

YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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Inside:



Yemeni rituals for Hajj &



Spanish photographer **Manuel Vilches Benitez** talks to Yemen Times

Traffic accidents kill six, injure 40 daily

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 30 — Over the past two weeks, traffic accidents have killed 43, critically injured 132 and slightly injured 69 others, according to a Ministry of Interior report released late last week.

Additionally, the report noted that such traffic accidents were varied, including 111 crashes, 69 instances involving running over, 28 vehicle rollovers and three instances of vehicles falling down a steep embankment. Accidents resulted from recklessness and vehicular technical faults, with total estimated losses of YR 17.6 million.

Ministry of Interior reports for November revealed that traffic accidents either claimed the lives of or injured more than 1.450 individuals.

Sources told September.net last week that, "There were 780 traffic accidents registered nationwide in November, distributed among car and motorbike crashes, rollovers and incidents involving running over."

The same source went on to say that

Yemen's Major Exporter

of FMCG products. Yemen, Taiz - P.O. Box 5351 Tel: +967 (4) 232727 (10 Lines) these accidents resulted in killing 206 individuals of both sexes and all age groups and seriously injuring 1,250 others, together with massive material losses.

Such accidents primarily were attributed to reckless speed, non-adherence to traffic rules or safety principles and lack of technical maintenance or observation of cars and vehicles.

According to the same source, 6,425 accidents were recorded nationwide between January and November, resulting in the death of 2,180 and injuring 11,000 others, together with material losses estimated at hundreds of millions of Yemeni riyals.

In its report last week, the Ministry of Interior considered traffic accidents among the most dangerous incidents, leaving behind economic, social and health effects. Most individuals have lost a relative, friend or a dear one in such accidents across Yemen; however, one rarely encounters those who've lost friends or relatives due to epidemic diseases like malaria or tuberculosis.

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More than 6 thousand accidents nation wide were reported between January to November this year.

Marshall Stocker: "USA's unconditional support to Israel will not affect American investments in Yemen"

Marshall Stocker is the vice president of World Freedom Select Center. He is an international investor who attended the investment conference in Aden at the beginning of this month. He sees economic reform and fighting corruption as a must in order to encourage Yemeni economy. And that the missing element is a stable economic policy supported by Yemeni businessmen and protected by the government. Abdulwahid Abdullah interviewed him for the Yemen

Is your visit to Yemen planned and The missing ingredient? organized with the U.S Authority within the area?

Our visit was a private sector initiative. Our group, The Center for Global Strategies is not a government organization. We did receive the full cooperation of the US Embassy in Sana'a. We paid our travel expenses personally.

What is your vision about future Yemen in light of the recent events especially the donor's conference held in London?

Seven years into the 21st century and the tremendous economic assets of Yemen remain woefully under-utilized With a friendly citizenry, a desirable geographic location, a natural deepharbor port, an accommodating climate, low-cost labor, and stable political environment, Yemen is an excellent candidate to benefit from an increasingly globalized world economy. Yet, Yemen continues to be beset with low economic growth, socio-economic distress, security problems, and corrup-

A firm policy of economic freedom supported by the business community and defended by the government. Around \$4.7 billion committed at the Donors Conference stands prepared to fund strategic infrastructure development and reforms that will best be complimented by new, free-market economic policies. By endeavoring to become the most free-market country in the region, Yemen will become the iewel of the Arab world and achieve its former status as a center of global com-

Talking free markets, what do you think of Aden's free zone?

The harbour is a critical component of Yemen's future. Most important are broad economic reforms that bring free-markets to Yemen. Only once these reforms have been made, will investors and business begin to invest in and use the Aden port.

U.S.A.'s absolute support to Israel affect future investment in Yemen?

The U.S.-Israel relationship has NO effect on my future investments.

Do you think the existing relative investment laws are enough to attract investors compared with the other countries specially ECC? No. Again, economic policy reforms are needed. These protect private property,

reduce government corruption, lower taxes, and cut burdensome regulations.

Will the existing situation in east Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia) effect the attitude of investing in Yemen?

What are in your opinion is the promised future sectors in Yemen? must study Yemen more. But if Yemen reforms its economic policies,

dramatically Marshall Stocker

investors will figure out which sectors are best without any direction from a government bureaucrat.

Compared with Estonia what u can sav about Yemen?

Estonia once had the same low level of economic freedom that Yemen has today. In less than 10 years, Estonia has become a very economically free country and the results are tremendous. Continued on page 2







Hungary - 'Euromed and the Media' supports training program

Investment in capacity building for Arabic journalists is a worthy cause. There is much potential for change through media in the region and closer cooperation between schools of journalism and training centres in Europe and the Mediterranean region can cut both ways, supporting the development of civil society in the region and generating a better understanding of Arab culture in Europe.



The European Union's 'Euromed and the Media initiative', the European Training Foundation and the Hungarian Government co-hosted a one day seminar on the role of journalism education and training in the wider European region in Budapest on December 5. Free Voice's Jan Keulen presented the program Investing to the Future and its objective to create an Arab Media Community of Change to the participants of the seminar

The 35 seminar participants covered a vast array of topics, ranging from the need to introduce journalism training at a much earlier stage than is done today and the need to strengthen and link media NGOs in the region, to the desperate need for mapping and evaluating the impact of past and existing training activities.

Yemen - Female editor wins first Arab newspaper prize



Nadia Al-Saqqaf, editor-in-chief of the Yemen Times, has been awarded the 2006 Gebran Tueni Award, a new prize from the World Association

Newspapers (WAN) to honor an editor or publisher from the

Al-Saqqaf received the award on December 10 during the opening ceremony of the Media in Danger - Press under Siege' conference in Beirut, Lebanon. Al-Saqqaf is the first female appointed as editor-in-chief in Yemen. The prize honors the memory of Gebran Tueni, the Lebanese publisher and WAN

bomb in Beirut in December 2005. Al-Saqqaf received the prize for demonstrating the values incarnated in Tueni: attachment to freedom of the press, courage, leadership, ambition, and high managerial and professional standards.

The award carries a 10,000 euro scholarship to enable Al-Saqqaf to undertake advanced newspaper leadership training through the training institute of An Nahar, the Tueni family's newspaper in Lebanon.

Israel - Aljazeera International instead of BBC World



BBC World has been dropped by Israel's satellite provider Yes TV in favor of the newly launched Aljazeera English. It is the first major distribution blow the

corporation's international news channel has suffered since Aljazeera's English-language service began broadcasting last month.

Aljazeera International is billed as the first global English-language news network headquartered in the Middle East. It wants to cover the news from a different perspective, and reverse the information flow from the developing world to the West.

Although BBC World will still be available in Israel via cable, it will lose around 50 per cent of its audience in the country as a result of being dropped by Yes. Aljazeera English signed the carriage deal with Yes last month, but the damaging consequences for BBC World have only just emerged. The deal takes Aljazeera English's global reach to around 80m households.

Jordan - MP's attacked photographers



Four major Arabicdailies language ended their boycott of Jordanian parliament, which was installed after some deputies beat up press photographers and seized their cameras

on December 11.

Members of parliament assaulted three photojournalists working for daily newspapers while they were MP's. At least three parliamentarian members attacked the photojournalists, kicking and punching them and confiscated two cameras and forced them to leave the scene.

In a joint statement the editors of Al Rai , Al Dustour , Al Arab Al Yawm and Al Ghad said: "This was an unjustified attack from MP's who were supposed to safeguard democracy and constitutional right of the press to cover issues of public interest." The newspapers planned to boycott sessions and activities of parliament "until the House issues a formal apology, condemn this behaviour, return the confiscated cameras and repair the damaged ones."

The Jordan Press Association expressed strong condemnation of the "irresponsible and dangerous" act. Nidal Mansour, director of the Centre for Defending Freedom of Journalists stated: "This assault is a violation of fundamental rights and there is nothing that justifies this act. It is a disgrace for parliament as well. It is unacceptable to treat journalists and photographers this way in a democratic country, because they are just pursuing their profession."

After House speaker Abdul Hadi Majali apologised for the attack the newspapers ended their boycott. The newspapers editors did not rule out the possibility of filing a lawsuit against the concerned lawmakers if they do not apologise. Some MP's are accusing journalists of ruining the 'reputation' of parliament and its members, and threat to impose restrictions on press in the new Media laws, which suppose to be discussed parliament. Abdul Hadi Majali

Morocco/ Egypt - New TV channels launched

The audiovisual landscape in the Middle East and North Africa is developing at a quick pace. Since December Morocco has its first private TV news channel Médi Sat 1. Egypt's state broadcasting company is preparing for the launch of Masr el Akhbariya, an all-news channel that will be launched in January.

The arrival of pan-Arab satellite networks Aljazeera and Al Arabiya which have transformed the region's broadcasting and the approach to television news - has highlighted the need for an overhaul. The recently launched channel Médi Sat 1 is Morocco's first privately owned channel. The French owner Pierre Casalta announced that the channel aims to be the first information channel of the Greater Maghreb en the North African community in Europe. It broadcasts in Arabic and French.

The initiative is part of the Rabat government's strategy to improve freedom of information in the country, Information minister Nabil Benadballah said. Since 2003 Morocco has had a law that ends the state monopoly on television news and of a regulatory authority for broadcasting. In reality, it

continues to be dominated by state broadcasters.



The Egyptian state broadcasting company is preparing for the launch of Masr el Akhbariya, a new all-news channel that will be launched in January. Local press reports say the new Egyptian channel will replace the previous Nile el Akbar channel. Many believe it may be the same Hala Hashis, the historic director of Nile el Akhbar. This could be an indication that the desire for change does have its limits. The channel's new slogan is said to be 'The river of truth.' The new Egyptian channel intends to be more independent of central power, to convince the public of its professional authority and objectivity announced local press reports.

Yemen - Editors convicted

Two Yemeni editors-in-chief have been convicted in court for reprinting the controversial Danish cartoons about the prophet Muhammad.



Muhammad Assadi of the Yemen Observer daily(see picture) was found guilty of denigrating Islam and fined 0.5m riyals (EUR 2,114). Assadi said he wanted to show Yemenis how insulting they were.

In November Kamal al-Ulufi, who was given the jail term, has been released on bail and plans appeal against his sentence. His weekly paper, al-Rai al-Aam, was ordered to be closed for six months. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has pledged to overturn any jail sentences handed to journalists. Al-Ulufi is banned from writing for six months.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) condemned the verdict and demanded the abolishing of the verdict and closing down the Danish cartoons case file. The YJS considers the verdict to be against the Islamic religion and prophet Mohammed, and is tarnishing the image of Yemen at the international

Al-Ulufi told reporters that influential bodies in the authority want to settle down accounts with the journalists under the excuse of "abuse of the prophet Mohammed" because of reporting on aspects of corruption. Al-Ulufi's newspaper republished the cartoons to show how disrespectful they were and to

condemn the Danish newspaper and call for the boycott of Danish products. A l-Rai al-Aam defense lawyers said that the press and publication prosecution did not look into the text of the newspaper report, which defended the prophet. Also al-Huriyah faces trial for similar charges.

Egypt - Blog video sparks torture debate

A video showing an unidentified Egyptian man being brutally sodomized by a police officer has sparked the debate in Egypt about the systematic torture rampant in police stations.

The video circulated on a blog last month. Egypt's Nadim Centre, which assists torture victims, states that there is no political will to face this torture phenomenon," said Al-Nadim medical doctor Ragia Shawky to Reuters. A Cairo-based consultant for Human Rights Watch said nobody would be surprised if the video would be authentic, but stressed the fact that there is nothing to positively identify the tape as authentic.

The sodomy video was first posted on blogger Mohamed Khaled's blog Demaghmak (Mak's brain). Khaled said he got the recording from a neighbor who had received it on his mobile phone through Bluetooth technology. The original source is unknown. The sodomy video has met a muted reaction from the state-run media. Only one opposition paper has reported about the video.

Western Sahara - Journalist beaten up Saharawi human rights defender, Dahi Mohamed Salem who works as a iournalist with the Moroccan weekly Al-Watan was insulted, beaten up and interrogated on his writings relating to the question of Western Sahara and interviews with certain Saharawi human rights defenders. Dahi lodged a complaint with the public prosecutor.

Kuwait - French FM service launched Radio France Internationale (RFI) began broadcasting on the FM frequency in Kuwait in December in French and English. Kuwait is the only Arab country to launch a RFI service, which will serve

between 10,000 and 15,000 French speakers, including about 1,000 nationals. In May 2004 Radio Monte Carlo began its service in Arabic. The BBC and US-government's radio Sawa both broadcast in Arabic to Kuwait, while the Voice of America and several US army stations also air programs in

Qatar - First Internet park

By the end of 2006 the first internet parks, i-Parks, shall be established in Qatar. In October a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agricultural Affairs. i-Parks aim to stimulate the use of Internet in public

spaces by creating hot spots with free Internet access. Al Bidda, Sheraton and Dahl Alhamam are the three parks selected to introduce the projects. This initiative is part a broader goal to make broad band accessible for everybody in order to create a knowledge society.

Iran - Pulitzer prize after 27 years

The Iranian photographer Jahangir Razmi's will receive after 27 years his Pulitzer prize for his photograph, which was initially published anonymously. The picture shows the execution of a group of 11 prisoners. It won the 1980 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography. When first published in August 1979 in Iran, the editor withheld Razmi's identity, because he was concerned for his safety. Razmi was only identified as the man behind the image last weekend by the Wall Street Journal. A Pulitzer committee studied a set of photographs and other evidence from the Wall Street Journal article before deciding that Razmi was clearly the photographer.

Lebanon - Youth produces own series A Lebanese youth series Sawtna, 'Our voice', has been aired since November 8. It is a co-operation between UNICEF and the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International (LBCI). Its goal is to give youth a bigger role and highlighting their issues. Sawtna was created and produced fully by young Lebanese from the ages of 15 to

The young journalists received professional journalism training from international experts and trainers.

Palestine - English newspaper hits stands

The Palestine Times went on sale in November. It's the first English-language Palestinian daily newspaper since the Palestinian Authority was created in

The Palestine Times is the first foreign-language daily to appear in the Palestinian territories since the Englishlanguage Al Fajr went out of business in the 1990s. Three Arabic-language newspapers are published daily in the Palestinian territories: Al Quds , Al Ayyam and Al Hayat Al Jadida .. The Palestine Times, whose first edition was 12 pages in colour, will also circulate in

Filmmaker Awards for students

Arab journalism students are now eligible for a new award in the thirdannual Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival for professional filmmakers in the region, scheduled for April 23 to 26, 2007. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2007. The new award 'New Horizon' will present a first- and second-place award to the best documentary films made by a journalism student.

To be continued next issue

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Traffic accidents kill six, injure 40 daily

Official figures for traffic accidents since 2000 reveal the volume of economic and social impacts left by such accidents, which require firm and serious efforts in facing them.

Distressing numbers, harm to others

Over the past few years, recorded traffic accidents reached 79,245, averaging 31.4 accidents daily. Incidents involving death amounted to 15,279, with six deaths per day; while the total injuries reached 96,800, ranging from serious to moderate to minor, with an average of 38.4 cases a day.

Material losses were estimated at YR 12.6 billion, averaging YR 5.02 million daily.

According to the report, such numbers don't include accidents in rural areas, about which concerned authorities weren't informed.

Further, estimated losses don't include victims' hospitalization or med-

ication fees, which relatives pay to hospitals or other concerned parties upon the victim's death. Estimates also didn't cover psychological effects upon victims and their families ensuing from coping with or hearing about such tragedies.

Safety tips

The Ministry of Interior report implored people to test their tires before driving, wear seatbelts to minimize risks from accidents, adjust headrests to avoid serious head and neck injuries and use special seats for children to reduce their volume of death risks

Soaring statistics

Figures released by Al-Thawra Public Hospital in Sana'a reveal that 80 percent of patients are hospitalized due to traffic accidents. According to hospital emergency doctors, the volume of incidents multiplies with non-adherence to traffic rules, mostly due to breakneck speeds

and not wearing seatbelts.

The General Traffic Administration has requested including not wearing seatbelts among traffic violations, which

request was forwarded to the Interior Ministry for referral to the Yemeni Cabinet to give its word on it and urge the use of seatbelts to avoid risks and tragedies resulting from minor accidents.

Marshall Stocker: "USA's unconditional support to Israel will not affect American investments in Yemen"

same reforms of Estonia, Yemen can 2004). expect the same positive experience that Estonia had. Read on:

Estonia

After completing comprehensive economic reforms that included privatization of state owned enterprises, development of capital markets, price liberalization, balancing of the fiscal budget and implementation of the flat-tax, Estonia is now reaping the reward of improved socio-economic well-being. This reform program raised Estonia from 82nd to the 13th most free-market economy in the world in ten years, an

Therefore, if Yemen implements the astonishingly short period (1995 to Inflation has dropped from nearly

1000% in 1992 to 4% in 2005. Though unemployment initially increased as a result of shrinking government bureaucracy, its year 2000 peak of 13.6% is steadily declining to less than 10% today. Per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is growing more than 9% percent per year. If Estonia's GDP continues to grow 6% faster than the U.S.'s, Estonia's per capita GDP will equal that of the U.S.'s in the year 2022, the approximate year today's Estonian children will finish their university studies

What we have learned in Estonia about freedom and growth

By: Mart Laar

imilar to the people of Tolkien's Middle-Earth we are living on the change of the times. World around us is changing faster and faster. We must meet new and new challenges and try to learn from the experiences from just finished changes. Changes of the past decade have really been enormous. Between 1917 and 1950 a lot of countries seceded from democracy and market economy and launched an experiment in constructing an alternative economic and political system. A massive effort was made to centralise the control of production and allocate all resources through state planning. This huge experiment changed the political and the economic map of the world and set the course of much of the twentieth century. The failure of this experiment has set in move just as radical a transition, as these same countries are trying to change course again, seeking to restore democracy, rebuild markets and reintegrate themselves into the world economy.

