are there in those bottles?

Peter: In those bottles? Um... er... I think those six bottles have got...

Officer: Why didn't you declare them?

Peter: I didn't declare them because ...

The customs officer's questions in reported speech

- a. The officer asked him what his name was.
- b. He wanted to know where the passenger came from.
- c. Then he asked what his (passenger's) nationality was.
- d. He asked if he had anything to declare.
- e. He wondered if the passenger packed everything himself.
- f. He asked whether he could check the suitcase.
- g. He wanted to know what were there in those bottles.
- h. He demanded why he (passenger) didn't declare them.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

113: THOSE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES SHOULD NOT THROW STONES AT OTHERS

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

112: FORTUNE FAVORS THE BRAVE

"Doing is the mother of success." Success doesn't come easy. One has to strive hard to achieve it. One should never accept mediocrity and relentlessly be engaged in the pursuit of faultless brilliance. It is rightly said, "patience and forbearance can overcome mountains." There is no substitute to hard work. Excellence knows no time clock. One should be wary of negative energy in all one's endeavors because negative energy is counter productive. Creative thinking, planning and working towards the goal lead one on the path of success. Therefore, one should work harder and smarter. One should aim high, because one normally hits what one aims for. Dame fortune smiles upon a bold and brave entrepreneur. Such a personality need not run after success, rather success runs after a bold enterprising, insightful and foresighted individual.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Those whom Allah willeth to guide, - He openeth their breast to Islam" S6:A125

VI. Food for Thoughts

"Hope is a waking dream."

—Aristotle

The need for literature in a language course



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Language, as we know, is a tool for communication. This becomes more so, when it happens to be a foreign language. Not many learn a foreign language for the purpose of enjoying its literature. Enjoyment of literature for them is nothing but incidental. On the other hand, a vast majority of the people learn a foreign language for the purpose of communication. They primarily learn it as a tool of communication. Their main objective is to be successful communicators in the foreign language. They naturally aim at mastering the four skills of language (LSRW), so that they can effectively establish contacts with others and interact with them as successfully as they can. Similarly, no government that invests so much of funds, man power and man hours on foreign language teaching would ever expect their children to be excellent scholars in the foreign language literature, just appreciating and adoring it. What they reasonably expect of their children is to learn the language well, so that their services can be gainfully utilized in furthering the interest of the country vis-a-vis the world outside. However, this does not mean that literature has no place in a foreign language course. Honestly speaking, it would be unwise to banish literature completely from a language course. On the contrary it would be prudent if we can use literature in teaching language in an FL situation.

The need for literature

There are several reasons justifying the inclusion of literature in a foreign language course. First of all, literature is sweet and enjoyable. It has universal appeal and it directly touches the learner's heart. Because of its strong appealing quality, literature finds a permanent place in the memory of the learner. Hence, literature is considered to be a fit medium for language teaching. Besides, there are a host of experts who are of the opinion that for effective foreign language teaching and learning there should be proper integration between language and literature. For instance, Carter (1996) unequivocally argues that in the teaching of a foreign language "opportunities should be sought for extensive and integrated study of language and literature". Similarly, Widdowson (1996) suggests that the teaching of literature should be "coordinated (at present so often undertaken in mutual isolation) in a way which should be beneficial to both." Weber (1996) in his editorial pages often harps upon the same note when he comments that the current trend is to "work towards the integration of language and literature along the lines suggested by the British Council". Lastly, Maley (1990) makes a similar comment when he suggests that "literary texts should be used as

language teaching resources rather than as objects of literary study as such".

Apart from the general observations made above, literature has certain specific uses in a foreign language teaching course. To begin with, the vital skill of guessing the meaning of an unfamiliar vocabulary item from the context can be easily developed with the help of literature. Any literary text whether prose or poem, provides the learners with a rich context and adequate clues to guess the meaning of new words from. Secondly, in a literary text words frequently occur in related groups. These group of words which are semantically related not only contribute to a better understanding of the text but also facilitate register based teaching of vocabulary items. Thirdly, literature can play a crucial role in the acquisition of syntax and parameter fixing. As is frequently suggested by Chomsky, parameter fixing including acquisition of syntax relies more on "crucial data" rather than on repeated exposure. This "crucial data" is to a great extent provided by literature. For example, let us take the famous line of John Keats: "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever". As students of literature all of us have learnt and remembered this line. But how many of us realize that along with this line we have, in effect, internalized a special syntactic device meant for focussing? This is the beauty of literature. Children can learn the rules of grammar, but without being aware of the fact that they are learning the rules. Last, but not the least, the four basic skills of language, i.e. LSRW, can be promoted through a literary text. This can be achieved by designing suitable language activities based on the text.

In sum, it is unwise to cast literature away as useless. On the contrary, literature, should be gainfully used in foreign language teaching.

Promoting Language Content and Skills through a Shakespearean Sonnet

For the purpose of language teaching and learning, a simple Shakespearean sonnet is selected for analysis and discussion. The sonnet opens with the line "Not marble, nor gilded monuments". However, our objective here is not to provide rigorous and elaborate vocabulary and grammar practice to the learners through this poem, but to sensitize them to the typical grammatical and vocabulary items effectively and gainfully used by the poet in this poem. The discussion in this section is done under four heads: (i) the overall message of the poem; (ii) the key vocabulary items used in the poem; (iii) the dominant points of the grammar employed; and (iv) the language skills to be promoted.

The overall message of the poem

The poem is about keeping the memory alive and thus conferring the status of immortality to a person who is loved and / or respected. Towards this end, the poet chooses the medium of rhyme, whereas a mason turns to sculpture. It is argued in this poem that the marble or gilded monuments created by the sculptor in honor of powerful rulers do not survive the test of time and are subject to decay and destruction. In contrast, the work of art created by the poet in honor of a loved one survives the test of time and in the work the loved one continues to live for ever.

Continued on page 2

ELT Panorama

Book Review

Healing Time



Reviewed by: Himansu S. Mohapatra, Professor of English, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.

Anyone wanting to sample the pleasures of contemporary Indian English poetry will be glad they laid their eyes on the sleekly-produced *Ninety-Nine Words*. The editor has not clued his readers about the intriguing number, but the impressive listing of 139 poems by 29 poets shows the vibrancy and the diversity of this little Indian tradition which has made English its inalienable medium.

The book has put together an interesting mix of 'fresh, veteran, male, female, native and diaspora.' There are poems here about nature, cityscapes, home, memory, guilt, love, pain and sundry other subjects, displaying a freshness of perception (Bibhu Padhi, Rabi Swain) and a richness of speech (Surendran, Thail) typical of the young, and the

sureness of touch characteristic of the seasoned players (Mahapatra, Daruwalla, Chitre). That creativity is no respecter of years is evidenced by the fact that some older poets in this volume come through as merely skilled, while some younger ones shine forth as truly gifted. And it sure beats one why the maximum cap of six poems per poet should have been raised to ten in the case of one poet whose poems seem more contrived than crafted.

There is this other interesting pattern to consider, on another level. The male poets style themselves as healers of alienated states of mind. The female writers, writing through the body, set themselves up as healers, or, to use Jhumpa Lahiri's expression, interpreters of maladies.

Surely this is as it should be in a society where gender relations are still exploitative and hierarchical. Not tethered to petty domesticities and mundane chores in this unequal order, men are perhaps wont to wax philosophical about their angst and privileged loneliness. Women experience their world very differently; especially with the use of their bodies as a filter. "A Somnabulist's Walk" by Ananth gives it a representative, and yet, hauntingly poignant expression. The poem starts off by gathering the details of the so-called blessed married state,

*She moves
From cook-stove to
A hotter grove -*

*A room with the bed
For a brief or brutal bed creaks
A nonchalant repetition of act.*

before exploding into its final revelatory comment:

*Yet primitive institution holds
A tight-lipped resignation
...
revealing and unfolding
the monotonous process of
being a woman of a
non-descript
indifferent
chauvinistic
dominant
ravenous
apathetic
hyper-sexual
male.*

Not that there is no floor crossing between the male and the female positions. A poem called "Family Portrait" seethes with an internal anger at the macho role that a provincial patriarchal culture fosters:

*While I grew up
To be a raging bull
Gone berserk in the street.*

Likewise, "Living Alone" by Arundhati Subramaniam trespasses into the privileged male domain of solitary

contemplation, but only in order to stress the importance of the recovery of self from its dominion by others.

*Living alone
Is about learning
...
of vacant mind
recovered after years of subletting.*

The book also participates in the contemporary moment by playing off a post-modern view of the poet as a dabbler in empty signs cut loose from their moorings (Hoskote's "Interpreter", Pinto's "ALT-CTRL-DLT") against a pre-modern, and hence post-colonially usable, view of the poet as a sharer in the regenerative cycles of life and community. (Ananth, Anita Nair, Subramaniam, K. Sriyata, Manu Dash, Rajeevan). Its roping in of the voices from the Indian diaspora gives the book the requisite dash of novelty, be it in the form of Sudeep Sen's cosmopolitanism ("Woman with Amphora"), Tabish Khair's tantalizingly subtle unpeeling of normality ("Durkheim") or of Vikram Seth's playful flaunting of his bisexuality ("Dubious").

A fine volume overall, *Ninety-Nine Words* ushers in the healing time.

Ninety-Nine Words. Edited by Manu Dash. Rayagada: Panchabati Publications, 2006, pp. 190, Rs. 350.

Language and gender



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Males and females use the same language in the same community, but they have some differences in respect of the language they speak. The linguistic forms used by women and men contrast to different degrees in all speech communities. It's

claimed that women are more linguistically polite than men.

Women and men in general share language, but particular linguistic features occur only in women's speech or only in the men's speech. These features constitute usually small differences in pronunciation or word-shapes. Among -the Gros Ventre American tribe, the women say [kja tsa] for 'bread', but the men say [dga tsa] for the same thing. In this community, if a person uses the other sex's word, the members of this community will laugh at him/her and consider him /her bisexual. The same thing happens in some places in Yemen, men say 'ana' which means 'I' while the women say 'ani' for 'I'. If a woman uses the word of the man, people will laugh at her although 'ana' is used for both in standard Arabic.

The word-shape in some languages contrast because women and men use different affixes. For instance, in Yana language some words used among men are longer than the equivalents by women. Men add the suffix 'na', i.e. women say 'ba' for 'dear' whereas men say 'ba-na' for the same word.

In some communities the differences between men's speech and women's speech happen when one of the pairs dominates the other. In Bengali society, the wife doesn't call her husband with his first name, but she addresses him with a term such as 'suncho' which means 'do you hear?'. The difference between men's speech and women's speech reflects the social role of man and woman. For instance, men in Yemen use formal style and standard Arabic more than women. The reason is that men stay

most of the time in official places with important persons, whereas most of women in Yemen stay at homes and interact with children. The result is these women use Yemeni dialects and informal style more often.

Some say women's language is less powerful than men's language. The reason is that in some communities women consider themselves less than the men in most of life's aspects. We notice that, the man often interrupts more than the woman. Men in our society are the first to give orders, advice, demands, commands and requests more than women in particular when they are in the same situation and this is a part of our culture. This is because of the biological make up of the two sexes, and circumstances of growing up. Girls usually grow up in groups in which heavy emphasis is placed on sympathy and emotion.

A letter to the teachers of English: 111 Conversation skills Ismail and the Indian teacher



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Ismail: Hello Doctor Durai, How are you?

Durai: Fine, thank you, Ismail. How are you? How is your father now? Did you visit him recently?

Ismail: Yes, doctor. I went home last Friday. My father is better now. Thanks.

Durai: Oh, It's alright. You said that your town is an old one, didn't you?

Ismail: Yes. It is an ancient one with several monuments, but unfortunately, not much attention is paid to it. It can be one of the tourist attractions, if it is developed.