This experiment had its impact on democratic countries too. Role of the governments and their intervention in the life of its citizen has grown significantly during last century. Higher taxis, social spending and more regulation have been part of this process. As a result of this even the most developed countries are forced to look on new solutions, make choices and unpopular decisions. We are actually all standing on the crossroads and thinking what road we will choose.

Not all countries have been successful in this road of changes. Some have succeeded, some have failed. Transition is never easy. Every moment of transition to each of us is offered enormous amount of different solutions and options, where to go or what to do. Again and again we are standing on a crossroad, where sometimes options as "good" or "bad" are not available and we must decide between "bad" and "worse".

Free countries grow faster

Nevertheless: looking on countries in transition we can find four main lessons emerged from those transitions. First of those is simple:

To have success you must be free and open to the world

As it was said soon before - the twentieth century was really not the best century for humankind. Devastating wars, rise of National Socialism and communism created huge losses and enormous sacrifice. Hundreds of millions were killed in the attempts to build paradise on the Earth. From my childhood I remember the joke about two men discussing is the communism scientific system or not. At the end one of the man says: no, it is not. Scientists had first tested communism on white mice, but communists did it with peo-

But dictatorships not only killed people and burned books, they closed their countries to the World. At the same time lasting development is not possible in closed society. You could not compare your achievements with others, make corrections, and learn from their successes and mistakes. Without openness society dies.

To prove this we can compare developments in communist Central Europe with some of the poorer countries of Southern Europe, namely Greece, Portugal and Spain. These are an important comparison group as Central Europe differed little from these countries before the World War II. Jeffrey Sachs has by example compared Poland starting from 1950s-Poland and Spain were then both largely agricultural, Catholic, peripheral regions of Europe. The two countries had about the same population in 1950 and they were also very close in per capita income terms. By 1988, however, Spain's per capita income was four times that of Poland. Clear difference in income was also reflected in Spain's greater ownership of consumer durables and much higher



proportion of the population in tertiary education. Starting from the similar point in mid-1950s, Spain shot ahead of Poland in the next thirty-five years and started to catch up with the rest of Western Europe, while Poland fell farther behind. The central reason for Spain's success was its shift from being economically and politically isolated from the rest of Europe to

The twentieth century was really not the best century humankind. Devastating wars, rise of National Socialism and communism created huge losses and enormous sacrifice. Hundreds of millions were killed in the attempts to build paradise on the Earth.

being closely integrated with Europe.

In Northern Europe Estonia and Finland can offer similar example. It would be hard to find in the eve of XX century two more similar countries than Estonia and Finland. Coming both from Finno-Ugric nations, Estonia and Finland are very similar by language and culture. Both countries were largely agricultural, but getting through industrialization in the beginning of the XX centuries. Both countries are Lutheran, peripheral regions of Europe on the border with East. Both declared their independence in the aftermath of World War I and went through fast development during the decades of independence. Finland and Estonia resembled each other a great deal in their socio-economic development between the World Wars in 1922-1938. By some measures Finland was slightly ahead in 1940 in economical development, by other analyses not. More or less, Estonia and Finland were just on the same level in 1940. They both had disastrous experiences just before midcentury. Estonia lost its independence and one third of the population, Finland succeeded to keep its independence, but suffered loss of territory and population. The subsequent period of fifty years under two different economic systems led to vastly different economic structures and behavioural patterns and opened up a huge gap between the development of Finland and Estonia. At the same time people learnt, worked and made an effort on both sides of the Finnish Bay. The advantages though seemed to be given mainly to the Finns.

Starting from the more all less similar point at the beginning of the 1950s Finland GDP started to grow clearly faster and in the 1970s when Estonian development totally stagnated difference between Estonian and Finnish growth-rate became very big. According to the estimations in 1988

household income per capita was in Finland 6 times higher than in Estonia. Very few people had by example private car yet 1950s both in Estonia and Finland. In 1987 there were nearly 400 cars per inhabitant in Finland. In Estonia the same ratio was 150.

The gap between the two countries according to international statistics on human development also increased. Before World War II Estonian and Finnish mortalities were alike. After the war they started to differ. The development of infant mortality in Finland and Estonia in the post-war period shows us again how well it reflects changes in economic and social processes. After World War II infant mortality declined rapidly in Finland. The change in infant mortality was relatively favourable in Finland in the 1970s. The infant mortality rate declined by more than 50 percent from 13.2 per thousand births in 1970 to 6.4 in 1986 and it is among the lowest in the world. After the war infant mortality declined in Estonia in the same way as in Finland. Since 1970 there has been considerably less success in Estonia compared to Finland. Estonia reached the lowest level of infant mortality in 1988, but it was still two times higher than in Finland.

Comparisons between Estonia and Finland could be continued, but the result is anyway clear: The Finns level of development and standard of living exceeded in 1988 by far the Estonian, despite the fact that during the pre WWII period the level were more or less the same. The main reason for Finland's success was its shift to modern market export orientated economy and fast integration with Europe.

To achieve real breakthrough **Governments** must give freedom not only to its people but to their economies as well.

To say it again - FREE COUN-TRIES GROW FASTER!

So at one moment captive nations became free, but what kind of freedom was this?

Freedom and democracy usually came with collapse of economy and social security networks, which was often followed by hyperinflation, ethnical and political conflicts, sharp rise in criminality, corruption and chaos and all other problems originated actually from the former totalitarian regime. A change from totalism to working democracy is extremely demanding and a tough challenge. Everybody knows, how to make fishsoup from fish, but who knows how to get a fish back from the soup again?

Foreign aid

One reason why lot of countries in transition have failed is their reluctance to relay not on their own strengths but on foreign aid. This was of course not so much their failure but failure of leftwing thinking of world economist, seeing in the massive foreign aid medicine against all diseases.

The reason was the perceived failure of free markets and a presumption that incentives, institutions and markets played little, if any, role in fostering economic growth. It can be a dangerous trap. More and more examples have proved that foreign aid had not only not helped, but had positively harmed the developing countries. It encouraged inefficiency and waste and the adoption of perverse policies. It has destroyed local producers and created corruption and through this violence, wars and chaos. If the people are made dependent not from their work but from foreign aid question who distributes and controls this aid can create big amount of conflicts. Because ruling foreign aid you will rule all country. Productive economic activity is replaced by political economic activity.

In reality the only key to reducing world poverty is more rapid economic growth in developing countries.

Aid or trade

world poverty is more rapid economic growth in developing countries. And experience shows that the private market economy is the most reliable engine of growth. Countries who have understood this have been successful, who does not have failed. We in the Estonia did not want to fail. At the same time were really down at the beginning of our reforms in 1992.

Even during the times of the Great Depression of the 1930s industrial production had not declined as in 1992 by more than 30 percent over two years, real wages fallen by some 45 percent, fuel prices risen by more than 10 000 per cent over the same period, while inflation was running more than 1000 percent per annum. People stood for hours in lines to buy food. Bread and milk-products were rationed. Shops were completely empty and money did not have real value any longer. There were not many who believed in a better future at this moment.

But we understood quickly that to get out of this mess we could relay only on ourselves and not on foreign aid. Because through foreign aid developed countries are often helping themselves not countries in need. We did not wanted to stay among developing countries, which are helped and where nobody wants to invest. So part of our strategy involved cutting Estonia free from all the various international aid and assistance programmes, which are usually offered to developing countries. Estonia did not want to show itself as a developing

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country but as a country, which could already stand on its own two feet. Soon in 1992 Estonia by example abolished all import tariffs and became one big "free trade zone".

The open economic policy played an important role in the birth of the "Estonian economic miracle". In the World Bank analysis "From plan to market", the advantages of a liberal trade policy are set out against the backdrop of a comparison of Estonia and Ukraine. "There is powerful evidence from transition economies that the benefits of early external liberalisation far outweigh the potential costs. Establishing essentially free trade early on yields a particularly large return in these countries. Firm-level evidence shows that trade liberalisation has indeed spurred enterprise restructuring and helped make markets competitive."

As a result of this and other reforms Estonia has achieved one of the fastest growth-rates among transition economies. Estonia has achieved stabile 5-6% growth, which in some years have reached 10%. Budget is balanced, foreign debt small, inflation low. Estonian living standards have grown fast. In the UN Human Development Index Estonia has raised more than 40 places and belongs now 4. Monetary policy In reality the only key to reducing to the group of developed countries.

This is second lesson what we can learn from transitions: free trade and economic growth are making nations prosperous, not foreign aid.

At the same time we must remember, that decision to go your own way could not guarantee success. To achieve real breakthrough Governments must give freedom not only to its people but to their economies as well. For the past 10 years the Index of Economic freedom published by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal has measured economic freedom around the world in an effort to trace path to economic prosperity.

A lower growth usually calculates into lower GDP. Economically free countries have higher per capita income. Countries with higher level of economic freedom are clearly richer as countries with smaller level. The country's Index score is positively related to United Nations Human Development Index as well. Economically free countries are not making only some people rich, they guarantee balanced development all society, better education and healthcare. So we have reached the third lesson: free economies grow faster and are richer.

Privatise, privatise

So we must make our economy free. Unfortunately this is easier to say as do. To free your economy it is not enough to cut taxes or privatise state owned enterprises. To achieve economic freedom you must do lot of more - you must reform and actually free all your society. In 1990s Milton Friedman answered question how to achieve economic freedom during transition with three words: privatise, privatise, privatise. After ten years experience he says that it is not enough. A stable economy requires transparency and effective public administration, defined property rights backed by an effective and independent legal system and free media, a robust and well-regulated financial sector and not-corrupted public sector. Different studies have proved that the strength of the rule of law and the risk of expropriation are critical determinants of development. Without strong property rights, an investor cannot be sure of his ability to lay claim to a business he builds, as a result, the level of risk involved in a business venture increases, and investors are left unsure and likely to put their money elsewhere.

All this is actually part of the Economic Freedom Index. This is put together measuring and weighting 10 different factors:

- 1. Trade policy
- 2. Fiscal burden of government 3. Government intervention in the
- economy 5. Capital flows and foreign invest-
- ment
- Banking and finance
- Wages and prices
- 8. Property rights Regulation
- 10. Informal market activity and corruption

We can refer to these 10 factors of the Index as "10 step plan to reach prosperity". The 10 factors provide a road map and only by sticking to the highlighted route can a country achieve economic freedom and prosperity.

Achieving economic freedom is like building a car. It is not possible to say what is the most important component of the car: the engine, the transmission, the steering wheel, the brakes or the tires. Without any one of these components, the car is unlikely to reach the desired destination. In similar fashion, ignore any one of the 10 factors of economic freedom, and abundant prosperity is likely to remain

Mart Laar (born April 22, 1960 in Viljandi) is an Estonian statesman and historian. He was the Prime Minister of Estonia from 1992 to 1994 and from 1999 to 2002.

This article is an extract from an essay by Laar prepared for "A Liberal Agenda for the New Century: A Global Perspective," a Conference cosponsored by the Cato Institute, the Institute of Economic Analysis and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, April 8-9, 2004, Moscow, Russian Federation.





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LANDERUISER



Yemeni rituals for Hajj & Eid Al-Adha

When one declares his or her intention to perform the Hajj, family, friends and neighbors come to visit and say goodbye, most often requesting prayer for them in the great house during the Hajj. A big ceremony takes place with special traditional activities for the pilgrims', in Arabic known as hajaj departure and reception.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel fatimafnfr@yahoo.com Nawal Zaid

Accompaniment on departure day On the day of departure, others will go with the departing pilgrims, who look like the kings or queens. Mostly, people accompany the hajaj to the airport.

People gather at the door of the hajaj's house to say goodbye, while a man specialized in singing religious songs comes to praise and repeat verses of folk poetry. He then calls for the moment of the hajaj's leaving for Allah's house. It's an emotional moment, as the hajaj ask relatives and neighbors to take care of their house during their absence.

When the vehicles set off, the hajaj begin chanting verses of folk poetry recited in a chorus. Cassettes are available on the market containing songs and anthems expressing their relatives' emotional state, thus providing them some solace. While the

pilgrims are gone, their families and relatives wait impatiently until they return safely.

Traditional al-madraha ("the swing") activities for the hajaj

After the pilgrims leave for Mecca and during their absence, families at home set up a swing ("al-madraha") either inside their yard or in a nearby public garden, especially in Sana'a. While children enjoy the swing, grownups use it as well, and it's interesting to note its association with the solemn and serious religious ritual of

Families, relatives and others swing until the pilgrims return, chanting poetic verses verbalizing their feelings and emotions and praying for the hajaj to return to their families in a good health.

The swing's rhythmic movement symbolically represents the relatives' inner worry and longing for the absent pilgrim, whose clothes sometimes are hung on the swing. They



Hajajs' clothes are hung on swings while their families swing and sing in their absence. PHOTO BY ARWA OTHMAN

also ensure that the swing is strong enough, as there's a belief that if it breaks, that's a bad omen that the pilgrim might be at risk or in danger.

Habits during the first Hajj/eid

Especially in Sana'a, one finds habits specific to only Yemeni society. In the final days of December, which is the 10th day of Dhu'l-Hijja, the last month of the Islamic calendar, Yemenis, especially those in Sana'a, burn special incense throughout the entire house, believing it may drive out any evil in the house during those blessed days.

"I used to burn firebrand in the evening and ask my husband and children to burn incense as well, then I did so for all the rooms in my home," Sana'a grandmother Fatima Al-Habial explained.

Most animal sellers select their best ones for eid sacrifices. Some used to use henna on them to distinguish them from the others, as well as being a type of caring toward the animals.

Two or three days before the eid, Yemenis feed those animals to be sacrificed a lot of salt because "it's good for the meat after slaughtering - it makes it more tasty and easier to cook," Al- Habial asserted, adding, "We believe that salting animals before slaughter blesses their meat."

Sharing the animal sacrificing is a habit among neighbors and relatives, which even the rich do, with each group from the neighborhood sharing a bull or a camel. At the moment of sacrifice, if there are more animals than the one to be slaughtered, the butcher requests the others be taken away until he finishes, as a mercy toward the other animals so they won't see the process of sacrificing. His knife also must be very sharp.

Meat from the Eid Al-Adha sacrifice mostly is given to others, such as

Women especially prepare huge meals for their relatives, while others prefer to distribute the meat and that's

Eid days

Like Ramadan's Eid Al-Fitr, Yemenis visit each other to exchange eid greetings, but the first visit is later because people are busy sacrificing, so mostly women await their relatives' visit, excusing them if late. During such visits, many sweets, chocolates and cakes are presented to guests. The three first days of the eid are for making meals for family, friends and other relatives.

Celebrating the hajaj's reception

Many Yemeni areas celebrate the hajaj's return, according to a longestablished tradition that a pilgrim must be hailed when he or she arrives from the Hajj. Large quantities of fireworks are used, especially in cities, large quantities of fireworks are used and guns are fired into the air in rural areas, as a festival marks the occasion.

Greeters also use fireworks and sound systems used at weddings to add flavor to the pilgrim's reception and reflect how lucky they are to have

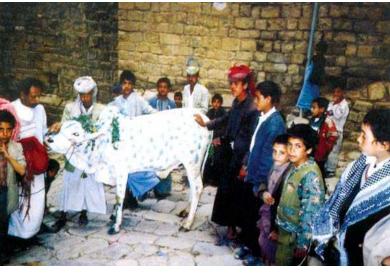
relatives, neighbors and the poor. performed one of Islam's five fundamental pillars and visited the holy shrines.

> When a pilgrim arrives at his or her neighborhood, Yemenis in some areas slaughter goats or sheep and hold a feast to honor the returnee and those guests who accepted the invitation to come and welcome the hajaj. From the windows of their houses, women express their happiness at the hajaj's arrival with loud songs called, "mahjrah to the hajaj," while others offer special flowers called "shathab."

> Afterward, they gather in the hajaj's large sitting room (diwan) to listen attentively to the pilgrim's narration of his journey to the sacred land. Women pilgrims sit with their fellow women in a separate place.

> Pilgrims most often return with a large bag of gifts for all of the visitors who come to see him or her, especially children, distributing these special gifts from Mecca on the day of his or her arrival. Most visitors await a gift of Zamzam water, considered the best gift, because such water is believed to be medicine for whatever its drinker wants to be cured from.

> Other Hajj gifts include prayer rugs and prayer beads, as well as hats and other tokens for children.



In some Sana'a districts, some people decorate animals with henna, flowers and colors, days before Eid.

Foreigners' understanding of Islamic celebrations

By: Yemen Times Staff

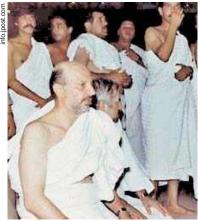
uslims celebrate two main eids in a year. celebrated after the fasting month of Ramadan, is considered the 'small' eid. Eid Al-Adha, the feast of the sacrifice, also is known to Muslims as the 'big' eid and this year falls on Dec. 30.

Happily, a Yemeni takes home a sheep for Al-Adha sacrificing.

What do foreigners know about Muslim celebrations in general and about Eid Al-Adha specifically? What do foreigners in Yemen do during Islamic holidays? The Yemen Times asked these and other questions to tourists and foreigners in Yemen, whose answers follow:

Some foreigners have limited information about eid, especially non-Muslims. Dutch Christian Karin Veltman was surprised to hear that Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Adha. "I don't know anything about this eid. This is the first time to hear about Eid Al-Adha. I thought Muslims only celebrate one eid, which is the Ramadan eid," Veltman remarked, adding, "I just arrived 11 days ago. I'm thinking to travel around Yemen [for eid], but I don't know yet where I'll go."

Sarah is an American Christian student at Sana'a Institute for Arabic Language. She's been in Yemen only



Pilgrims worship in special Hajj garb, which exudes humbleness.

two weeks. "My knowledge about Eid most because it's about the same story Al-Adha is limited, especially because I never spent this period in a Muslim country. I don't have Yemeni friends yet, but I plan to travel somewhere to celebrate the eid vacation," she commented.

Linda, an American who has lived in Yemen for more than 10 years, responded that Eid Al-Adha has to do with when God asked Abraham to and a good year." sacrifice his son, explaining that as Abraham was about to kill him in obedience to God, God stopped him and replaced him with a ram. "As I understand it, that's why Muslims buy and kill their own sheep on this occasion, but I think that's just the beginning of the celebration," she added.

"This year, the eid is very close to Christmas, the time when we Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. The purpose of Eid Al-Adha ties in wonderfully to our celebration of the birth of the lamb of God, who was born to die in obedience to God so that his sacrifice and blood would be poured out for all people so we can become sons and daughters of God. Abraham was willing to accept God's gift provided to spare his son, so if we're willing to accept God's gift of Jesus, we too can receive the blessing," Linda said.

Asked if she shares in the eid celebration, she said sometimes a neighbor will invite her for a meal or bring her some food, adding, "Once I was invited to the actual sacrificing of the sheep - not my favorite experience!"

She often spends such holidays traveling, commenting, "Because most businesses are closed, it's an excellent time to travel in Yemen, although some of the resort areas are crowded because lots of other folks have the same idea."

Diane, another American who has lived in Yemen for a year, agreed that Eid Al-Adha commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God. "Of the two eids, Eid Al-Adha is the one I can support the written in our holy book, the Bible."

Regarding celebrating the eid, she said, "I expected the streets to be running with blood from the slaughtered animals, but that wasn't the case, at least in my area. I usually travel during the eids because I have a holiday from work, but if I'm here, I visit friends and neighbors, wishing them a happy Eid

Many Muslim foreigners visit Yemen either to study or for tourism. They already know about Eid Al-Adha, but how do they celebrate it in Yemen?

An American Muslim student at a Sana'a language institute, who has spent a month and half in Yemen, commented, "I know enough about Eid Al-Adha to practice it. I'll spend the eid vacation with my family and other Muslims. I actually go to pray and slaughter animals. I don't like to travel anywhere."

He advised his fellow Muslims on this occasion, "Practice your religion as the Prophet [Mohammed] practiced it, and for non-Muslims, don't confuse Arab culture with Islam."

A British Muslim student who has lived in Yemen for nearly a year said he spent the 2005 Eid Al-Adha in Yemen, noting that Eid Al-Adha in Yemen is very boring without family and because nearly all restaurants are closed, food is a problem, except for those cooking at

He added, "I spend the eid in Yemen with other foreign students and sleep the rest of the day. I want to say to all Muslims around the world and Yemenis specifically, 'Eid Mubarak and may Allah accept it from you and us!"

Having arrived in Yemen six months ago, Malaysian Muslim Farah Afzon noted that Eid Al-Adha in Yemen has different aspects than Malaysia and other countries. "My sisters and I generally visit each other during the eid. Because we don't have many friends in Yemen, I either visit my Arabic teacher's house or Yemeni neighbors in our area. We enjoy a nice time together

making cakes and sweets for the eid."

She continued, "On the day of the eid, we go to the Malaysian Embassy to celebrate with the other Malaysians in Yemen and practice our own eid customs and traditions. We pray the eid prayer and eat chocolates and sweets, then visit our Yemeni friends.

"Really, Yemenis are very friendly and helpful and they never lack in sharing knowledge of Islam with me. Their words, characters and nearly everything else they present in a very nice way. I love Yemen and I want to say 'Happy Eid!' to all Yemenis," Afzon concluded.

Fellow Malaysian Muslim Nora Azizi Uzir remarked that she likes spending the eid with Yemenis. "Visiting each other actually is the main thing we do in Yemen during the eid."

Fozia Anarwala, an American originally from India, commented about Eid Al-Adha, "We celebrate it to mark the sacrifice of the son of Abraham, who was ready to sacrifice his son, but Allah replaced him with a lamb.

"In the U.S., it's not allowed to sacrifice animals at home, so we only make a simple celebration. Because our family is in India, we ask relatives there to sacrifice animals on our behalf and distribute it to our family and to the poor. In the U.S., we attend the eid prayer, visit friends and give money to children. I want to wish all Yemenis a very happy Eid and Eid Mubarak!" she

Anarwala's daughter, Zeeba, was born in the U.S. and has grown up celebrating the eid in both an Indian as well as a uniquely American way. Although she has just been in Yemen for a month, she said Eid Al-Adha is her favorite holiday due to its festive atmosphere. "I like distributing the meat from the sacrifice to friends, family and the poor. Eid Al-Adha is a holiday that brings all Muslims together."

She noted, "In the Indian tradition, women usually put henna on their hands, buy new clothes for the day and make special sweets.



Thousands of Muslims go to pilgrim every year.

"In America, Muslims greet each other with a smile and say 'Eid Mubarak!' Men and women go together to a big hall for the eid prayer. Usually in the big cities, 10,000 people will show up for the prayer at just one location," she added.

Eid Al-Adha concept in Islam

Eid Al-Adha is the celebration concluding the event of the pilgrimage, called the Hajj. Pilgrimage to Mecca is one of the five pillars of Islam. Eid Al-Adha begins on the 10th day of Dhu'l-Hijja on the Islamic calendar.

According to Islam, one of Abraham's main trials was to obey Allah's command to sacrifice his only son. Upon hearing this command, he prepared to submit to Allah's will. When he was prepared to sacrifice his son, Ismail, Allah revealed to him that his sacrifice already had been fulfilled because he had shown that his love for his Lord superseded all others and that he would lay down his own life or the lives of those dear to him in order to submit to Allah.

While the Hajj, which involves a series of extensively detailed rituals, is a religious obligation to be fulfilled at least once in every Muslim's life, religious law grants many exclusions on

Hajaj prayer and praise during Hajj days. Labayk, Allahuma, labayk,

labayk. La shareeka laka, labayk. Innal-hamda wannimata laka

walmulk. La shareeka lak.

(Here I am at your service, oh Lord, here I am, here I am. No partner do you have, here I am. Truly, the praise and the favor are yours and the dominion. No partner do you have.)

the grounds of hardship.

Eid Al-Adha is celebrated by sacrificing a lamb or other animal and distributing the meat to relatives, friends and the poor. The sacrifice symbolizes obedience to God and its distribution to others is an expression of generosity.

Meat from the Eid Al-Adha sacrifice mostly is given away to others: a third is eaten by immediate family and relatives, a third is given to friends and a third is donated to the needy. Such an act symbolizes Muslims' willingness to give up things that are beneficial or close to their hearts in order to follow Allah's commands.

Words of Wisdom



The Government has been dished out a lot of talk on how important is the economic reform program it is implementing. That is actually true. The reform is very important, and its success is quite vital for the future well-being of the nation. Yet, in my opinion, the present reform and the people nanaging it will not lead us to the

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)



OUR OPINION

Is there such a thing as independent journalism?

t the Yemen Times, we continue priding ourselves on being an independent media outlet and following our mission no matter what. This independence has provided us immunity and respect. On any issue, both sides know we write objectively and try to promote the good in all situations for the sake of humanity in gener-

However, when I was in Lebanon recently, I asked a security officer at the airport's passport control about Lebanese media, "As a reader, how many of your media outlets do you feel are independent?" He replied, "There's no such thing as independent media because they all have certain obligations and constraints."

That got me thinking about the Yemen Times. I've been running this newspaper for nearly two years now, so I know what pressures it faces. Yet, I still can say that we're fairly independent, at least politically. Regarding political news, we're tops in objectivity, but what about the other domains? Life isn't only about politics and our coverage includes so much more.

Honestly, I've realized that there are pressures against being independent, but surprisingly, they have nothing to do with the government or the ruling system. Rather, they include economic pressures from clients and advertisers, without whose support we wouldn't exist. I've witnessed that we're sometimes obliged to run stories for commercial purposes or to please clients, regardless of their journalistic significance.

There's also societal pressure regarding sensitive matters. For example, we recently ran a story about a seminar on marital sexual and emotional relations. I was surprised to get feedback from some of our rather conservative readers telling us to "back off" of such topics. There's also cultural pressure when it comes to other religions, especially after the Danish cartoon fiasco. Before running any store, we now ask ourselves a thousand times whether it will hurt the feelings of any particular religion, sect or spiritual group.

In accepting opinion pieces from writers around the world, we must be very careful that we don't encourage hatred or instigate conflicts. Although such articles are the sole responsibility of their writers, I feel that as a medium for their words and thoughts, we also must take responsibility regarding what we allow in our newspa-

So, are we really independent? Or is it just that our margin of freedom is wider and more visible than that of others? I still claim that we're the most independent newspaper in Yemen, but I question myself at times about the self-censorship we apply when we shepherd the newspaper's content to be in line with our mission statement, as well as the law. Should it be unlimited freedom or is there a boundary? And if there must be boundaries, who decides what they are? This will always remain the dilemma of free Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Editor-in-Chief

Who's to resist whom?

By: Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari

n an age of globalization, the concept of resistance has become ambiguous and surrounded by clouds and thick fog. The concept of resistance no longer is the same as before Sept. 11, 2001, having one meaning, which is resisting foreign invasion by a particular country. This concept has changed and become open to more than one interpretation, as well as both unintentionally and purposefully confused.

Those fighting occupation in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan or other locations are in an unenviable situation. It's not enough that their countries are occupied, their riches exhausted and their capabilities destroyed. Worse than this is that their national resistance is accused of not being national, but rather indecent. Thus, they have no right to resist those described "advocates of freedom, progress and peace," namely the occupying invaders, particularly the United States and the Zionists.

The question doesn't stop at that point. Even if adopting peaceful and democratic methods like demonstrations and sit-ins, any popular resistance is viewed as a revolutionary movement hostile to democracy and legitimacy and consequently, marked as being subservient to the foreigner and endeavoring to create sabo-

This raises various questions.

What's the new concept of resistance? Who resists whom and why resist? Is it not the resister whether an individual, a group or an entire nation - who sustains harm, injustice and conquest, such as usurping their land, plundering their property and being exposed to displacement and physical harm? How is it to prevent resisting all of that?

Despite the fact that such popular national resistance mostly is in a weaker financial, military and technological position than the occupying aggressor, who is financially, militarily and technologically superior, the resistance doesn't fear this superiority, usually organizing itself to fight the usurper occupier of their land, achieve many great victories and inflict successive defeats upon the aggressors and their supporters.

The resistance's superiority is attributed to possessing the strongest and most important weapon - faith in the justice of such resistance, as well as religious, legal and human legitima-

If colonialist forces try to defame national resistance by accusing it and describing such resisters as terrorists, extremists and the like in an attempt to degrade their steadfastness, they won't succeed in realizing such mean goals and greed. In the long run, colonialist losses will be larger, fiercer and more decisive. What currently is happening in the international arena is an

attempt by colonialist forces to recruit opportunist elements to abort resistance, thus emptying it

of its national and human content. Reality proves that the more colonialists and their stooges pressure the resistance, the more increased its strength and resolution. Resistance movements won't spare any effort to implement all forms and means of resistance to surprise the enemy.

The most important factor contributing to strengthening resistance is unity of individuals under the banner of resisting the enemy, wherein there's no difference between one group or another as all unite under the banner of resistance, regardless of sectarian, ethnic, regional, tribal or political affiliation. Thus, the fundamental goal becomes resisting the occupier. There's no difference between Shi'ite or Sunni, Muslim or Christian or even between male and female as all form one fabric, brushing aside their differences.

Those believing in resistance will be impossible to conquer or humiliate and they'll continue generation after generation. The concept of resistance will remain as it has been since ancient times, i.e., resistance against aggressors and tyrants in every time and

Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari is an active female Yemeni journalist working in Al-Sahwa newspaper and contributes to other media

Source: Al-Thwart Newspaper

The Israeli extortion

he Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert admitted Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. Although this is an unfamiliar precedence in the attitudes of the Zionist entity, it clearly discloses the degree of Israeli bragging and arrogance dominating the Israeli generals' mentality. Those generals who would never hesitate to blackmail the international community and practice all forms of pressure on it in order to impose the Israeli version in any issue. Especially regarding any attempt to stabilize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and ensuring the return of the Palestinian right. Among those rights are their right to liberation, and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Undauntedly, by that acknowledgement the Israeli entity has dealt a painful blow to the international organization for atomic energy concerned with limiting proliferation of atomic armament. In the wake of this Israeli statement it has become imperative for the atomic energy organization to declare and define its stand against it, especially that it known that an Arab country has been invaded and destroyed and its regime was toppled under excuse of its possession of banned weapons. Eventually, a charge the occupation failed to prove until now even after more than three years and a half since the invasion of Iraq.

Away from Olmert's admission of his country's possession of nuclear weapons the eye-catching thing is that selective talk mentioned by Israel's delegate at the UN Security Council open session. The delegate claimed the Arabs are

feigning to forget the staunch fact about Israel's three entity where only the most extremists would assume power to an extent that extremism has become the most promoted trend inside the Israeli

Israel has used everything and exhausted everything and to day it has to comprehend that in order to live in the region in security, peace and stability it has to recognize all the Arab rights which had been emphasized by resolutions of international legitimacy. It has to understand that its possession of nuclear weapons or other types of prohibited arms and also practicing violence and killing and imposing occupation by force cannot at any event provide it with safety or security. It has to realize and learn from previous lessons that power of occupation failed to stand in the divided into hawks ands doves, face of the peoples aspiring for liband extremists and moderates, eration and independence. It can be

learnt from the fate of the British colonialist hegemony or the French colonization that controlled most African areas or even the American presence on the Vietnamese territories. The result has always been one, i.e. that the occupation will not continue and that victory will always be for the

These examples affirm the Israeli occupation would inevitably end sooner or later and what Israel is presently doing is but a prolongation of the Palestinian people's suffering and doubling problems of the region. This consequence will also be reflected on Israel itself if it continues in its destructive aggressive policy. Such arrogance will be faced with more resistance not just at the level of the Palestine area but will extend to the entire Arab region. The indicators of this resistance appeared in the brave fighting by the Lebanese resistance that taught the Israeli entity a painful lesson and negatively affected the reputation of the Israeli army, which Israel was claiming it to be unconquerable one.

It is not a surprise for Israel to talk about Arab moderate and extremist powers in an attempt to split the Arab rank and throw dust in the eyes. We are used to Israel's promotion of lies including its great lie regarding the holocaust

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Saeed Al-Batati

which backs up such influential guys and boosts their power and arrogance against their people. Al-Fasheq had been repeatedly reported to have committed such exercises including torture and had never been held accountable. Why? Who is protecting the man? I believe such a crime should break hell loose and bring even the change of the government, if we do care about the lives of the people. It is President Ali Abdullah Saleh who is first to be held respon-

By: Mohammed

Al-Qadhi

sible for such practices for he is constitutionally responsible for protecting the lives of his citizens. The president pledged in his elections platform to work for the enactment of law and order and the overall welfare of the people. His government has been giving a blind eye to such practices by influential big guys. Given the fact he promised to continue working for the building

SILVER LINING

Can al-Fasheq torture

crimes be stopped?

It is complete lawlessness and chaos that runs our life. The

Sheikh simply ordered his escorts to bring Darsi to his house; they

took off his cloths, putting a stick into his back, torturing different

parts of his body with fire and finally they let him go home naked

after midnight. It is simply because he worked with someone who

is in dispute over a piece of land with the brutal Sheikh. Can you

imagine guys that such barbaric exercises do still exist on earth? I

have really felt that we are not living in the 21st century where our

officials keep singing and shrugging their shoulders in pride of

"great" achievements of democracy and human rights respect. I feel

very sad such heinous crimes and human rights abuse do still exist.

without the approval or let us say the leniency of the government

We should understand that such practices could not take place

ecently, we were all

panic-stricken by the

harassment and rape of

Anisah al-Shuaibi by

some police officers at

Sana'a Criminal Investigations prison.

Now, we have the question of the torture

of Hamdan Hasan Darsi by Sheikh

Shua'eeb al-Fashiq and his cruel escorts.