Durai: What is the name of the town? Ismail: Thailsoofil. It is about 40 kms from Ibb, at the foot of Ta'akar Mountains. It is a beautiful town in a valley.

Durai: You're making it more attractive with your description of your town. Ismail: It's really a town worth visiting. It's mentioned as one of the important places by Yemeni historians. In olden times, it was a popular educational center too. There are many water sources in and around the town. The town has a lot of fertile land around it.

Durai: I see. Are there any springs there? Ismail: Not one, several. One of them is Almanbi. It never dries

Durai: How long ago? Ismail: They were built during the reign of Rasoli kings, it is said. Why don't you come to my town one day with me? You will enjoy your visit, doctor.

Durai: I will, Ismail, probably during the Eid holidays, Insha Allah. Ismail: Insha Allah. You are welcome, doctor.

up and gives us water all the year. And we have Wadi Dhaba, which collects rainwater for us to use for agriculture.

Durai: What else, Ismail?

Ismail: The town has natural forts in the mountains surrounding it. It should have protected the town against enemies those days. The mosque at the centre of the town adds beauty to it. The weekly market brings all the villagers to the town with their produce.

Durai: Say something about the mosque, Ismail.

Ismail: The mosque is about 1500 years old, resembling the one in Ibb. The minarets are built with bricks with out much decoration and the walls are plastered with mud. The domes are built with water-resistant qadad, a cement-like substance. There is a beautiful platform near the mihrab, made of strong wood.

Durai: You said that the minaret is made of bricks.

Ismail: Yes. It is very beautiful to look at, though simple. It has an octave base, above which a cylindrical part and above which an octave part. It's so beautiful, doctor.

Durai: Is that the only mosque in the town?

Ismail: No. There are other mosques such as Alsied mosque and women tomb. Another attraction is the old schools built long, long ago.

Durai: How long ago?

Ismail: They were built during the reign of Rasoli kings, it is said. Why don't you come to my town one day with me? You will enjoy your visit, doctor.

Durai: I will, Ismail, probably during the Eid holidays, Insha Allah.

Ismail: Insha Allah. You are welcome, doctor.

**Think before your action,
lest you suffer**

Gender is shown also in using words. Many languages have gender like Arabic and French. In fact, English is more flexible than several languages in the world. Most of the words are used for both men and women, but gender is clear in some vocabularies, such as, 'horse - mare',

'lion - lioness', 'headmaster- headmistress', 'an actor - an actress', etc.

Thus, men and women don't use completely different forms, but they use different quantities or frequencies of the same forms. If a society treats women as unequal, then language will alter.

Continued from page 1

The need for literature in a language course

Key vocabulary items used in the poem

In order to convey the message and to show the basic difference between the two forms of art, the poet chooses and employs naming words and expressions belonging to four different fields. The fields cover the field of sculpture illustrated by "marble", "monuments", "statues", "stone", "the work of masonry", "princes", etc., poetry (illustrated by "rhyme", "powerful contents", "the living record of your memory", "lovers' eyes" etc.), forces of destruction (illustrated by "war", "broils", "Mars", "war's quick fire", "death", "enmity", "sluttish time", etc.) and the field of religion (illustrated by "doom", "judgment", "arise", etc.). The inter-play among these fields not only brings out the overall message of the poem but also lends a religious overtone to it.

From language teaching point of view the learners should be sensitized to the semantic relatedness of the words and expressions belonging to each group and also how they contribute to the totality of the meaning conveyed by the poem. Secondly, this semantic grouping will also help the learners to guess the meaning of unfamiliar expressions from the context of each group. For example, it will not be difficult for them to guess the meaning of "monuments" from words like "statues", "stone" and "princes".

Similarly, the action words and expressions employed in this poem belong to two groups: life sustaining group and life destroying group. The former includes expressions like "out-live, shine more brightly, pace forth, find room, arise, live and dwell". In contrast, the latter set has expressions like "overturn, root out, burn and besmeared". What is significant to note here is that the latter expressions are all associated with the work of the sculptor, which are subject to decay and destruction over time. On the other hand, the former expressions stand for life and its continuance and are all related to the poetic art form.

Lastly, it may be noted that the poet in this poem uses adjectives quite effectively and purposefully. The study of the adjectives reveals how beautiful things turn ugly with the passage of time. For example, the "gilded" monuments of powerful princes, with the passage of time, are left "unswept" and forgotten and in the long run turn "besmeared" (oily) and "sluttish" (dirty). In contrast, a rhyme, the artistic creation of the poet, remains "powerful", shines "more bright", and ultimately becomes a "living record" in the lovers' eyes.

To sum up the vocabulary section, it may be said that even a short poem like this one presents ample scope for vocabulary teaching. However, learners' attention may be drawn to the use

of these vocabulary items mentioned above through appropriate language activities.

Key grammatical items employed

The most striking grammatical structure that has been repeatedly employed in this poem is the use of the modal "shall" with third person and second person nouns and pronouns in the subject position. Such conjugation of "shall" with 3/2 person subjects does not come under normal use of English. Only when the speaker wants to convey a strong sense of determination and intention, he adopts this kind of grammatical strategy. Throughout the length and breadth of this poem except the concluding lines the poet goes on repeating the use of "shall" and by this he gives expression to his intention of according the status of immortality to the addressee in the poem. But in the concluding lines the poet switches over to the simple present (e.g. "you live... and dwell ...") and thereby accords permanent existence and immortality to the addressee. The contrast between the use of "shall" and the use of "simple present" is most likely related to the contrast between the stage of intention and the stage of completion. Only in the concluding line, the poet's intention turns into an actual realization.

Although the "shall" and "simple present" contrast is a fit subject for

language teaching and practice, it is, however, not advisable to have elaborate and varied teaching and practice exercises on this point as overt grammar teaching is not our goal in teaching poems. On the contrary, what is suggested is that the attention of the learners should be drawn to the contrast. It is hoped that this will enable the learners to understand the contrast and thus facilitate the process of internalization of the rules involved without the need for repeated practice.