This is absolutely disgusting and awful.

This incident has sent shock waves

down my spine; I have been really horri-

fied when I read about the severe torture

and harassment the man went through.

Is he above the law?

of a state of law and order during his last term in office, the president is responsible for protecting the rights of the people of this country. It is his job to hold such barbaric acts accountable.

Can the president show us that human rights abuses and tortures are no more an accepted practice in this country, presenting al-Fasheq and his people who tortured Darsi and others to justice? Can the president address torture crimes immediately? Let us keep our fingers crossed that he will do something.

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

which is no more than an imaginary legend used for extortion of funds and obtaining support from the world, especially the west. What is going on the two cases of Dujail and Anfal in Iraq gives another face of to this extortion. There are intelligence sides promoting for those two "justifications" either to reach certain goals or to pass on certain plots.

It has become clear and certain that Israel's crimes of killing and destruction and its terrorism have exceeded in description all then unsightly crimes committed against humanity in old and modern history. There is no more horrible act than what Israeli is perpetrating in the annihilation of defenseless people in a war open for more than fifty years.

Time has come for the world to get liberated from this Israeli blackmailing and to begin adopting means to achieve just and comprehensive peace and to see the facts as they are away from hypocrisy and double standards. It is not wise that Israel remains committing crimes. The world has to realize that peace will not be established in the region without the return of the usurped rights to their owners and abiding by resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Al-Thawra newspaper view point published on Dec. 13, 2006.

s K In the name Ε of the citizen! C н Е D 0 Ν 0 By Samer

Letters to the Editor

erhaps Yemen's solution peaceful country is obvious for will solve the situation of every human being. illegal immigrants entering ongoing illegal immigrant prob-

Yemen's immigrant solution

Abdulha Sardir

Yemen appreciated regarding Oromo refugees romo people one day will

be living on their land peacefully. Exile and I personally appreciate Yemen

seeking refuge in a friendly and

a country. Yesterday, 684 illegal for its friendly support of Oromo immigrants landed in Sicily, Italy, refugees like other countries do but they weren't beaten or thrown all over the world; however, along overboard. It may be worthwhile with the Yemeni nation, I conto pass this tip on to the Italian demn those holding Oromo authorities so they can solve the refugees in jail. I think this violates a UNHCR or human rights

Is there any web petition to conbdlhasardir@ukonlinr.co.uk demn this act of mistreatment? I'll try to find concerned human rights or NGO addresses, if there's a way to cast or add my

BONA from Canada mulmos@hotmail.com

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The road to insanity

Reviewed by: Aisha R. Masterton

irected by Michael Winterbottom and Mat Whitecross, The Road to Guantanamo, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, is a movie about a group of British Muslims who get caught up with fighters in Afghanistan and end up at Camp X-Ray.

The story of Shafiq Rasul, Ruhel Ahmed, Asif Iqbal, and Munir Ali and their journey is portrayed without being romanticized or patronized. Their reenacted personal narratives are interlinked with news reports, subtly highlighting the degree to which reporters are removed from the human dimension of world events. The actors are excellent: earthy and natural in front of the camera. But, since the directors set out to depict the confusing circumstances in which the young men find themselves, one can also become confused about which event is meant to have happened to whom. Sometimes it seems that there are seven people telling the story instead of three.

Visiting Pakistan is an adventure to the four friends; they eat out at cafes, visit fun fairs, and Shafiq goes to visit his extended family. Tension in the streets is building as the US is planning raids in Afghanistan. Preachers exhort crowds to go help the people of Afghanistan, fearing the chaos that will ensue if the US goes

in. The youths say that they decided to go to Afghanistan "to help." At the time, they were not very serious about their religion, and they are depicted as fairly average, secular young British men; this raises the question why some fairly average, secular young men would risk going to a country that is about to be bombed by the US. Winterbottom and Whitecross show how the four friends get caught up in events - perhaps they also got caught up in the emotion, and perhaps they were also curious. On the way to Afghanistan, their bus driver inexplicably disappears. They find another bus and travel through austere, mountainous landscape to Quetta. Here, the landscape and atmosphere of Pakistan and Afghanistan are captured beautifully, but confusion arises again for the viewer once the youths are over the border. Traveling from place to place involves climbing onto crowded pickup trucks, and often it seems that one of them is about to get left behind.

The friends arrive in Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold, and that night the bombing raids begin. They move on to Kabul, where they stay for a few weeks while Shafiq is seriously ill. Then they hear news that there is bombing in the north of Kabul. At that time, they decide to head back to Pakistan, but by then hundreds of other people are also heading for the border, fleeing the oncoming US-backed Northern Alliance. They get taken to Kunduz, where they hear



British director Winterbottom and the cast pose to present the Road to Guantanamo (Reuters).

stories of General Dostum, who allegedly cut off a man's fingers one by one and pulled another apart with two tanks.

Then the US breaks into Kunduz and there is panic, more people running for trucks. Munir is lost forever. They sleep for one night out in the open, but the bombing raids force them to run. The next day, bodies are everywhere: "Everyone was screaming. Legs blown off, stomachs coming out, arms hanging off. When someone is in agony and you can't help them, that affects you," says Asif.

The Northern Alliance and US forces round up the foreign fighters, the Taliban and the young men. All

the men are searched. In the distance, mass graves are being dug, with injured but conscious people being thrown in. One wonders whether one of those people might not have been Munir. While Shafiq and Ruhel are transported to Mazar-e-Sharif in a canvas-topped truck, Asif is taken in a metal container packed with other men. They rapidly begin to run short of air. He falls unconscious. When he awakens, he finds himself lying among a pile of corpses. He meets up with Shafiq and Ruhel and they are taken to Shebergan prison, where they go for days with no food or water until the Red Cross arrives. Then all the men are brought for questioning before a US officer, to whom they have to answer while kneeling.

After that, the madness really begins. What we witness is a dehumanized system in the business of dehumanizing others. Its spiritual and intellectual aridity is striking. The behavior of the US army reveals a nation with a severely unbalanced psychology. Nevertheless, it seems that the directors have spared the viewer the more lurid and grotesque details of "interrogation methods" at Guantanamo. We see the now notorious Rapid Reaction Force beating up a deranged inmate; the strenuous positions in which the young men are tied for hours while being subjected to thrash metal and strobe lights; the exposure to pornographic magazines. But the mental strain of being detained without trial is not conveyed in the depth that it might have been.

Winterbottom and Whitecross do give us a taste of the bizarre and

illogical questioning techniques employed by the US army. When the youths are transferred to Camp Delta, the same questions are put to them for more than a year and include sessions with a female officer who holds up a grainy photo of a group with Osama bin Laden. She points to a blurry face in the crowd and says again and again, "That's you, isn't it?" no matter how obvious it is not. It is frightening to think that the US army cannot tell the difference between one person and another and is willing to apply medieval measures against detainees based upon grainy photographs.

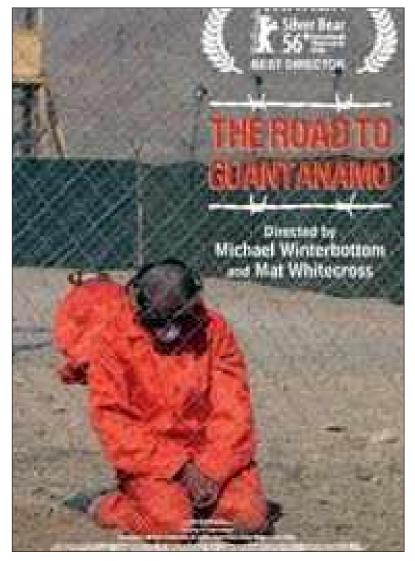
At the end, the three young men assess their experience. All in all, it has only driven them toward their religion. The film ends with them visiting Pakistan again, this time as serious and reflective people. They attend Asif's wedding in Pakistan. Yet it is an Asif who rarely smiles, who, even on his wedding night, looks troubled.

It is important that this film was

made, in order to humanize those on the receiving end of the US mission to shape the world in its image. Reviews show that liberal-minded critics have been duly shocked; yet we know that what is depicted is just the tip of the iceberg. It took a non-Muslim to produce this film. Muslim organizations need to follow their example and fund other such films since cinema is one of the best mediums for conveying the Muslim worldview to a non-Muslim audience.

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Original ideas, anyone?

By: Aijaz Zaka Syed

e can do no great things; only small things with great love, the late Mother Teresa once said with reference to her work. The late Mother's own simplicity epitomised the greatness of her spirit and selflessness.

I wonder if Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh ever met the legendary missionary. The US-trained economist last week received the Nobel Peace prize for his decisive role in fighting poverty in a country that is one of the poorest and underdeveloped in the world.

The utter simplicity and honesty of Prof Yunus's vision and his unshakable belief in the essentially good nature of human beings remind you of the saint who spent and devoted all her life in the service of the world's wretched and rejected on Calcutta's filthy streets.

Like Mother Teresa, Prof Yunus managed to realise his dream because he believed in humanity. He spawned the miracle called Grameen Bank, one of the world's largest micro-credit institutions, with only \$27.

Conventional banking is governed by the principle that banks are there to help the rich get richer. Banks have no money for those who really and badly need it. As Mark Twain famously argued, a banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

Prof Yunus turned this conventional approach to banking on its head by lending to those who badly needed money but had nothing to offer by way of security. While banks everywhere turn their back on those who cannot offer any collateral or guarantee, Yunus questioned not 'whether the poor are credit-worthy, but whether banks are people-worthy.'

It's this vision that has enabled Bangladesh, the world's third largest Muslim country that was once dismissed by Henry Kissinger as a 'basket case,' to lift its impoverished masses out of crushing poverty.

Today, lending about \$800m a year, the bank has 6.7 million borrowers — 97 per cent of them women — and an unmatched 99 per cent loan repayment rate

Grameen Bank, or Prof Yunus rather, has proved that it is possible to build large and profitable microfinance operations, and has inspired many imitators around the world. The bank is now entirely self-financing. In fact, some years ago it turned down the World Bank's offer of aid to expand its operations.

This is the most credible example how one man's vision can change a people and make a meaningful and visible difference. It's this originality of ideas and vision that once took the Arabs and Muslims to heights of power and prosperity and intellectual superiority. It was no accident that within the three decades after the birth of Islam, the Arabs had conquered the whole of Arabia, Persia and were challenging the reigning powers of Asia and Africa.

This year's second most important Nobel prize — for literature — too has gone to a Muslim, Orhan Pamuk of Turkey. Like Prof Yunus, Pamuk has excelled in his area. The Turkish writer, who has in his works repeatedly tried to make sense of the tussle between the West and East or Christianity and Islam, has proved his integrity as an original thinker by persuading his people not to shy away from their past.

But Pamuk is no Salman Rushdie. Unlike Rushdie, who has constantly picked on Muslims cleverly playing to the Western gallery, Pamuk sympathetically holds a mirror to his country and people. He is part of the mainstream. Yet he is also the voice of Turkey's conscience. This is what intellectual leadership is all about.

This had been the characteristic strength of the Muslim world in its formative centuries. It fought the battle of ideas from a position of strength, challenging reigning ideas and ideologies of the time. At the same time, it had been open to new ideas

and change. It embraced and adopted the best from around the world. Which was how the science of arithmetic from India and political thought and philosophy from Greece were passed on to Europe and the rest of the world through Arabs and Muslims.

An insatiable hunger of knowledge and culture of ideas across the Islamic world coupled with their willingness to learn enabled the Muslims to conquer new lands and establish a utopia that stretched from Morocco in the West to Malaysia in the East and Austria in the north to Africa in the south. Governments across the Muslim world actively encouraged and supported the quest of knowledge and spirit of scientific inquiry. Muslim countries were home to scores of universities and libraries long before Oxford and Cambridge had been founded in Europe.

When the Mongol armies ran over the Middle East sacking eminent centres of power and learning like Baghdad, Damascus and Alexandria killing hundreds of thousands of people, it is said there was more ink than blood in rivers. The invaders had burnt and dumped in the river the hundreds of thousands of invaluable books and rare manuscripts authored and collected over the years.

The Arabs made great strides in the fields of geography, astronomy and navigation which the Europeans later used to chart their own progress.

Indeed, the Arabs' contribution to science played a crucial role in the Industrial Revolution of Europe and the phenomenal progress the West has made over the past few centuries. Arab scientists established as early as the ninth century that the earth was round and not flat, as it was believed until then. Again, it was the Arabs who created the first map of the globe. These scientific theories, that were available in Latin translations, paved the way for the discovery of America by Columbus.

Europe benefited immensely from the invaluable sources of pathbreaking scientific research and discoveries in the Muslim world. Terms like alchemy, algebra, cipher and countless others that are derived from Arabic are a tribute to the deep imprint the Arabs have left on Western Renaissance.

How would you then explain the current intellectual stagnation and listlessness in the Muslim world? Why aren't Muslims part of the global knowledge revolution any more, let alone leading it? Have they run out of steam as a people and as a civilisation?

But what we are witnessing is not the beginning of the end of Islamic civilisation. Its decline and fall began long ago, at least five centuries back. In fact, the scientific and intellectual renaissance in the West began about the same time that the Muslim world marked its own fall. It's no coincidence that power began to slip Muslim hands just when they stopped exploring and expanding new horizons of knowledge and scientific inquiry. The culture of knowledge, intellectual freedom and scientific inquiry that marked the phenomenal ascent of the Muslim world for over a millennium died a quiet death centuries ago. Muslims do not produce intellectuals and thinkers of the stature of Ibn Rushd and Ibn Sena, or Averroes and Avicenna as they are known in the West, any more.

Why? Because the powerful movement of knowledge and ideas that once drove Muslims and fired their imagination has lost itself somewhere, if not totally killed itself.

But the shining example of Prof Yunus, and some others before him, goes to demonstrate that original ideas do exist in our midst. Only they need to be nurtured and promoted with great love, as Mother Teresa put it, as Prof Yunus has. Looks like there is still hope.

There is no dearth of talent or resources — human or material — in the Muslim world today. What it needs is original ideas. And men like Yunus who can translate these ideas into reality. Original ideas, anyone?

Aijaz Zaka Syed is Assistant Editor of Khaleej Times. He can be reached at aijazsyed@khaleejtimes.com Source: www.khaleejtimes.com Spanish photographer Manuel Vilches Benitez to Yemen Times:

"I wish for Yemenis that all their dreams come true, that they can live in peace and the rest of the world doesn't judge them without knowing them."

After a trip to Yemen, during which he crossed the whole country, the Spanish photographer Manuel Vilches Benitez, displayed his 50 photographs in a marvellous exhibition March this year on Yemen, its people and its architecture the title of the exhibition "Yemen, una Mirada al pasado" ("Yemen, a glance into the past").

"This exhibition comes from my heart, I have had great happiness with the people, they have treated me exquisitely, and the form to return their gratitude is to present them as they are, generous and proud people not only of their past but of their present. They deserve it." Said Benitez when interviewed by Nadia Al-Sakkaf editor in chief of the Yemen Times.

Let us first know about you and about your art.

I am a self -taught photographer who always follows my instinct. I have spent over 20 years of travelling dedicated to photography around the world. I have been to countries such as: Portugal, Cuba, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, Niger, Italy, France etc.... I have prepared a piece about Africa which will be published on a web site in the internet and is called "El Angel caido" (One fallen angel).

I am specialised in taking portraits because I feel I have special gift of getting close to people of all places and cultures; I can get on with everybody very well and this made me able to detect the humanity

I have just returned from Niger and am preparing an exhibition on Niger and the ethnic group Peul Bororo called "El agua de la vida" ("aman iman") ("The water of life". I have done several exhibitions about different trips to different countries. I have done an exhibition on Syria and its proximity to the conflict in Iraq titled "Te presto mis ojos". ("I lend you my eyes"). I held an exhibition on Jordan, its caravanserais and Petra.

Why among all the countries in the world, why did you choose to visit Yemen?

I have heard about Yemen and its mysterious and this intrigued me. I was carried away by the constant longing that my dreams brought me Yemen, the land of the divine Queen of Saba and the intelligent Queen Arwa, a place of the time where the legendary caravans looked for the prized treasure of incense, Yemen a place that entered history with the nickname of "The happy Arabia". A place that takes up a place in my heart and that I had a need to visit.

What are the cities you visited while in Yemen and what are your impressions

I went on a 20 day tour around Yemen and visited: Sana'a, Shibam, Shibam Hadramut, Tarim, Taiz, Aden, Mukalla, Jibla, Ibb, Manakha, Wady Dahr. I have been to endless markets and small villages where the people live in complete harmony with nature.

My impression of Sana'a was that it is a city from your dreams. I was amazed by the preservation of the old city, its streets, mosques and its big market, a place to lose oneself to and be overcome by it in all senses.

I loved having a cup of tea up above Bab Al-Yemen's door, seeing how the Yemenites lived their lives around their shops and how life flows with joy through their streets as if it were a river.

One of the things that caught my attention the most was how well cared for the city is inside the city walls, the old houses and their characteristic architecture of dark brick and their windows with the wonderful decorations in plasterwork and coloured glass how when night falls they light up making it seem as though you were in a fairytale.

As for Marib, I would have liked everything regarding its archaeology, both the Queen's Palace and the Moon's temple, to have more support from the countries expert in this matter, because it's a wonderful place to visit and breathe the true air of history.

I was fascinated but at the same time saddened to set foot in the ancient city of Marib; its old houses were in ruins as if it were a colossus. It fascinated me and at the same time, an immense sadness ran through my heart, a sadness that I now feel again in evoking so many memories kept inside of me, one of them being Fatima's face which I took a photo of as a memory of this place.

Thula is a wonderful city. It was there that I really felt I was living through the Middle Ages. A city situated in the very depth of history and kept in a wonderful

Its doors and walls remain untouched as if time had stopped. Thula mimicry

its ochre façades and its mountains. Thula is a place from where today I can hear the echo of my footsteps on its streets.

Shibam Hadramut is known throughout the world for being the place that Pier Pasoline

chose for his film "A thousand and one are a true treasure. In their faces you can nights" and for the nickname "The see joy, charm an above all pride. Manhattan of the desert". Going through its arched door and down its side streets is a pleasure to the eyes, especially when you discover the astonishing height of a building all built in adobe. Feeling that you're in this place is like the culmination of a dream, it's like the city has been built by magic. It seems impossible that with only mud, straw and the hands of the men, a city such as this was conceived.

Its streets are full of life, the children running free engrossed in their games and suddenly they stopped to follow travellers while their shouts and laughter echoed so beautifully and filled up the whole world. The children's laughter, all want a picture taken and I don't need to be asked twice.

I said goodbye to Shibam remembering some poems by Pasolini: "There, behind, opened as far as the field, a road that I don't know if I walked in my childhood or if I dreamed it".

And then the sun took out its red handkerchief and I still remember the out line of the palm trees, which like butterflies blown by the wind gave me the last goodbye.

The first memory that I have of Jibla is Rima's face. She received us just as we went up one of her bridges and welcomed us to her city.

She accompanied us for the whole tour, telling us the story of her city. The sweet murmur of her voice with her wonderful city rivals each other in beauty.

Its streets of stone, its small mosques with their decorates minarets. Surrounded by cultivated earth in terraces and leafy greens.

In one of its streets with lot children around us we stopped in a small shop which sold tea, there we stopped to invite everybody to a cup of tea.

The men came up to us and they greeted us sincerely and the children put music to my memory with their laughter.

We arrived at Arwa's Palace and there a girl, she had an awareness of her past and she felt pride of it. We said goodbye to Jibla and Rima, the woman of sweet voice and singsong with a look us as sweet as honey.

In Manakha I found the spirit's resting place, situated in the Haraz's mountains with its breeze and its rain cooled the soul.

People in Manakha paid attention to us in a kind and cordial way. We walked around their mountain towns and the sight was strikingly beautiful.

The children once again set their selves as the protagonists, in the afternoon I usually went with them to play football and after they fought over who took me their house and there I was received and invited to drink tea.

The nights were full of wonderful Yemeni gastronomy and I got drunk on the sound of their music. A friend asked me once "have you found your place in the world?" and I answered him: I think that if at some stage I get lost look for me

If going to Yemen was a dream to carry out, to visit Shahara was the crucial stage of the tour. A small village that had importance in the past as a place of

To get there wasn't easy; it was a hard journey by road and an ascent towards the small village with a frightening precipice. But never mind, every thing was worth the effort to be in a place with so big an importance in Yemen's history had its rewards and the sights are wonderful.

It's very impressive arriving at the stone and hanging bridge that today joins the two small villages. It's in Sharara where you really feel the whirl of Yemen's history

How did you arrange for the exhibition and what was your message through it? I counted on the help of cultural Area of the council of Ubrique in Cadiz to carry out this exhibition. I had at my disposal the exhibition of the council and financial help for the publicity expenses.

I tried to create an exhibition which

show not only the country's

geographic monuments, but

places and over all its people.

The Yemeni men, women and

children are a true treasure.

In their faces you can see joy,

charm an above all pride.

reflects as objectively surroundings it's In this exhibition I wanted to as possible a country which is so different from that which most people know. In this one can dream. Until also its architecture, the oldest exhibition I wanted to show not only the country's geographic monuments, but also its architecture, the oldest places and over all its people. The Yemeni men, women and children

Will you come again to Yemen? And what do you wish for the Yemen and Yemeni people?

My wife and I would both like to come back to Yemen and for my son to come with us. I think this is a trip that has to be done, not only for historical interests but also for the senses and experience for the soul and spirit. It is to know a country with a wonderful past but especially to live with a kind people, cordial and exquisite in their behaviour. A working population that opens their door to you making you feel at home.

I wish for Yemenis that all their dreams come true, that they can live in peace and the rest of the world doesn't judge them without knowing them.

I wish that they fight so as not to lose their identity and that they value the treasure that they have in their country. I wish that together they find the path into the future because the Yemeni population must be a big family.

What are your ambitions career wise and personally?

My aspiration in the field of art is to keep showing the world images of places and existing realities. To show that there are other worlds and that each one has its idiosyncrasies, and that all have the right to fight for their freedom, for their way of

And regarding my family, to continue as we have up until now, respecting our way of being, fighting everyday to remain together and to live and share, but every thing is easy when there is love.

A lesson learnt through your travel? One of the things I have learnt through travelling is that in my heart there are a lot of people and a lot of worlds and in a part

of it is Yemen and its people.

AL HAJJARAH



RIMA DE JIBLA



RANDA LA NIÑA DE LAS FLORES

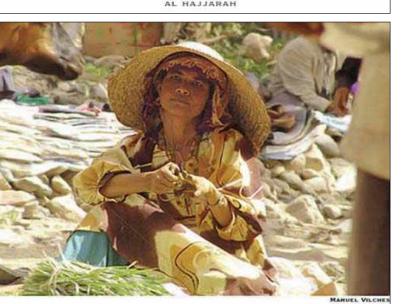
MANUEL VILCHES

FATIMA, DIAMANTE EN MARIB



LA MITICA SANA A





MUJER DE WADY AL DABAD



Yemen secures a berth in second round of Arab Cup

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Yemen's national team qualified for the Arab Cup's final 16 after a welldeserved 4-0 victory over Djibouti last Wednesday at Al-Meraisi Stadium in

The national team topped Group A, which includes Yemen, Djibouti and the Comoro Islands, with 6 points from two successive wins over the two African teams.

The second round of the Arab Cup involves 16 Arab teams divided into four groups. Although the Yemeni team won the two games, fans weren't satisfied with the team's performance.

The team still requires much more practice to overcome numerous negative aspects. It played with a modest formation that seemed to have better harmony between teammates than any previous formations.

Yemen scored several goals in the first half and caused the Africans to submit to defeat, but teammates passed balls hurriedly, thus losing many golden opportunities.

Ahli Sana'a leads basketball tourney

Ahli Sana'a tops the basketball tournament involving men's and under-17 teams after defeating host Sha'ab Ibb 72-64. The game was part of the eighth round of first-grade basketball teams.

With this victory, the Sana'a team increases its points to 4, while the hosts retain their 3 points. Other games in the men's round witnessed Al-Telal beating host Sayoun 88-62, thus increasing its points to 4.

In under-17 competition, Ahli Sana'a barely defeated guest Sha'ab Hadramout 77-76 to lead the tourney with 4 points, while Al-Telal's under-17 team easily thrashed guest Tali'at Shibam 70-23, thus raising its points

Newly-hired Egyptian coach team is in Cairo to hold its first Mohsen Saleh conducted numerous substitutions in the second half, thus helping the team achieve more ball possession and win the game. An Arab referee oversaw the meeting.

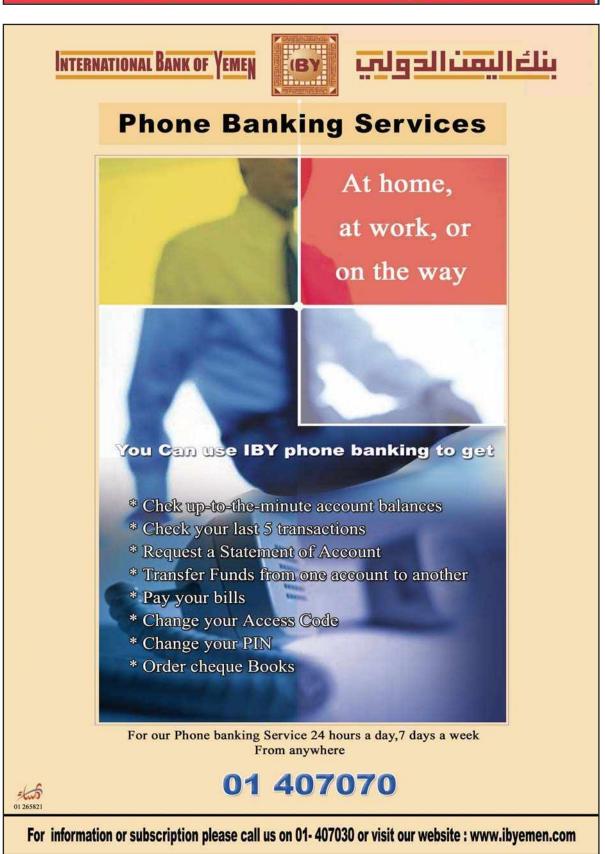
Yemeni teammates carried the Palestinian flag during the tournament, which its team missed due to the ongoing political situation in its homeland.

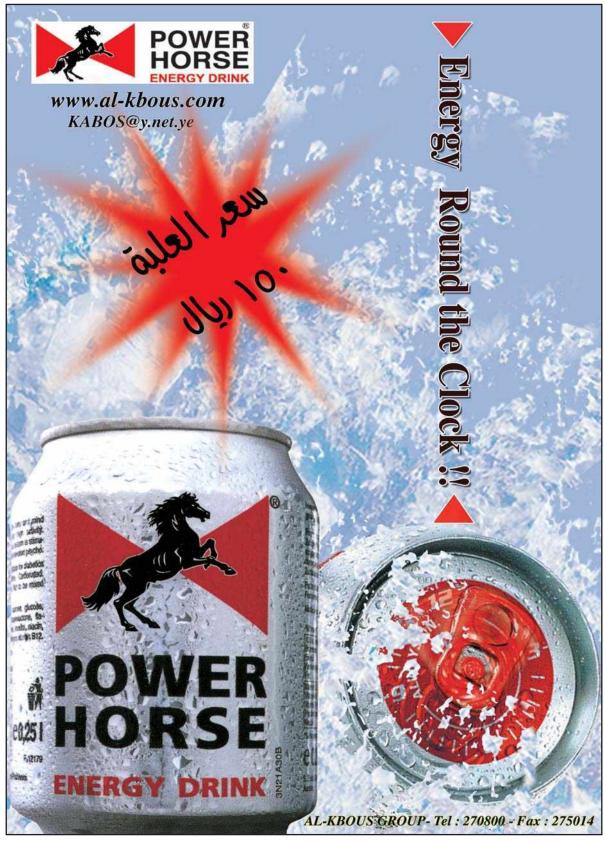
In related news, Yemen's national

external camp in preparation for the 18th Arabian Gulf Championship scheduled for Jan. 17-31 in the United Arab Emirates.

During the 10-day camp, the Yemeni team will play numerous practice matches with Egyptian teams with the aim of assessing players' performance and then determining eligible formations for the Gulf competition.







Director General of Environmental Emergency, Ministry of Water & Environment, National plans do not give priority to disaster risk management

In the past two decades, Yemen has experienced different types of disasters including earthquakes, flash floods, and epidemics of communicable diseases as well as civil wars. Yemen Times interviewed the general director of Environmental Emergency Unit at the Ministry of Water and Environment. Engineer Abdulkhaliq Al-Ghaberi who highlighted the current situation of the environmental disasters and risks in Yemen.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi amell11ariqi@yahoo.com

How would you describe the current situation in Yemen regarding environmental disasters?

Yemen has undergone significant changes since 1990, and these changes are expected to continue and pose a challenge to improving human development conditions in Yemen. Moreover, the concentration of more that 70% of the country's population in rural areas, who are financially poor and lack access to basic services such as safe drinking water, education facilities and sanitation. Government resources are very limited to elicit the needs of geographically distant, vulnerable and isolated communities. In addition, there are a lack of programs to handle the effects of natural hazards and risks, which include flash floods, earthquakes, technological hazards, civil conflicts, urban migration, extreme climate events, desertification, soil erosion, landslide, mudflow, locust invasions, and tsunamis, depletion of groundwater, aquifers and disease

According to the world disasters report 2000, within the period 1990-

is there a difference between natural and environmental disasters?

Of course, an environmental disaster is a disaster that is due to human activity and should not be confused with natural disasters. In this case, the impact of humans' alteration of the ecosystem has led to widespread and/or long-lasting consequences. It can include the deaths of animals, humans and plant systems, or severe disruption of human life, possibly requiring migration.

What are the main existing risks and environmental risk sources of natural hazards in Yemen?

We should note that there are many human factors that play a main role to influence the expected risks from the natural hazards:

1- Earthquakes

Yemen is one of the highest vulnerable areas for earthquake activities.

2- Land and terraces degradation

Due to the physiographic characters of the country, most of the arable lands are located within watershed entities. The accelerating degradation of watershed basin of Yemen has serious economic and ecological



Engineer Abdulkhaliq Al-Ghaberi

5- Land and rock slides

Most of Yemen's highly populated areas are located in the highlands. So this hazard must be considered a major risk. Many areas in Yemen are exposed to land slide events every year. Most of these events haven't been assessed environmentally

6-Tsunami

Yemen has experienced the huge Sumatra Tsunami. There are several points that are primarily appointed as high vulnerability for tsunami risk.

How do humans cause such environmental risks?

Manmade factors influencing the risk have an impact on and may cause environmental emergencies:

• Industrial units especially those which are located in the main cities, among the urban areas



The palms trees remains after the fire that broke out in "Wadi Almulook" in Taiz governorate in 2004.

impact on the environment?There are many laws such as the

activities that have a negative

environmental protection law, water law, and civil defense law, but to implement these laws, the government needs to pay attention to establishing a national policy that addresses only disaster risk reduction. Unfortunately disaster risk reduction is not always addressed in any plan. For instance, the national water strategy does not give priority to the subject of disaster risk reduction while giving more attention to drinking water shortage and depletion problems.

What is the role of the Environmental Emergencies Unit, and what are the main challenges the unit faces in this field?

Let me clarify one point: EEU contains two parts, the first is The General Directorate of Environmental Emergency (GDEE) in the Ministry of Water and Environment, and The National Team for Environmental Emergency and Risk Reduction (NTER), in which most of the related governmental bodies are represented. The GDEE will play a technical and coordination role for NTER. NTER will consider a National platform for EE management and RR under Civil Defense Council as a higher umbrella.

In general our role will be to enhance, contribute to developing of national, regional and international Environmental Emergencies (EE) and Disaster Risk Reduction (RR),to introduce and integrate EE and RR provisions among the National Development Plans and Strategies in Yemen, to work on and support developing of National EE management &RR Policies, strategies systems, and legislation, to work on and support developing of national standards and guidelines of recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of disaster-affected areas communities., to issue and implement NECP when EE occurred, to contribute and work on developing, approving, implementing, and supervision of national environmental safety standards guidelines and risk reduction prevention, and mitigation measures to contribute and work on developing, preparing and implementing of EE & RR awareness programs based on a proposal from EE general Directorate, and to review study the International, Regional resolutions, policies and strategies related to $\stackrel{\circ}{\text{EE}}$ & RR to identify the best options to deal and apply them at the national and local levels.

EEU has undertaken a number of important initiatives including starting an emergency and contact database, carrying out rapid environmental assessments after disasters, adding environmental emergencies to the National Environmental Statement, proposing updates to national environmental legislation and developing a network of focal points in

Yemen. However we faced many difficulties and challenges including:

- Lacking or absence of environmental emergencies awareness at officials, academic and public levels
- Lacking or absence of the basic facilities to deal with EE such as technical equipments, communication and transport tools and early warning system
- Absence of risk maps, and basic information on EE
- Lacking the clear safety legislations, standards, guidelines and principles
- Lacking the appropriate expertise
 Lacking the financial sources to strengthen the coordination and operation mechanisms
- Absence of response equipment

Therefore, there is an urgent need to conduct an immediate awareness program that should cover all levels. In addition, support is highly needed for the National Team for Environmental Emergencies & Disaster Risk Reduction in terms of capacity building and institutional arrangements.

What about the updates and ongoing activities?

Some work has been done so far on applying the recommendations by the international experts to the immediate

action in the first three months.

- Developed proposal plan to apply the immediate action recommended in the report. This proposal has been approved by the Minister and secure financial resources for activities.
- Contact with civil defense general directorate (Disaster Management Unit) and identified that the response for the disasters should be the responsibility of disaster management unit and risk reduction would be the tasks of environmental emergency unit.
- EEU has developed a Draft National Environmental Contingency Plan through cooperation and support from Joint UNEP/OCHA Environmental Unit, UNOCHA and UNEP/APELL. This draft is now on modification and adjustment by the NTER member's agencies. Hopefully the final plan will be officially issued mid-2007.
- Translated the draft contingency plan and distributed it to other agency members on the national team of environmental emergencies and disaster risk reduction.
- EEU organized a workshop on applying the Cairo principles on rehabilitation and the construction of Tsunami Affected Areas from 16-17th of April 2006.



monsoon season, leading to a loss of productive agricultural lands along the wadis, increasing sedimentation and significant widening of the downstream wadi bed.