Language skills to be promoted

A poem readily lends itself for listening and speech practice. As a rule, poems are musical and sweet to hear. Hence, the poem to be taught should be recorded and then played for the benefit of the learners. The learners may be encouraged to listen to the recording as many times as possible. This will not only give them a feel of the music present in the poem but also provide them the much needed exposure to the sounds of the target language. For this purpose, the poem that has been discussed above is a good sample. It is rich in rhythm and rhyming.

Next, speech practice may follow listening practice. We should let the learners recite the poem in chorus, then in groups and at last individually. This will enable them to have practice with the target language sounds in a meaningful manner.

Also, speaking practices can be ensured by engaging the learners in a discussion in the class. After they have learnt the poem and got the overall message, they may be asked evaluative questions as the following:

Between the poet and the sculptor, who do you like more? And why?

Initially, the learners may be asked to find justifications for their answers from within the text. And, at the next step, they may be allowed to seek justifications from outside the text. This will encourage natural and spontaneous speaking in the class.

It is not that only listening and speaking can be promoted with the help of a poem. Reading and writing can also be promoted. However, for obvious reasons the latter two skills have not been touched upon in his paper.

Conclusion

To conclude, we may say that literature is a fit subject for the purpose of language teaching. It may be exploited both for content teaching and skills promotion. However, adequate attention should be paid to proper text selection. If the text is beyond the level of comprehension of the learners, then the purpose of language teaching will also get defeated. Therefore, the text should be simple and interesting in keeping with the level of proficiency of the learners.

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Revival of poetic drama: T. S. Eliot's contribution to the genre

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T. S. Eliot (1888 – 1965) is a critic and poet-dramatist who significantly influenced the English literary history in the second half of the twentieth century, and contributed particularly to the revival of English poetic drama. Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri in the United States of America. He was educated at Smith Academy in St. Louis and graduated from Harvard University. He traveled to England in 1914 where he wrote his early poetry such as "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock".

Eliot's reputation as a poet widely spread after the publication of his famous long poem, *The Waste Land* in 1922. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1948. He wrote poetry and critical essays and reviews before turning to poetic drama. After writing the two fragments of *Sweeney Agonistes* in 1932, he became more interested in poetic drama as a means for making poetry public. He wrote several essays which expressed his interest and concern with poetic drama.

Some of these essays are "Poetry and Drama", "A Dialogue on Dramatic Poetry", "The Need for Poetic Drama", "The Possibility of a Poetic Drama", "The Three Voices of Poetry", "Rhetoric and poetic Drama". Eliot appeared as a major supporter of poetic plays for which he made satisfactory argument at several places in his criticism. He, therefore, started attempting to generate a new kind of theatre. Through his criticism on poetic drama and his plays, Eliot has provided evidence that poetic drama is both possible and useful in the modern age.

This study is an analysis of one important aspect in T. S. Eliot's complex development as a playwright and attempts to show the importance of the plays which form a part of his total literary corpus. The study is an attempt to trace the growth and development of poetic drama and to explore the major contribution of T. S. Eliot in its revival in the twentieth century with special reference to his plays: *Sweeney Agonistes*, *The Rock*, *Murder in the Cathedral*, *The Family Reunion*, *The Cocktail Party*, *The Confidential Clerk*, and *The Elder Statesman*.

This dissertation is divided into six chapters. The first chapter gives a definition and explanation to the meaning of poetic drama among other literary genres as a mode of expression, which depends mostly on spoken communication and gesticulation of certain characters. It is a story to be presented through performance and also it can be a written play to be read. Poetic drama has two main functions: to instruct and, at the same time, to entertain. Drama underlines the most tragic and the most comic moments of our lives; it symbolizes life in all its magnificence and depression. It is one of the most popular and enthralling of the literary forms.

Poetic drama is the drama which uses poetry as its means where feelings and emotions can be expressed in verse more

suitably than in any other way. Poetry is more concerned, as Eliot believes, with the intelligibility and clarity of feelings and emotions. Poetic drama expresses the real meaning and spirit of life. It is capable of expressing the voice of the soul. It is also capable of stirring the heart and liberating the soul as it stimulates the imagination of the spectators.

This chapter also traces the development of poetic drama ever since its very beginning. It sheds light on the ancient Greek drama and some of its pioneers who significantly contributed to the development of poetic drama. It traces the growth of English drama ever since the tenth century as a religious rite and ritual to be performed inside the church. It then moves on to the Renaissance, which is estimated to be the greatest age of literature in England. This age witnessed a remarkable revival of drama in general, and poetic drama in particular, by some verse dramatists such as Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, John Lyly, George Peele, Norton, Robert Greene, Thomas Kyd, and several others who used blank verse for their verse plays.

Poetic drama declined during the Puritan age in the seventeenth century and also in the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, there were attempts to infuse life into poetic drama by several poets of the period but none of them could achieve success because those poets went back to Shakespearean blank verse which had become unacceptable and old fashioned. The chapter is concluded with a brief explanation on some playwrights before T. S. Eliot who paved the way for the coming of Eliot on the scene.

The second chapter concentrates on Eliot's theories on the possibility of writing poetic plays which deals with modern themes, characters and language. Many critics have said that poetry and drama are two separate modes of literary expression whereas Eliot seems to believe that poetry and drama are unified and they bear closely upon one another. According to Eliot, poetry is integral to drama, not incidental. In his opinion, poetry and drama constitute parts of a unity and they are essentially unified modes of literary expression. Eliot was preoccupied by the desire to recapture the glory of poetic drama of the past but with new conventions.

Eliot desired to write drama in verse but the verse should be modern and natural to the ear of the listeners and, at the same time, this verse should be meaningful and dramatically justified. Poetry in drama has to justify itself dramatically, he suggested unambiguously. He wanted the verse drama to bear a kind of rhythm that echoed the normal twentieth century speech. He did not want it to imitate the old Shakespearean blank verse but free verse which can merge with the modern language.

The chapter is concluded with a concise comparative summary of some contemporary verse-dramatists such as Yeats, Auden, Fry, and Isherwood to give an idea about their involvement with poetic drama in the twentieth century. W. B.

Yeats significantly contributed to the foundation of the Abbey Theatre in Ireland. He attempted several verse plays but he could not reach great success as a dramatist because he wanted the theatre to be limited for certain audiences only.

Christopher Fry is as eminent a literary figure as Yeats but unlike Yeats, he worked towards the development of commercial theatre. His plays are rich with linguistic devices and are remarkable for new combinations of words, epigrams, rhyme, puns etc. The poetry is copious, abundant and rich to the degree that some of his plays are loquacious and verbose where sometimes poetry violates dramatic action and rhythm is sometimes undramatic. W. H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood collaborated in producing significant modern poetic plays. In their three poetic plays they used themes of political nature. They were influenced by Eliot and his poetic plays but they did not achieve a remarkable reputation because they wrote few plays. As such the plays of Auden and Isherwood can be evaluated as experiments in poetic drama.

The third chapter sheds light on how Eliot employs poetry into his five plays. An independent assessment is given to his plays starting from *Murder in the Cathedral* to *The Elder Statesman* as complete verse plays. Eliot, as he said in his critical writings, was preoccupied with writing poetry in modern language. In writing *Murder in the Cathedral*, he used a historical and religious theme but he made his poetry modern.

Murder in the Cathedral, is written with a variety of metres in addition to two extended fractions of prose. The quarrel between Becket and the Knights is written in rhymed doggerel and four stress rhyming verse for the Templars who dramatize the progress of Becket's internal quarrel. There is free verse for conversation with the Priests and Chorus. It is with the Chorus that Eliot is poetically most successful. Eliot, in this play, used an amalgamation of long and short lines with any number of unstressed syllables.

In *The Family Reunion*, Eliot moved a step towards writing a modern story with modern theme and characters. He was greatly concerned with versification. He sought to discover, for this play, a rhythm as close as possible to the contemporary speech where stress can be put wherever it is accepted. The verse of *The Family Reunion* is sufficiently flexible and can well express the rhythm of everyday conversation although it also sounds like contemplative speech.

With the passage of time, Eliot came closer to his objective of writing modern, meaningful, and understandable verse in his plays. The verse of the last three plays that he wrote has the ability to express all kinds of moods and emotions. He chose verse lines, which differed in the number of syllables and also in length. He used verse lines that had caesura and three stresses. The caesura as well as the stresses could occur almost anywhere in the line. The stresses could be together or well separated by unstressed syllables, but a stress on one side of the caesura and the other two on the other side.

The chapter is ended with a concise study of his two early dramatic works, *Sweeney Agonistes* (1932) and *The Rock* (1934) as experimental plays. These two plays are tentative and experimental plays that Eliot wrote before writing mature verse plays because they were Eliot's first attempts, and they lacked in suitable dramatic speech. However, so far as Eliot is concerned, it is with these two incomplete plays that a foundation stone for his more mature poetic plays was established.

The fourth chapter deals with the historical tragedy of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was slaughtered inside his cathedral of Canterbury by four knights sent by King Henry III after a dispute and quarrel between Thomas Becket who stood for the church and King Henry III who wanted to control the two powers of the church and the state. Thomas Becket was a close friend of King Henry III and was appointed the Chancellor of King Henry. In his youth, he lived a luxurious life. Then King Henry appointed Thomas as the Archbishop of Canterbury but Thomas refused to accept both chairs and resigned the chancellorship.

As an Archbishop, Thomas got distant from the king. He went against the king and refused to obey him. In order to secure himself, Thomas escaped to France to get shelter and protection. After seven years of exile in France, Thomas Becket returned home in a sort of pretentious truce with the king. Inside the cathedral, Thomas encounters four tempters individually to induce him to work again under the king's order. The greatest temptation is the fourth one which urges him to go on fighting the king to get martyrdom and to be worshiped even after his death. But he defeats them all through his strong resistance to the temptations.

The Archbishop Thomas, in the sermon of the Interlude, enlightens the audiences that a martyr is expected in the near future to sacrifice himself. The second part of the play sheds light on the action of murder. Four knights come to execute their duty. After a long debate full of abuse and swear from the side of knights, the Archbishop, who defended himself as a person of God to be selected to sacrifice himself for the sins of wrong doers, rebut their accusation.

The priests try to persuade him to hide himself from danger but he satisfactorily informs the priests that he is not afraid of death if he deserves it. The knights come in drunken accusing him of being traitor to the king and attack him to death. At the same time, Thomas faces their attack like a lion without fear. Thomas is murdered in his cathedral and the knights direct their last speech to the audiences in order to convince them that Thomas compelled them to kill him. They say that Thomas had the chance to evade them but he refused in a challenging way. The play shows the ingenuity of Eliot to write neutral verse, neither old nor new in order to make the audiences live the situation. The play also proves the ability of Eliot in retrieving the use of the chorus, as an old Greek technique, in contemporary language.

The fifth chapter consists of an analytical study for the two plays, *The Family Reunion* and *The Cocktail Party* as contemporary plays of themes, setting, and characters. *The Family Reunion* (1939) is about the sin of parents and expiation by their successors. Harry Monchensey, the hero, returns home in an expected arrival after a long travel. His mother, Amy arranges for his return to celebrate her birthday. Harry discovers that he is pursued by The Furies – three goddesses who punish people for their crimes. In a bad mood, he tells his mother, aunts, uncles, and Mary, who attend to receive him and share Amy's birthday, that he may have pushed his wife to the sea.

Harry suffers an obsessive guilt but he does not know the reason for that. He investigates the matter and asks for the help of his aunt, Agatha, who uncovers the hidden secret of his father with Agatha and the dispute between his parents and also his mother's domination. He, then, realizes the reason for his misery that it is not his own sin or guilt but ancestral sin of parents. As a Christian, Eliot believes that sins are carried by children since Adam and Eve. Harry, subsequently, decides to repent and atone the family sin by pursuing The Furies who are changed into Eumenides – white angels. Harry leaves his family after three hours of his arrival which leads to his mother's death.