1998, the average number of people affected by disasters annually was 52,561 while more than 100 individuals were killed every year. The report estimated that in 1999 alone about 19,782 persons were affected by disasters in Yemen. Most of those affected have been the vulnerable segments of the society including women and children

In addition to that, many unaccountable risks can be observed to continuously take place in Yemen. A good example is the elevated number of car accidents every week. The number of casualties rarely goes below 50 deaths a week. Yemen also faces a variety of difficulties: desertification, pollution, drought and a scarcity of water.

Yemen offers a unique example of environmental diversity. The preservation of healthy and diversified model environment requires a coherent institutional and legal base, and that is what we are endeavoring to establish. However the considerable material resources necessary for the attainment of this objective still fall short of the essential needs, whether at the level of technology, training or the dissemination of information and awareness among the various population strata regarding this issue of significance for all generations.

According to your previous answer,

environmental and social implications. Insufficient information, however, is currently available on the magnitude of resources degradation, on the extent of soil erosion and sand encroachment. Most arable and watershed areas are subjected to extensive soil erosion and desertification. Sand encroachment on agriculture lands areas in the south (around Aden), west (especially Wadi Mawr and southern Tihama) and east (especially around Marib and wadi Al-Jawf) probably represents the most immediate and serious environmental threat in Yemen at present. Erosion from steep basins has resulted in talus fans with coarse gravel and silt along the foothills and gently sloping areas of fine silt along the alluvial plains below the outfalls of wadies(valleys) in the coastal and interior plains

3- Flooding

Flooding occurs during the monsoon season, leading to a loss of productive agricultural lands along the wadis, increasing sedimentation and significant widening of the downstream wadi bed.

4- Firewood

The natural vegetation of acacia scrub in the foothills has been degraded by the search for firewood. Natural forests have almost disappeared due to overcutting for construction, fuel wood, and fodder.

- which lack effective governmental control and environmental monitoring systems.
- Transport activities of hazardous materials is lacking to applicable safety measures
- Mining activities
- Power energy plants where several of these factories are located near environmentally sensitive areas such as the coast of the red sea and gulf of Aden
- Waste water treatment plants in the main cities. Many of these plants are overloaded.
- Food industry factories and activities. It is noted that most of these plant discharge their wastes to the environment without any treatment.
- Public service plants such as vehicle services.
- Infrastructure projects such as roads and building in mountains areas without referring to environmental impact assessments. A Good example for this case is the landslide disaster that happened last year near Taiz. The report of this disasters indicated a road project in the affected area was the main cause of the disaster.
- The extensive use of the natural resources.

What is the role of the law to prevent



damage in due Tsunam in Yemen was much less, mainly because of its distance from the epicenter of the earthquake, Nevertheless, the impacts on the livelihoods of local people, especially fishermen, were significant, as many of them lost their main form of income.

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Bicycling adventures in Sana'a

By: Alan George For Yemen Times

hen one is holding together a happy family, a steady job and a place to live and can surround himself with a few material possessions, his next concern is living long enough to enjoy such pleasures.

Thus, the eternal struggle for an ordinary solvent man approaching half a century is the never-ending battle to remove excess weight from around the waist and replace it as muscle around once youthful shoulders. Or perhaps, settling for not being out of breath from leaving one's bed in the morning! That's why I bicycle to work.

My school is approximately 12 km. from where I live. Shortly before dawn, I set off on my bike with headlight shining onto the deserted suburban streets of Sana'a. Starlight soon fades into dawn, which blazes into another Yemeni morning.

My neighbors puzzle as to why the 'Chelsea tractor' remains snoozing in the driveway and my work colleagues later wonder why I recklessly risk my life on Yemen's streets.

But cycling in the early morning is a time for meditation and later observation. The steady rhythm of the wheels revolving on their slightly buckled axis soothes a new day. At this early hour, a handful of the many laborers soon to assemble by the gas station with pickaxes, shovels or buckets and paint rollers in hand sit sipping their piping hot Lipton tea while patiently awaiting the arrival of their friends and the chance for some casual work.

On my \$100 Yemeni bike, I quietly and conspicuously cycle on, gliding downhill to Sixty Meter Road and weaving around patches of broken glass or plastic in the road.

I'm indecisive while waiting at the junction of Hadda Street and Sixty



Meter Road. Do I go like a skater venturing onto thin ice, even though there's a red light which drivers always ignore at this time of the morning? Or, do I wait patiently for the green and be a Westerner doing what he thinks is the right thing, regardless of where he finds himself?

I know that if there was a policeman, drivers would await his wave while their cars continually seem to be in motion, reminding me of cows straining to get through a narrow gate at milking time.

I can see men wrapped in scarves against the morning air crammed into the backs of Toyota and Suzuki pickups on their way to the fields. I look to my left and right and realize how much I'll miss the surrounding mountains topped by motionless animals silhouetted against the powder blue

About half an hour from school, I can pick out the faces of those in cafes or waiting at roadside gathering points. A polite nod of the head or an acknowledging smile and beam of the eyes provides the necessary contact and human interconnectedness that's so important in daily life.

There's a different feel to early morning in sleepy southwest England. One is claustrophobia from being enclosed between houses and shops as I peddle along the narrow viewless roads. Although it's safer along these roads because I can follow dedicated cycling lanes, the pollution is much the same as rush hour in Sana'a owing to the greater density of traffic crawling from traffic light to traffic light. Cycling is more popular in southwest England than in Sana'a.

The ubiquitous bicycle can be seen in greater numbers on many German streets, where I see various species of machine: a custom-made bike below a parent towing a child trailer/buggy, a sit-up-and-beg bicycle used for shopping or a flashy Olympic bulimic-type racer.

If my journey to school is an opportunity for reflection and observation, then the return journey home calls for

tolerance and restraint because I see all sorts of mind-blowing stuff that would make the toes curl

It's common knowledge that pedestrians don't have safe places to cross Sixty Meter Road; however, women often drift nonchalantly across it as if on wheels, pretending they're made of an indestructible substance able to withstand the impact of the oncoming speeding traffic. Men are more likely to jog across like ducks in a fairground shooting gallery. Both get frighteningly close to passing traffic, which makes my hair stand on end (what little I have these days!).

Sixty Meter Road at about 4 p.m. is an opportunity to sharpen those Formula One driving reflexes and experience the excitement of Arabia Felix on the road. One interesting phenomenon is the function of the car horn, whose use in Great Britain is regulated by the Highway Code. I remember that it shouldn't be sounded between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. It's most commonly used for frightening away parading pigeons or a stray cat absentmindedly venturing into the road.

Are Yemeni horns louder than those in Great Britain? When I'm cycling home, horns in Sana'a seem to sound like claxons blasting either to alert me of imminent collision, neighborly presence, kind acknowledgement, a forthcoming wedding or local rubbish collection, which seems to be an emergency situation. Then there are the opening notes of a horn concerto played by the chronic honker approximately five meters behind me. As if my wheels don't wobble enough already!

Another particularly frightening situation for a cyclist is when a vehicle approaches while heading down the wrong side of the road. It's definitely disconcerting to suddenly look up and see a laughing motorist heading straight for me.

Speaking of life or death situations reminds me of the most serious threat to the lives of travelers on Sixty Meter Road – a vehicle turning into the path of other vehicles traveling at speed.

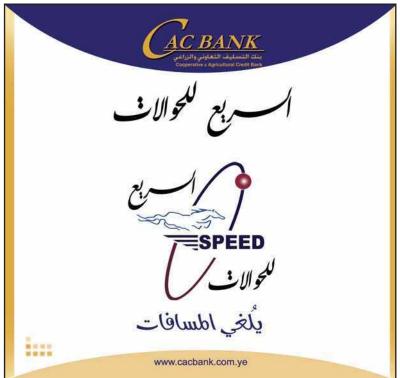
You certainly need your wits about you because it's a recipe for a disaster, although Lunderstand there's a reason. If a vehicle is being pursued by a police or army vehicle and the pursued car suddenly turns left between the central median and goes in the opposite direction, then the pursuing car can fire some bullets at the car as it goes by.

I believe one type of motorist in Sana'a has a secret vendetta against cyclists - dabab drivers! These gentlemen who drive small people-carriers have laws unto themselves, swerving curbside at the drop of a hat, usually without looking. This is definitely a risk for a cyclist, as I'm either forced off the road or close enough to open the door of the dabab and hop inside.

What makes road use worse are nonexistent give way road markings or signs at junctions and roundabouts, which have occasional oil spills, thus transforming cars into mechanical ice skaters. Then there are the water trucks that look like they haven't seen water for eons, chugging along in the center lane at about 35 km. per hour (20 km. if going uphill) and belching enough exhaust fumes to form London pea-soup fog.

Let's face it, many cars in Sana'a have body work to die for, looking like they've been in a demolition derby making them unlikely to be roadworthy. Break lights often don't work or are nonexistent and you can forget about turn signals because the lever on the steering column is used to suspend plastic bags full of qat, which slowly transforms healthy, chestnut-brown eyes into sagging, thick-lidded, lifeless ones hidden above stretched out, squirrel-like cheeks.

God willing, I'll reach my next birthday. My advice: when driving or cycling the streets of Sana'a, look after yourselves because it's "Wacky Races" out there!





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Improve Your English: 299

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (94) Wishes for a brother (i)

othing is dearer, closer or more precious for a sister than her brother's love and indulgent attention for her. Days roll by... fond memories grow fonder as she goes down the memory lane and wistfully ruminates over the glittering moments of bygone days in the loving company of her brother.

- Days are getting busier; schedules are getting tighter and tighter and the routine is getting more hectic. It's a busy world and we hardly get time to tell the special people in our lives, about how very special they're to us. Just like time passes too quickly for me to see you, to talk with you, to share memories with you, to listen to you and to be with you, as much as I want to. But time never goes by so quickly that I don't think of you and thank God for blessing me with a wonderful brother like you.
- For my wonderful brother who is real gem of a person. Dear brother! I remember all the time we spent

together... each one precious in some way - They're

all my treasured memories, as close as yesterday. Holding each other to find our own town on the map, making finger puppets and telling stories dear brother, all these things put a smile on my face because it reminds me of what a wonderful friend I've in my brother - be it of those childhood days or growing up years later.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences All of the reptiles lay eggs.

- The boy threw the stone who is wearing the 5. covenant yellow shirt.
- The car that I had it in 1990 was blue.
- 4. My older brother, you will meet later, is a dentist. He lived in an old house which attic was very

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions Before going into the mosque, every one has to take off their shoes.

- When I tried on my three white shirts, I found that none of them fitted me any more.
- None of the furniture has arrived yet.
- Unfortunately, a few of our houseplants died
- while we were away on holiday.
- 5. It cost **less** than twenty dollars.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word Extreme scarcity of food in a region

- Suffer from extreme hunger
- 3. Fanatical supporter of something 4. Led by imagination instead of reason and
- experience
- Person filled with excessive, and often mistaken, enthusiasm

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions 1. Based on error or misleading information: fallacious (adj)

- Liable to errors: **fallible** (adj)
- Land ploughed but not sown or planted: fallow
- 4. Move, walk, or act in an uncertain or hesitating manner: falter (vt)
- Make well-acquainted: **familiarize** (vt)

(B) Words often confused

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

- 1. age, epoch, era
- 2. continuance, continuation, continuity
- 3. contort, distort, retort
- 4. weary, worry 5. facial, facile

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions 1. eminent (adj) (distinguished): Many eminent personalities will be honored on the Unification

immanent (adj) (of God): Permanently pervading the universe): No one can transgress the immanent will of Allah.

imminent (adj) (events that are likely to happen soon): From the weather conditions, a storm seems imminent.

egoism (n) (theory that our actions are always caused by the desire to benefit ourselves): The belief that all our actions are inspired by egoism is fallacious.

egotism (n) (practice of talking about oneself): Some critics identify sublime egotism in Wordsworth's poetry.

- **trip** (n) (a pleasure excursion): Our week-end trip to the seaside was pretty enjoyable.
- tour (n) (journey out of home during which several places are visited): He went on a roundthe-world tour.
- arrant (adj) (something or somebody in the highest-degree): He is notorious as an arrant liar. errant (adj) (wandering): There are many errant tribes in India even today.
- iniquitous (adj) (very wicked or unjust): Majeed is hated for his iniquitous attitude. ubiquitous (adj) (present everywhere or in several places): Allah, the most merciful and the most compassionate, is ubiquitous.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

i. Synonyms Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the 5.

one given at the top 1. contingent

- a. dependent on something else b. liable c. not certain to happen d. accidental
- 2. contraband a. excluded by law
- c. illegal traffic 3. corollary
 - a. an easy inference b. consequence d. supplement

b. prohibited

d. smuggled goods

b. to make certain

d. to ensure

b. subordinate

d. none of these

b. frightful

d. horrible

b. phlegmatic

d. none of these

- c. result 4. corroborate
- a. to confirm

- c. to ascertain
- a. a mutual agreement b. the writing containing the agreement c. a dispensation d. a testament

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

compunction pricking of conscience

Word Synonym

- concur to act together
- confound to confuse conglomerate
- to render holy 5. consecrate

ii. Antonyms

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

a. weak b. robust d. emaciated c. meek

2. fundamental a. essential

- c. cardinal
- ghastly a. healthy
- c. spectral
- 4. garrulous
- a. prolific c. parliamentary
- graceful a. awkward
- c. slim
 - b. ugly d. kind

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions Word

object of hate

sterilize

Antonym ephemeral everlasting 2. fickle steadfast firmament earth

5. fructify (D) Spelling

fetish

Choose the correctly spelt word

1. a. onomatopoeia b. onomatopoei c. onometopoeia d. onomatopeia 2. a. parallelled b. parallelad c. paraleled d. paralleled

a. puerile b. piuerile c. peurile d. puerille a. protecson b. protektion c. protection d. protaction 5. a. quorom b. quorum

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions 1. merchant 2. nausea occurred 4. omitted 5. occasion

d. kuoram

(E) Phrases and Idioms

c. quoram

Use the following in sentences 1. make oneself scarce

2. in the know rush one's fences

- as dull as ditchwater

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- tempt fate (to act in a way which is likely to bring misfortune on oneself): He tempted fate when he entered into argument with the Manager.
- leave (someone) in the lurch (to leave someone in a difficult situation without help): I assured the students of all help and support and promised that I won't leave them in the lurch.
- 3. stay the pace (to maintain progress at the same rate as others): Yemen has to brace herself to stay
- 4. you can say that again (you are absolutely right): To Abraham's observation that Yemen is a tourist's paradise everyone said unequivocally,
- 'you can say that again.' fall foul of (someone/something) (to get into a situation where one is likely to get into trouble with someone / something): Akram fell foul of the new office regulations.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A. Grammar Look at the situations and write down what these people might say

1. Baraka is not enjoying her new job.

service.

I wish ...

- 2. Yousif knows that he has got to do military
- If only ... 3. Tina has seen a lovely dress, but it costs too
- much. 4. Abdu has been feeling ill for months and wants to
- feel better. If only ...
- 5. Samira is jealous of Hanan who is a student at Sana'a University.
- 6. I always have to get up at 5 am to go to work.
- If only ... 7. Fuad is poor because he has a large family to feed.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- 1. The air crash investigators are **looking** into the
- 2. It's a lovely sofa, but it would use up too much space in the sitting room. While I was looking for my suitcase in the room.
- I came across a box full of lovely old books. 4. If you've forgotten his phone number, why don't you look it up in the phone book?
- 5. When her husband went abroad, she broke down

B. Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim 117: YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions 116: A BARKING DOG SELDOM BITES

Appearance is not always the reality. A dog that barks wildly produces a scare in the passer-by that it is out to bite. But in reality it is seen that such frightfully barking dogs very rarely bite others. Similarly, pitched dark clouds that produce peals of thunder seldom bring showers of rain. Therefore, one should not be easily carried away by the exterior. Very often the exterior appears awe-inspiring, full of 'sound and fury', but actually signifying little. It needs courage and patience to look beyond the surface manifestations of an event or a phenomenon. One should confront any vicissitude or misfortune valiantly or boldly and not be traumatized by the mere thought of it or by the sudden outburst of any seemingly frightening incident that might, otherwise be only momentary.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"But who doth more wrong than one who invents a lie against Allah, to lead astray men without knowledge? For Allah guideth not people who do -S6: A144 wrong."

VI. Food for Thought

"Without adversity, without change, life is boring. The paradox of comfort is that we stop trying." -John Amatt

Neuroscientific studies on



By: Sameer Ahmed An-Nuzaili **BA** in English Researcher in Translation **Studies** lbb University, lbb

This brief article attempts to show how neuroscience may help teachers to understand how people learn and store information in their memory which perhaps lead to improved teaching strategies.

emory as a learning

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device has always attracted psychologists and scientists. Teachers have also been interested in learning about memory mechanisms and behavior because they have to teach content to school children and train their abilities. Teachers in particular are interested in training students in learning how to learn, and so they give children clues to help them acquire learning skills. This

memory can help teaching kind of school content is not declarative but procedural knowledge, that is knowledge about an ability. Although learning skills are abilities, they have to be learned and stored in the memory. People need to use their memory to acquire knowledge. If a person is learning a skill, he is building memory about that skill. So there is a kind of memory that is different from declarative memory. Declarative memory refers to events, facts, and semantic and biographical information. Non-declarative memory, on the other hand, refers to abilities, procedural skills (such as learning how to learn or how to speak), verbal priming, working with rules, and musical memory. This kind of memory can be learnt only when you put it to practice. Practice is, therefore, an essential prerequisite to acquire non-declarative memory.

Psychiatry has explored cases in which patients have suffered a mild brain disease. One of the most outstanding cases, published in a medical study, is about a patient who suffered from serious epilepsy. So it was decided to perform surgery upon him in order to cause lesions deliberately in both hippocampi (deep structures of the brain). After the surgery, the patient recovered,

but was not able to remember anything

that happened after the surgery. For

example, the doctor had to introduce him-

Continued on page 3

Yemen Times English Departments Alliance Network Project - 2006

self every time

Introduction

Since its establishment in 1990, the Yemen Times has been in close contact with readers from various domains, especially university academics and students. Building on this history of close relations, the Yemen Times has decided to create an official network of readerships in all the English Department around the republic.

stated in contract.

Modalities A senior professor at the English department will represent the Yemen Times in his or her university. He/she would be Yemen Times Focal point and would act as an intermediate person between the department (professors and students) and the Yemen Times management. The Focal point's operational costs will be covered by the Yemen Times in addition to providing a regular remuneration agreed and

Responsibilities of Yemen Times Focal Point (YTFP)

The YTFP will be responsible for the fol-Receive the subscription issues of the

- Yemen Times (number of issues to be decided later) Be in charge of distributing the newspaper and collecting the subsidized
- price agreed upon Create a network of contributors to the newspaper and arrange the mechanism of publishing their contributions and provide feedback to the
- Ensure that the Yemen Times is adequately available in the local area
- Promote the English department and the youth issues through the Yemen Identify potential future journalists or

writers among the students and com-

municate with the Yemen Times for providing internships for them Attend the annual gathering sponsored by the Yemen Times and recommend a select group of students to

YTFP expectations

In return for the above responsibilities, the Yemen Times would provide the Focal point with the following:

attend the event in Sana'a



- A fixed remuneration decided
- these terms of reference. The Focal point would receive a free complementary copy of all issues of the Yemen Times and other publications issued by the Yemen Times
- establishment The Focal point will be invited to attend the Yemen Times annual events with all expenses covered
- The Focal point would receive an official Yemen Times Identity card so as to facilitate his or her work as representative of the Yemen Times.

- Prospective outcomes an increase in the spread and cover-
- age of the newspaper an increase in the readership in terms of quantity and quality
- Yemeni students around the country provide a number of students with professional training through internships at the Yemen Times and hence

enhance the skills and abilities of

- potential jobs create a network of intellectuals and activists which could pose as a foundation for future projects
- create a better transparent interaction between the readership and the Yemen Times
- increase the public ownership of the newspaper

Contact details Kindly send your cover letter super-

scribed: "Yemen Times English Departments Alliance Network Project", with your contact details and feedback to:

Ms. Nadia Al-Sakkaf **Publisher and Chief Editor** Email: editor@yementimes.com Fax: 01-268279

ELT Panorama

A tale of two teachers: Need for emotional intelligence



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

hese are two incidents involving two different teachers, who had problems with their students.

One, a female teacher, middle aged, experienced, was teaching a class of 60 students at the tertiary level, a subject, which most of the students felt, was difficult. She had taught subjects similar to the one she was teaching several times earlier, but the present situation was different as the students were new to her and she had been teaching them only for a few weeks. In the fifth week of the course, in the middle of the class, on e of the students stood up and said, "Could you go a bit slow;? This subject is new and difficult to us, the names involved are quite new." She got a bit disturbed, and she turned red. She asked the class "Is it true?" and to her surprise and dismay, the class in chorus said, "Yes." She developed a sort of unpleasant impression about the student who initiated the interaction and tried to find fault with him in whatever he said and did in the classes; he has become a black sheep, in her view.

The other one, also a female teacher, in her teenage, not much experienced, was teaching a class of 100 students at the tertiary level, a subject, which she loved to teach; not a very difficult subject to the students. Though she was teaching it for the first time, she was teaching it with good preparation, as she was a sincere and motivated teacher with intelligence. This is what she says about the incident that happened in one of her classes:

I had one of my students who was in his twenties. He was so arrogant. I observed this the way he sits on his chair in the classroom and the way he asks his teachers questions, the type of questions he asks, the way he deals with his classmates, his observing looks and sneering smiles. Once he asked me a question about the phonetic transcription of a word while I was teaching reading and I said, "I will not answer this question. I am explaining the meanings and you are asking me this question now. Do you test my knowledge?" I replied angrily and loudly and his face turned red. He retorted, "So I will not continue in this class." He left the class banging the door. I felt as he slapped me. Consequently I developed a severe headache the whole day. I marked him absent three days and ignored him. After the third class, he rushed into the staff room and asked me in a sharp voice, "Who told you to mark me absent in your classes? Is it the head of the English Dept.?" I got frightened inside but vigorously replied, " I'm free. You deserve this." When the matter went to the Dean of the college, he was about to expel him from the college but I stood against this decision. The HOD asked him to apologize to me, which he did reluctantly. When I asked him why he behaved that way in the class, he said, "You embarrassed me in front of my classmates and I felt that I should do something to save face. You hurt me."

Both these were good at the subjects they were teaching, competent as teachers, sincere and motivated, whose mother tongue was the same as that of the students. They had no difficulty in communicating with the students what they wanted to. Then why did they get into problems in their classes, one developing prejudice against an intelligent student and the other falling out with the student? What was missing in them? As the second teacher recollected, "Practically, I felt my communicative competence isn't everything I should have to be a successful teacher and I am still missing something. Also success in teaching shouldn't be measured by what I convey to students but by how I get along with students and how to be emotionally intelligent in order to regulate my emotions and solve disputes in the classes peacefully."

What the teachers lacked was emotional balance to tackle the situation peacefully, understand and respect the other's (student's) feelings and emotions. A teacher should know why a student interrupts in the class (asking questions) or behaves in an abnormal way (leaving the class banging the door), try to study his/her feelings and emotions

and solve the problem amicably; otherwise he/she would unnecessarily complicate things and the students, even if sincere and motivated to learn, will be lost. Most often the students who interrupt the class with questions are the interested ones and their questions are intelligent and genuine, may be wrongly timed, as in the case of the second incident; if they are tackled carelessly, as in the cases above, they become frustrated and lose interest in the subjects and as a result their performance will be affected badly, as in the case of the first incident. This might lead to unnecessary friction between the teacher and

Emotional Intelligence is defined by scholars working in the field of psychology as "the ability to discern other individual's feelings, beliefs, and intentions" and "being able to motivate oneself and persist in the face of frustrations; to control impulse and gratification;... to empathize and hope". Unfortunately, it has been neglected in the teacher preparation programmes, though it is an essential ingredient for successful teaching. Emotional intelligence has been found to have a positive influence on the students' performance as well. An emotionally intelligent teacher is one with high self-esteem and self-control and he/she alone can create self-esteem and self-control in his/her students. It is time the Faculties of Education in the country planned to include activities for developing emotional intelligence in the trainee teachers in their curriculum in order to avoid repeating 'the tale of these two teach-

Function of Fiction: A perspective



Dr. Raad Nasser Al-waily Dean, Faculty of Arts University of Applied Sciences, Sana'a raadmayood@yahoo.com

rt grows out of life, it is fed by life; it re-acts upon life. Life is the focus of art, fiction, poetry and drama. As the writer deals with life, he must deal with the moral facts and issues involved in life. Clearly, it is upon his moral power and insight and upon the whole spirit and tendency of his philosophy that the real greatness of his work very largely depends.

Like drama, novel is concerned directly with men, women, and their relationships, thoughts and feelings, passions and motives by which they are governed and impelled, with their joys and sorrows, their struggles, successes and failures. A novelist is a thinker, a philosopher and an observer of life. His knowledge of character, his insight into motive and passion, his illuminating art of characterization combine to give a comprehensive view of the world and its moral significance.

Like the dramatist, the novelist interprets life. He selects certain

materials out of the mass which life offers to him. Through the selection and organization of material, emphasis, presentation of character and development of story, the novelist shows us in a general way what he thinks, how he thinks and how he deals with life. Both the dramatist and the novelist interpret life with its merits and defects. No novel approaches life without a focus on good and evil which happen in conflict since the struggle of human race from barbarism to civilization. The conflict is continuous and shall remain so.

Since the novelist's theme is life, his area of focus should include presentation of characters and motives under certain lights which make up the human experience. The function of fiction is to provide amusement for the leisure hour and offer welcome relief from the strain of practical affairs. Any novel which serves its purpose in this way, providing pleasure and teaches a lesson is a realistic novel. The novelist must write with the quality of authenticity. He should write with thoroughness and familiarity with his material. He should confine himself within the field of the

A novelist must be realistic in his approach. Knowledge of life may be obtained in various ways besides direct personal experiences; it may be obtained through books and through conversation with other people. The true greatness of the novel lies in its sound subject-matter that deals with life from various angle points.

The finer points of a literature review

Morgan Hamilton

enerally speaking there are two kinds of literature reviews. The first type is the more informal one, it is a review of a written piece of work, a summary and an evaluation of it. A perfect example is a review of a new book. The first type of literature review has a wider readership because it is more popular, while the second type is the scholarly resource.

It is written as a review of a book or textbook but also has some points of reference in a synthesized format. The casual literature review is supposed to include emotional, intuitive, aesthetic tain that you should read The Celestial Jukebox then read it for sure. Of course, you can also wait for the movie, it would follow soon. The Celestial Jukebox reminds about Fried

or intellectual responses and discussions concerning credibility, creative worth and literature value of the written pieces of work. Literature reviews which are more academic should contain an evaluation which is more intellectually based and focused or they should have analysis and a list of research done. Academic literature reviews should give details about the original research report. For instance, a literature review for the masses, a book review may contain some of the following phrases: "...if someone is certain that you should read The Celestial Jukebox then read it for sure. Of course, you can also wait for the movie, it would follow soon. The

Green Tomatoes, Magnolia and even bears some resemblance to Gone with the wind in the making."

The second type of literature review, the scholarly review might sound like this: "... Some studies have taken a different approach on concentrating on how same-sex groups produce different types of interaction as opposed to mixed-sex interactions. Maltz and Borker conducted a typical study of this sort in 1982 developing lists of what they considered as men's and women's features of language..."If you are considering writing a literature review of the second type, the scholarly resource, according to professors at University of California, Santa Cruz then it is good to include the following:

1) a subject/topic/theory overview; 2) objects of the literature review; 3) a categorizing of the works under review; 4) a comparison of the inner workings of each source being reviewed; and a conclusion which draws the attention to the source with the more valid and more valuable arguments or positions. In case you should write an alternative literature review, a book review or a report, then make sure you cover the several points listed: 1) a summary of the book; 2) examples of characters, plots, setting; 3) your own opinion what was the most interesting moment, what did you not like about the book, your advice whether people should read it or not.

Source: articlesfactory.com

Can translation and interpretation be taught?



Mohammed Khoshafah English Teacher

The paradigm of distance education (Part 2) Dr. Ramakanta Sahu Associate Professor ation of the students from the central core of the teaching learning process and taught in a mode of direct teaching is governed by social norms. But the relamentary which learning materials are linked to

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Some basic assumptions about distance education

Distance education has its own framework, its own resources, own laws, own teaching potential and its own constraints. In fact, the on-campus, institutionalized education and off-campus institutionalized form of individual study are presumed as two forms of education which are quite separable in terms of the means, methods and goals including division of labor (on the part of the teachers), application of organizational principles, scientific control, objectivity of teaching behavior, concentration, and centralization. The basic dichotomy between the two is based on the fact that traditional education is built on personal communication whereas distance education subsumes a special type of mass education that incorporates industrialized and technological communication.

Alienation of the learner

Distance education is more or less depersonalized for the staff and the students. This deprives the students of the charm of teaching with a human face. It is very difficult to sustain the students' interest and engage them creatively in the program. This in-built and inevitable alien-

ation of the students from the central core of the teaching learning process strains the system to a considerable extent.

Shift of focus

In traditional education, a teacher teaches, whereas in distance education, a whole institution teaches. In conventional education, the teacher is present in the lecture room along with his/her students. There is scope for an intense interaction with them where not only the teacher's knowledge, but a whole battery of factors including his/her interactional pattern, his/her handling of group dynamics, his/her personality, attitude, self-awareness, cultural-awareness including individual idiosyncrasies play a significant role in determining the learning outcomes. But in case of distance learning it is not so. As a matter of fact the teacher in person doesn't come to the forefront. Rather, the materials prepared by one teacher are in most cases used by another teacher with different groups of learners in completely different instructional designs and learning contexts. Obviously, here the personality of the teacher as well as his/her professional competence is played down to a considerable extent.

Language of interaction

Interactional speech is the main corner stone in traditional, face-to-face teaching. The relationship between the teacher

and taught in a mode of direct teaching is governed by social norms. But the relationship between the two in correspondence education, which is an expanded form of teaching, is maintained by emotion-free language, constrained by a limited possibility of analyzing students' needs and giving them directions.

Learning dividends There is little substan

There is little substance in the view that iust because traditional education takes place in the lecture room, therefore, the teacher's role is of crucial importance. Practicing teachers would bear me out that there is no one-to-one correspondence between the input in the classroom (by the teacher) and the intake (by the students). The students' assimilation of the classroom learning is a variable that depends on a number of factors related to the classroom ecology, the learner motivational level and individualization of instruction. Good adult education, on the other hand, is essentially self-education by the learner based on private study in libraries where the learner resorts to note-making, and integration of information from diverse sources at a self-regulated pace. So even without the opportunity of face to face interaction, actual learning dividends maybe more and often of a higher quality than in the traditional education.

Quality control through materials

The success of a distance learning pro-

gram depends on the efficiency with which learning materials are linked to learning. There is an inherent uncertainty regarding the quantity of learning, quality of learning and status of learning once learning materials are developed and dispatched to the students. This makes it all the more important to design learning materials in such a way that the learners at a distance find them learner-friendly, useful and get the desired learning dividends without any difficulty.

Learner-driven

The distance education system puts a greater thrust on the student's own sense of responsibility. Although, he is free from the demands and the tension of the classroom which makes him relatively independent compared to his counterparts in conventional system of education, he needs to shoulder a greater share of responsibility for initiating the learning process and for maintaining it throughout.

Fusion of academic and managerial

Like in any industrialized enterprise, a set of managerial skills is an essential prerequisite of distance education. These skills relate to routine scheduling of the lessons, fixing of deadlines for written responses, job schedules including preparation, production and dispatch of materials, collection of feedback and so

Ithough the profession of interpreting is as old as man's ability to speak, and although the first translators performed their art when the first diplomatic notes and trade papers were exchanged, it is only since the end of World War I and the international crises that followed that these two professions have developed in their pres-

ent form. Consecutive interpretation

was used exclusively until about 1945,

when simultaneous interpretation was

used for the first time at the war crimi-

nal trials at Nuremberg.

native language.

Good translators and good interpreters must possess an extraordinary array of qualifications. Just as an outstanding instrumental soloist or a perfect figure skater must have a flawless technique, translators and interpreters must have a complete mastery of their working languages, including their

Whereas one can still enter the field of translation with every imaginable background (and, in fact, all too often without the proper background at all), the access to the profession of conference interpretation is much more structured.

The most recent statistical survey of the International Association of Conference Interpreters shows that 95 percent of the respondents between the ages of 30 and 45 were trained in a university program. There is a good reason for these statistics:

One can be a poor translator for a long time before complaints arise, whereas a faulty interpretation is caught immediately, most of the time to the utmost embarrassment of all concerned. Moreover, the fact that interpreters work in teams assures a certain quality control, for nothing is more painful for a conference interpreter than to work with a colleague who is doing a poor job.

There are two important points to consider when attempting to answer the question whether translation and interpretation can be taught:

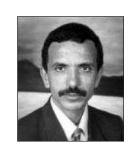
(1) The first interpreters in our century were all self-taught. They were full-fledged diplomats, whose training and whose professional experience endowed them with extraordinary linguistic and communicative skills. They developed their skills on the basis of an unusually broad general knowledge,

(2) It is sometimes said by members of our profession that "so-and-so would have made it even without a school" or that she or he "became a good translator / interpreter in spite of the school she or he attended". Although remarks of this nature are heard less often nowadays and are based on a time when students were taught by the "sink-or-swim" method, the implication remains that teaching is not everything and —more important — not all the skills can be taught to everyone

It will come as no surprise to the reader that I am of the opinion that translation and interpretation must be taught, and taught properly.

Only exceptionally gifted people can hope to accede to these professions on their own without developing serious bad habits and making mistakes that will tarnish their professional performance for the rest of their careers.

20th-Century Poetry: An overview



Dr Ayid Sharyan Associate Professor Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana a University, Sana a ayids@yahoo.com

his article discusses modern poetry with special focus on the course that is offered to students of Faculty of Education, Sana'a University. This includes modernism, features of modernism, main poets of the modern period, and ways of teaching and learning modern poetry. Before going to the subject, I begin with these questions:

- 1. Can you mention five poets of the 20th century who write in English?
- 2. Do you think modern poetry should include only British poets? 3. If we include other poets, what
- should be our criteria?
- 4. What does modernism mean? Is it related to modern poetry?
- 5. Have you read any poem that can be classified as a good example of modern poetry?
- 6. What is expected from students who join this course?