The Cocktail Party (1949) is also based on a modern theme. It deals with husband-wife mutual misunderstanding. It tells the story of Edward Chamberlayne, his wife Lavinia, and their friends – Celia, Peter, Julia, Alex and the psychiatrist Sir Henry Harcourt Reilly who is first known as the Unidentified Guest. The play shows the misunderstanding of love and family relationship. The first act elucidates the perplexity and disappointment of Edward when his wife, Lavinia, organizes a party for the friends of the family and leaves him without notifying him about where or when she was going. He makes believe that Lavinia has gone to visit her unwell aunt in the country. After all friends leave except the Unidentified Guest, Edward tells him the truth that his wife has left him unexpectedly. The Unidentified Guest informs him that he can help in returning his wife.

The second act displays the reason of Lavinia's disappearance with the assistance of the psychiatrist Sir Henry Reilly, Julia, and Alex. Sir Henry plans with Julia and Alex to orchestrate an encounter between the husband and wife in Sir Henry's clinic without their knowledge of such plan. In the meeting, the audiences are informed of the secret illegal love of the friends that Celia loves Edward, his wife, Lavinia loves Peter, but Peter loves Celia and nobody loves Lavinia. The psychiatrist Sir Henry advises both Edward and his wife, Lavinia to try and start a new life again and try to understand each other because they are fit for each other.

In a separate encounter with Celia, the doctor Sir Henry guides her to lead a new life of her choice. He chooses to join a charitable expedition as volunteer nurse-sister in Kinkanja, a rural poor area where

she is crucified. On the other hand, Peter travels to The United States to attain his dream as a film maker. The play is concluded with a cocktail party with the attendance of all friends except Celia. But the atmosphere is different where the party expresses the happiness that appears from the conversation between Edward and his wife, Lavinia.

The sixth chapter studies the last two plays, *The Confidential Clerk* (1953) and *The Elder Statesman* (1958). They are both modern stories. *The Confidential Clerk* deals with the story of mislaid children, searching parents, and mistaken identities. The financier Sir Claude Mulhammer attempts to fabricate a plan to seduce his childless wife, Lady Elizabeth to adopt Colby, an illegitimate son of him. Sir Claude appoints Colby as his confidential secretary. In the second act, Lady Elizabeth pretends that Colby is her own mislaid son. Sir Claude find no other option except telling her that Colby is his son and he kept it secret because he did not want to hurt her feeling of being childless. They decide to invite Mrs Guzzard to reveal the ambiguity of Colby's identity. Mrs. Guzzard confirms them that Colby is neither the son of Lady Elizabeth nor Sir Claude but her own son. After knowing that he is the son of the poor organist Mr. Guzzard, Colby leaves Sir Claude and Lady Elizabeth to live with the retired former confidential secretary, Eggeron and work, like his father, as an organist.

The last verse play of Eliot, *The Elder Statesman* tells the story of the newly retired Lord Claverton who encounters with two characters of his past. He prevails over them by his confession to his daughter about his past. Lord Claverton is accompanied by his daughter Monica to Badgley Court, a relaxation nursing home. Fredrico Gomez and Mrs. Carghill, the two people of his past appear and accuse him of ruining their lives. Lord Claverton feels that his life has been an escape from himself and from reality. These two people stand for his worry of time. He is terrified that the world sees him as he really was and for that reason he made departure to Badgley Court. He finally realizes that his relief and happiness can be possible only when he faces his past and admit it. Subsequently he confesses all about his past sins to his daughter, Monica, since she is the only person to take care of him. Finally, Lord Claverton has peace and dies happily.

As such, the study establishes that all of Eliot's plays are important landmarks in the development of poetic drama in the twentieth century. It has been asserted through the thesis that Eliot has greatly contributed to the revival of poetic drama in English. This has been done by laying the background for the study and by proceeding with suitable examples to substantiate the case from chapter to chapter.

This is the abstract of a Thesis submitted to Jamia Millia Islamia for the award of the degree of doctor of philosophy. It was supervised by Prof. Anisur Rahman, Department of English and Modern European Languages, New Delhi 2004.

International conference on Asian American literature: A report

Dr Anil K Prasad of the English Department, Ibb University and his wife Dr (Mrs) Jyotsana K Prasad were invited to attend the International Conference on Asian American Literature held in Beijing on May 27-29 2006. The Conference was jointly organized by St. Thomas University, Florida, USA and Beijing Foreign Studies University, China in which participants from about 46 universities from all over the world presented their papers. Dr Prasad's paper entitled "Interpreting Immigrant Experience: Asian American Tales of the Enigma of Arrival and Survival" analyses the works Asian American writers and argues for a comparative study of their works for the reason that despite a shared experience the cultural realities represented in their works differ greatly and their discursive formations take the shape of a separate identity of genre which he prefers to call the "Narratives of relocation." Dr Prasad is working on a book *Narratives of Relocation: Writings of Home from Exile* and Mrs Prasad has recently finished the manuscript of a book in which she has critically analysed some of the famous Indian novels like Nagarjun's *Balchanna*, Mridula Garg's *Anitya*, Krishna Sobti's *Zindagana*, and Bhisma Sahani's *Tamas*. Dr Anil Prasad and Dr Jyotsana Prasad were also invited to read their poems. Their poems are being translated into

Chinese to be published in *New World Poetry*, a bimonthly journal of poetry in Chinese in Los Angeles in September this year. The following poems are chosen from the poems which were read by them at the poetry reading session in the Conference:

I look back and look forward (By: Anil K Prasad)

i walk in the streets
of a foreign land
i have been walking for years
first i was alone then
i walked with my other half and
now i walk with my issue and the
other half
with a sense of fullness
i move and marvel and move ahead
thinking of going home and move
along
in the street towards the market
thinking i must be going home
for my child for it is the issue
of her education that makes me
think so
i am the part of a diaspora
that move for work and for fortune
coming to terms with cultural
differences adjusting but never with
the feeling of quite at home
missing the flavours of home
which I try to find in the TV serials,
radio broadcasts in my language
when crossing borders, flying high
the airhostess smiled for a newspaper
and i immediately catch one from

my country
and keep to read it and reread it
and preserve it for the time when
the
feeling of loneliness pats at my
back
encouraged, immediately i immerse
myself
in the fluidity of the news and
views which
take me for a swim in the native
shore
where sea gulls wait for breaking
news
of a place where I fail to reach
during my annual visits

i swim in the Red Sea
and think of Ganga
I am a double soul
with a double common sense
j'adoube in a play of chess
after crossing the borders
i am one but not one
i am a fractured plain
i am a river split
i am a buffer zone,
a superintendent of my psyche,
a self-counseling psychiatrist,
a consoling conscience -
i am a seeker
of openings and doors -
the travelling god of diaspora
I look back and look forward.

The New Present
(By: Jyotsana K Prasad)
Locked up in the glass-palace



Inaugural ceremony of the conference.

Of the new millennium,
In a state of suffocated anxiety,
A poet of pure, tender emotions
Shudders to hear the sound
Of his own breathing.
His sensations have disappeared
Or are buried in
The measureless embryos of the
deep
Awaiting...
The impending good-morrow.
Today in every nook and corner
Of the world anarchy rules.
The poet who used to be engrossed
In describing the glow of red lips
Is terrified by the flames of fire.
The sensitive one who used to get
drowned

In the kohl of the beautiful eyes
Is shocked to witness the dance
Of savagery.
The bugle of destruction is blown
Sky is stunned by agony, hiccups,
shrieks,
Tears, pain and terror.
killing, killing and killing:
In the surge of tears
People drift and sink
Clothes wet with blood
Hands covered with blood
Holi celebrated with the blood
Of the innocent people:
The poor homes of the poor burning
Flames howling
Burning the poor homes of the
weak

People are celebrating Deepavali.
Searching for warmth
Of a mother's anchal and food
Innocent waifs are begging
From door to door.
The naked dance of savagery:
Contaminated water, polluted environment
Society - emitting the venom of
hatred
Happiness - Peace- Procreation -
Prosperity
Kalptaru - with fruits of growth!
In their own land
People are living a life
Worst than refugees
People are killed everyday
Mourning the living of a life.
Is it the welcome present
Of the new millennium?

Author's note:

Holi: The Indian spring Festival of Colours. "The night before Holi, huge bonfires are lit, symbolizing the destruction of evil" (from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia: 2003).
Deepavali: The Indian Festival of Lights. It celebrates the triumph of light over darkness.
Anchal: The front part of a Sari which stands for a mother's love and care for her child.
Kalptaru: This mythical tree, famed for its uninterrupted bounty, is believed to be in heaven, appeared after the churning of the ocean by Devas and Asuras.

A fresh look at literature-language interface

National seminar on Teaching Language Through Literature, Sana'a University

A two-day National Seminar was organized by the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a, on 28th and 29th of May. The theme of the seminar was **Teaching Language through Literature: Problems and Principles**. More than sixty teachers of English, both Yemeni and foreigners, participated in the Seminar. These participants were from the universities of Hydramouth, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Thamar, Hodeidah and Sana'a. Teachers from distant branches of Sana'a University, like the Faculty of Education, Sada'a, also took an active part in the deliberations of the seminar. The total number of research papers read in the seminar was forty-five. Welcoming the guests, Prof Damodar Thakur, the Chairman of the Department of English, said that the aim of teaching English in universities in Yemen was not to develop in the students a mere sense of faultless mediocrity but to enable them to achieve faultless brilliance in the use of their language. He added that like a dreamer he has been dreaming for the last twenty six years of his service in Sana'a University that the day will come



Dr. Khalid Tamim, President, Sana'a University; and Dr. Wafa Al-Sharjabi, Assistant Professor, Department of English.



Dr. Damodar Thakur, Chairman, Department of English delivering his speech.

when someone, who was his student in Yemen, will speak in a highly respectable international forum like the UNO with so much of vigour and effectiveness that everybody would clap with

a sense of admiration and ask "Who was your teacher of English?" He said that he wanted his students to write and speak not merely in a grammatically correct manner but with an effectiveness which

had a dynamic togetherness of the strength of Abraham Lincoln's speeches, the energy of Martin Luther King's oration, the vitality of Mahatma Gandhi's writings and the aesthetic and spiritual

strength of Khalil Gibran. Dr Mohammed Abdul Aziz Yusr, Dean Faculty of Arts, also welcomed the guests and praised Dr Thakur and his team for the initiative and hard work necessary for this National Seminar. Dr Khalid Abdullah Tamim, President of Sana'a University, was almost lyrical in praising what Dr Thakur had done during the twenty six years of his stay in Sana'a University and expressed his gratitude for all that he was doing. He praised in particular his effort to provide, in the form of a national seminar every year, a forum where teachers from all different universities in Yemen could share their academic viewpoints and identify the positive efforts to be taken for energizing and enlivening the teaching of English in Yemeni Universities. Prof Abdelrahman Abdrabou, the Dean of the Faculty of Languages, praised Dr Thakur and his team for the seminar and for all that he was doing for the Yemeni universities. The inaugural ceremony ended with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr Rawia Al-Kumaim.

The business session of the seminar started with a plenary session by Prof Damodar Thakur, who illustrated how



Dr. Khalid Tamim, President, Sana'a University.

literature could be taught, not with the help of poor paraphrases, but by identifying those crucial words and phrases in a text which constitute the very basis of the literary value of the text.

The business session of seminar continued until late in the afternoon of the 29th and was concluded with a party hosted in Al-Shaibani Restaurant by Dr Khalid Tamim, the President of the University.



L-R: Prof Abdelrahman Abdrabou, Dean, Faculty of Languages; Dr. Khalid Tamim, President, Sana'a University; Dr. Shuga, Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts; Dr. Damodar Thakur, Chairman, Department of English.



Dr. Mohammed Abdelaziz Yusr, Dean, Faculty of Arts addressing the assembly.



L-R: Dr. Mohammed Abdelaziz Yusr, Dean, Faculty of Arts; Prof. Abdelrahman Abdrabou, Dean, Faculty of Languages; Dr. Khalid Tamim, President, Sana'a University; Dr. Shuga, Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts; Dr. Damodar Thakur, Chairman, Department of English.

Poetry Corner

Educating women



Mr. Arif Ahmed Al-Ahdal
MA student
CIEFL, Hyderabad, India

With their silly statement do you ever agree?

The choice is yours, I've nothing to say
But please ask your conscience, am I wrong or are they?
Just introspect, look at the educated ones and those without
The difference you can mark no doubt.

A better wife, a sister and a mother
Or a doctor or a teacher
And to draw between them a comparison
One full of light and the other without vision.

'Educating women is a curse', they say
Thus making them others' easy prey
Educated women when you see

LETTERS TO THE PRESENTER

Dear Dr. Sahu
The write-ups (of Education Supplement No 4) are very interesting and useful. There is a variety. Every issue of the Education supplement reflects your editorial skills. I think it should be published at least

fortnightly.
Thanks and regards,

Dr. Anil Prasad
Faculty of Arts
Taiz University
prasad@y.net.ye

READERS' RESPONSE TO ARTICLES

Dear Dr. Sahu
Education Page No 4 - was very informative, illustrated, valuable and meaningful. The first thing that attracted my attention was the article entitled "Translation as Performance" written by Prof. J.N. Patnaik. As a matter of fact, translation is one of the most important fields in any language. If any country wants to develop and acquire knowledge, it must encourage translation and translators.

The second fabulous article in the May 29th issue was "Images of Taiz" by Dr. Jayashree Mohanraj. Her lyrical description of Taiz and Sabar Mountain clearly tells us that she has great sensibility, open

mind. She is, no doubt a talented person. When I read her verses, I felt that she has lived in Taiz as a Taizian citizen, not an outsider. We the Yemenis, appreciate her good feelings and brilliant views on Yemen as much as the wonderful nature of Taiz. We want her and Dr. Mohanraj to continue writing for Yemen Times so that we can get the benefit from them especially in E.L.T. lessons. Please convey our sincere thanks to them.

With best regards,
T. Mohammed Abdu Khoshafah
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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

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Agent | Compose | Hold | Order | Sick |
| Agree | Contact | Home | Pager | Signal |
| Annul | Date | Hospital | Personal | Speak |
| Asking | Dentist | Hour | Plan | Subscription |
| Beep | Dial | Invite | Police | Survey |
| Birth | Discuss | Jobs | Pool | Talk |
| Boos | Doctor | Late | Press | Tape |
| Busy | Early | Life | Privacy | Teen |
| Buzz | Event | Line | Private | Telemarketing |
| Caller | Family | Lips | Professional | Time |
| Cancel | Fast | Listen | Rate | Toll |
| Cards | Fire | Local | Reach | Tone |
| Cell phone | Friends | Long-distance | Respond | Urgent |
| Chat | From | Luck | Return | Voice |
| Children | Greetings | Morning | Ring | Wait |
| City | Hail | Mother | School | Weep |
| Clinic | Hang-up | Name | Sell | Wife |
| Coin | Hear | Number | Service | Work |
| Collect | Hello | Only | Shop | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Gasoline

IMPORTANT PHONE CALLS

Solution: 11 letters

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

YOUTH FORUM

Until the last breath

As he was lying on the deathbed counting the last moments he had on earth, he nourished his child with milk. Gently, he placed his baby in the small cradle to sleep. He opened his laptop to send a final message to the journals to be spread among the youth. Then he stretched a shivering hand, lit a candle, and touched a glass of water. He was about to drink but he remembered his thirsty plant. Instead, he scattered the water over his small plant that will be watered tomorrow by another person.... During his life he took care of his child, plant, and work, but from now on, others will complete what he started and they will lead their lives without him.

This is life.... It puts us where we are, and drives us towards tomorrow. No one can control destiny. Allah has created us to live in this life as He wanted us to live, and at the same time He made us free to choose our own ways. In this strange paradox lies the secret of His wisdom. No one can guess his fate and no one knows what future is waiting for him. We are in this world as a small boat in the ocean whose destiny is in the hand of weather and luck. But who runs the other, is it we who run this life? Or is it life that drives and brings us to different circumstances on its mystical roads? A deep question

whose answer is a matter of deep perception and introspection.

I think both are right. Yes... life may put people in different places and circumstances. It is also true that we are the ones who run this life. People are the constituents that make up and shape life. People are the essence of life and the secret of existence; and without them, this earth wouldn't exist. So, we run this life and life runs us.

However, we are to do something worthwhile before we die. Man can do a lot for the betterment of others. If a man lives for the sake of people, dies for the sake of people, and spends his youth for the welfare of people, only then... his life would be of value and his death would be an irreparable loss. When sacrifice and good intention become one's soul, every action, every motion, and every breath of his life would be worth mentioning. In the last will, the above mentioned man in the story left, he said, "for others, for a better future, and above all for the sake of Allah, man can do a lot even if he was on the brink of death. Never say it is too late, it is never late. One can change himself as well as others, and he can put a new plant in the soil until his last breath

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Love: Key to happiness

Love is not merely an exchange of passionate glances or exchange of words of love through mobile phones or sitting for long hours, hearing romantic songs. Love is higher, deeper than all these appearances which we take as evidence of love...love is obligation for the sake of benefit of others and our selves. Love plants in a human's soul a positive feeling; always a lover feels responsible towards his or her partner.

A lover does not wait to take but is eager to give his all. So you should remember that love is not weakness but it's willpower, self-confidence and help, support to others. If you want to be happy, you should open the doors of your heart which is the key to happiness.

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