If you answer these questions, it means you are well-versed in the area. If not, read this to get some hints that will be elaborated in the book on 20th Century Poetry. Before answering these questions one has to throw some light on modernism and post-modernism for this is the starting point.

Modern poetry covers a wide range of selection that includes poets of different backgrounds, because they

reflect some features of modernism. But what does modernism mean? Modernism is a general term that describes an innovative style of writing in 20th-century literature in its first few decades, i.e. between 1914 to 1945. Modern poetry is characterized by the revolutionary ideas and styles that developed in the early 20th century as a reaction to traditional forms. Modernism thus implies a sort of a rejection of the traditional literary forms and values of 19th-century literature that was dominated by romanticism and Victorianism. (Modernism is an anti-traditionalist movement also in "modern" art). Modernism emerges as psychologies of Freud and Jung, anthropologist, Marxism, evolutionary theory, schools of philosophy as existentialism, etc. This means modernism was influenced by the developments in those fields.

But what does modernism emphasize? As a mode of writing, modernism stressed the central role of the unconscious mind, the importance of the irrational, the intuitive, and the primitive, and the use of myth. It emphasized the stream of consciousness as a narrative mode. The internal experience is the focus, more than the outward "reality" that was stressed by neo-classicism and Victorianism. Thus there is an emphasis on impressionism and subjectivity, i.e. on HOW we see, read or perceive, rather than on WHAT is perceived. There is a rejection of distinction between genres. Poetry seems more documentary. An emphasis is laid on fragmented forms (think of T.S. Eliot's The Wasteland). Short poems that contain image/s are also found in the poetry of William Carlos Williams or Wallace

The main writers and publications of modernism were between 1914 and 1945. But the 1920s were modernism's golden age, a decade that saw the appearance of pioneers of modernism: T. S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra

Pound, Franz Kafka, Thomas Mann, William Faulkner. The famous publications of this period were T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock and James Joyce's Ulysses (1922), Ezra Pound The Cantos (1925), William Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury (1929). These works emphasize alienation, fragmentation, incoherence, or meaningless of modern life that evoke sympathy. For this, many modernists try to uphold the idea that works of art, though fragmented, can provide the unity, coherence, and meaning which has been lost in most of modern life. After 1945, literary critics coined

from the developments in other fields, another term postmodernism to describe the literary movement of the period; but postmodernism is hard to define. (Postmodernism is a complicated term, or set of ideas that emerged as an area of academic study) The term postmodernism began to be widely used in the late 1960s (some say in the. mid-1980s). It describes new styles and ways of thinking due to the rapid change in the norms, old values, and standards and ways of looking at life and the role of the individual. It developed as a reaction to modernism. Postmodernism rejects boundaries between high and low forms of art, rigid genre distinctions, emphasizing parody, irony, and playfulness. Postmodern thought favors self-consciousness, fragmentation, ambiguity; the subject is destructured, decentered, dehumanized in postmodernism. Postmodernism, unlike modernism, doesn't lament the idea of fragmentation, or incoherence, but rather celebrates that. If the world is meaningless, let's not pretend that art can make meaning; let's just play with

After briefly discussing modernism and postmodernism, let's turn to the main poets that can be included in the course of the 20th century poetry. I include poets like Sylvia Plath (1932-63), Ted Hughes (1930-2000), Philip Larkin (1922-1985), Dylan Thomas 1914-53), W.H. Auden (1907-73). e.e. cummings (1894-1962), T. S. Eliot (1888-1965), Ezra Pound (1885-1972), William Carlos Williams (1883-1963), Wallace Stevens (1879-1955), Robert Frost (1874-1963), W. B. Yeats (1865-1939), Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89), Emily Dickinson (1830-86). Some of the poems that can be included to represent the 20th century English poetry are Dylan Thomas's Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night, W.H. Auden's The Unknown Citizen, T. S. Eliot's The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, William Carlos Williams's The Red Wheelbarrow, Wallace Stevens's Of Modern Poetry and The Snow Man, Robert Frost's Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening and Mending Wall, W. B. Yeats's Sailing to Byzantium, and Thomas Hardy's The Man He Killed.

I, for one, believe that some other poets from Asia or Africa need to be included. Perhaps one needs to take into account the fact that they write in English, and also they reflect the literary trends. Appropriateness of language, morality, and culture cannot be

The goal of this course, as I see it, is to expose students to different modes of poetry written in English. With this exposure, students need to increase their vocabulary to the extent of about 400 new words. By the end of the course students are expected to show a reasonable understanding of the poets during the 20th century. They need to show a good command of English that is to be reflected in their oral and written performance. This cannot be achieved without careful, analytical reading of the set poems as well as reading related material pertaining to the poets' life, literary movements, and schools of thought that were prevalent during the time of the poets. In approaching a poem, two things are equally important: scholarly study and personal response to the text under discussion.

Revising a recurrent hypothesis in feminist literary studies

Polemics on feminism



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n his essay "Revising a recurrent hypothesis in feminist literary studies" (Yemen Times, 30 October,2006), Ameen Ahmed Abbas Jamous has argued that " gender may, indubitably, motivate the writer's selection of content and/or form but it is not always the determinant of the production of that text". He maintains that the term feminine is not related to the provenance or the originating moment of a literary text and as such it is part of the reader's response rather than the writer's sex. He concludes the argument by saying that gender is "not always the most crucial determinant in the production, circulation and consumption of the literary work". His argument is quite cogent as far as it goes, but I find it problematic in the context of a substantial body of feminist writing.

When the mechanisms of patriarchy are exposed in a feminist discourse, its combative and polemical energy obviously stems from the writer's ideological underpinnings, not from the reader's assumptions alone. As I understand Ameen's point of view, he discounts the psychodynamics of female creativity. The trajectory of a considerable body of feminist literature falls out of focus when we endorse this line of argument. The main impetus for this kind of writing(feminist text) comes from the writer's opposition to the structures of domination sanctioned and sustained by the dominant paradigms of gender. Thus feminist consciousness is part of women's categorical oppression. Their writing is a political act emanating from the matrix of personal experience. For instance: Tony Cade's The Black Woman: An Anthology (1970); Kay Lindsay's "The Black Woman as Woman"; Frances Beale's "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female", and an enormous volume of narratives and essays highlight the oppression and marginalization of Afro-American women. If we examine the politics of representation, we do notice the nexus between the production of female images and the institutional preconditions that conditioned the mystique of complaisant femininity. Of course the strategies for seeking the modes of empowerment are not always manifest in the mainstream Anglo-American writing but the proposal for denaturalizing the determining structures are nonetheless there, even though in a muted form.

The reason why Ameen subtracts gender conditioning from the feminist discourse is probably the stylistic tradition and gender conventions which women have had to conform to over the years for encoding their subjectivities. The formal production of feminist images and the norms of textual reception were controlled by the dominant conventions in an ideological climate of compliance, as is evident in the novels of Jane Austen and George Eliot. Elaine Showalter is quite right when she contends that women writers were faced with constraints on their candid articulation and couldn't dismantle essentialist notions of gender. As she says, nineteenth-century women were prohibited from writing what did not correspond to femininity and twentieth-century women were trivialized. if not reviled, for their portrayal of female experience, unlike the noholds-barred appropriation of life by male writers in their writing. They were not resistant enough to fly in the face of social order. The entrenched prejudice is well put by a feminist ideologue: "Traditionally, a man's life is his work; a woman's life is her man. That a woman's life might have connections with her work is a revolutionary idea in that it might -indeed, must-lead her to examine and question her place as woman in the social

Virginia Woolf, too, said that women had always faced social and economic impediments to their literary ambitions and she herself was always conscious of the fact that, unlike her brothers, she was taught no Greek. Regarding the question of whether or not there exists a sensibility or feminine creativity which is inherently feminine, here is a sampler from Woolf about a seventeenth-century woman writer:

Though her philosophies are futile, and her plays intolerable and her verses mainly dull, the vast bulk of the Duchess is leavened by a vein of authentic fire. One cannot help following the lure of her erratic and lovable personality as it meanders and twinkles through page after page. There is something noble and Quixotic and high-spirited, as well as crack-brained and bird-witted, about her.

"[N]oble and Quixotic" suggest masculine attributes, while "crackbrained and bird-witted" sound feminine, or contrasting connotations, as it were. However, the contrast is not biological or a reified binary opposition; it is rather conventional-a social positioning, in other words.

The feminist discourse embedded in vibrant literature of the last three decades does constitute a crucially influential challenge to the constructions of patriarchy or traditional male order. Although the moment is not marked in the cultural productions of some 'hidebound' regions, the gender consciousness has nevertheless claimed tiny slivers of conquest even in these male preserves. Needless to say, feminist criticism has proved a dynamic engine—an ideological pump priming indeed.

Ameen raises alarm when he says: " I really wonder what the future of the validity of the gender issue, especially at the hands of post-structurlist theorists or even those of these post-feminists, will look like." Perhaps he hints at the overtly theoretical enterprise of ' French feminism'. The theorists, such as Julia Kristeva (actually Bulgarian), Helen Cixous (Algerian-born), and Luce Irigaray influenced by the insights of Lacan, Foucault and Derrida, focus on a different domain: language and psychology, not the representation of reality and the concerns surrounding women's life in society as Anglo-American feminism. However, looking at the pluses of deconstructive reading of feminist texts, I do wish to argue that deconstruction can be pressed into the service of explicating gaps, inconsistencies, and contradictions in women's writing. A primary tenet of deconstruction is that the meaning of a word depends on its relation to, and its difference from, other words. It can be used as a tool for probing the psychology which triggers and governs a particular kind of discourse.

To sum up, the readers of feminist discourse should not allow their focal emphasis to be blurred by the bandwagon effect of fashionable theories, not that critical theories are to be disdained and dismissed altogether.

POETRY CORNER

"Within the boundaries of my feet"



Associate Professor of English, Faculty of Arts **Ibb University** prasad@y.net.ye

within the boundaries of my feet not in circles nor in linear steps with the steps taking me

of the stillness of a turmoil, the eye of a storm dangling the legs of a young self in the stillness of a pond memories of the past, still sitting cool birds, by slight movements creating ripples, ever erasing their boundaries slowly they get bigger and blur out and mingle in the horizon where the earth and the sky meet

and make me move with their movements their noiseless still steps, the soft silent steps of a deliberate cat. or like a loitering mass of elephants leisurely tearing branches with dangling trunks carrying branches, buds and flowers all, heavy with the fruits of a forgotten autumn with heavy dangling steps shaking the birds fly into a different sky

I too fly on the wings of my brains I soar up within the boundaries of my mind I move in a limited sphere but ascend unbounded

mounting on the invisible rungs of want and wish towards the heavens of lack and longing

I wish to move in the vicinity of my home and move away farther, farther, farther with the steps of my mind which know no boundaries.

I walk within the boundaries of my feet.

May 23, 2006

(The phrase is taken from the interview of Pico Iyer, Mach 27, 2000 on Powell.com)

Continued from page 1

Neuroscientific studies on memory can help teaching

Like anyone else, before the operation he used to recognize himself whenever he was shown a photo of himself, but after the surgery he could not recognize himself any longer. Conversely, whenever he was trained for an ability, for example, a puzzle, he was able to solve it, although he could not remember the circumstance when he had been trained to perform that ability, or the fact that he had worked hard to learn it.

That would seem to imply that he was building up non-declarative memory, though he was not able to build up declarative memory. Thus the hippocampus, which was injured deliberately in the surgery, can be considered important for building up declarative knowledge and not declarative memory. It is possible that the latter can be built up and stored in locations of the brain other than the hippocampus.

According to some neuroscientists, the cerebellum is important for learning

abilities such as using new sounds in speaking which you have learned from a foreign language. On acquiring an ability, a beginner learner tends to make mistakes. As the training progresses and once s/he has developed certain skills, the number of mistakes is bound to decrease. This would seem to mean that the ability has been acquired, and that a non-declarative memory has been built in the cerebellum cortex where the strengthening between certain neurons is being changed.

The relationship between neuroscience and education, in my view, can provide important clues in relation to learning processes, and neuroscience can collaborate with pedagogy to provide some of the necessary tools for improving teaching methods. If the brain function helps, first, to discover how people learn, then it may be possible for teaching methods to be improved

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (\checkmark) the most appropriate

- choice1. The theory of inheritance of acquired characters was given
- ☐ Hugo de Vries
- Lamarck ■ Darwin
- Weinberg
- In autumn leaf fall occurs
- because ■ leaves become old
- ☐ leaves leave their green color of low temperature
- of formation of abscission layer at the base of shoot
- DNA normally contains equal amount of purines and pyrimidines. If A,G, C,T are the

four bases of DNA then

- □ A + C = G + T \square A+G=C+T
- \Box A+T=G+C
- ☐ There is no such rule
- The chemical nature of female sex hormones is
- proteins

- Carbohydrates
 - Amino acids 5. The heaviest element is

■ Stereoids

- ☐ Pb
- ☐ Ag

Suggested answers to the previous issue's Quiz Line

- 1. A large iceberg melts at the base rather than at the top because of the high pressure of ice at the base which lowers its melting
- It is hotter in a cloudy night than ir nights with clear sky because clouds are charged and this charge is transmitted to the atmosphere to keep it hot.
- The enzyme which along with Hydrochloric acid forms an important constituent of gastric juice is **Pepsin**.
- The seeds are winged and therefore are dispersed by wind in
- **INSTAR** stands for International Network for Sustainable Technological Application and Registration of Small Innovations

ANY GUESSES?

- 1. What is the meaning of the word valetudinarian'?
- What is the difference between
- 'yes' and 'yeah'? Differentiate between 'clue' and
- What is meant by 'curtain
- lecture'? 5. What is 'rain check'?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- 1. 'Cloak and dagger operation' is
- 'an operation dealing with or suggesting adventure and exciting mystery'.
- The term 'multiversity' is a combination of multi + university. A multiversity is a big
- university with a number of academic disciplines. It is an example of a portmanteau word. 3. Although the word 'couple'
- means 'two', the word 'couple' in the sentence 'I have a couple of things to do' in informal contexts can mean 'several'.

The word 'simpleton' refers to

- one who is foolish, or gullible, that is one who can be easily deceived. It means more than 'simple, unsophisticated'.
- The phrase 'not do a hand's turn' means 'not do any work'. For example, "she does not do a hand's turn at home. Her mama does everything. She just eats

The emerging scenario in the legal paradigm

Decision-making through International Development Law



Anupma Tripathi MBA, LLM, Sana'a anupma014@hotmail.com

ffective decision- making body in any state enhances the growth and powerful running of the state. The contents of International Development Law (IDL) envisage one's deeper understanding of the problems, conflicts and needs in the development process, particularly of the development decision- making process in the society. The aim of IDL is to improve the position of developing countries in international negotiations and enhance the role of law and lawyers in the development decisionmaking process. Development decision- making underscores the ways in which individuals, groups or institutions, with thoughtful ideas or opinions adopt, initiate, implement programs and projects that affect the society as a

Conflicting views

Today regarding development there are two conflicting views. The traditional view maintains that development is all about economic growth, apart from other development issues in the society like social, political, cultural and environmental, whereas the modern view advocates that development is an integrated process of change involving economic, social, cultural, political and environmental dimensions.

Today, however the consensus has broken down. The competing views of development now cluster around the appropriate role and responsibility of a state and individual in effective development decision- making, which leads, primarily, to economic progression in a

READERS' VIEWS



really appreciate Dr. great efforts and for doing his best in making this 'sweet dish" (Education Page), which aims at enriching the knowledge of

English in Yemen and developing their skills. Even though the dish is once a month, it is better than nothing.

Short stories play an important role in increasing students' word-power apart from giving them enjoyment. The words will easily stick on their minds and hardly will they forget them. I wonder, if there could be a short story in every issue of the Education

Fawaz Rajjeh Faculty of Arts Ibb University

personally, appreciate Dr Ramakanta Sahu's great effort for improving English language of the students of through Education Page. I think, it



would be more beneficial if it includes, in future, more articles on the practical aspects of Translation, and Computers.

Mohammed Al- Ba'adani Level 4. Department of English Faculty of Arts Ibb University katvouwe1@vahoo.com

WONDERWORD

holistic process of transformation.

Need and relevance

To fully assess the desirability of a particular project or proposal it is necessary to account for all the ways that the project or policy will affect its social and physical environment. Without all this information the decision- makers cannot be confident that they understand the consequences of their decision. Having the same origin, corporate legislation in the Gulf States retains many common features, particularly in the field of commercial law and its development in relation to three prominent areas of Middle East business: banking, the maritime sector and the construction industry. As a matter of fact, without development decisionmaking they cannot accurately assess the costs and benefits of any proposed project or policy, thereby inviting the risk of less benefits and more harm than expected.

Preferred Outcomes

The movement of reform and secularization in Muslim countries and the role of Islamic Law in the contemporary legal systems of the Middle East reflect both the geographical context and the relevant sector of the industry. The International Development Law preeminently highlights the need for fundamental changes in the state running bodies and calls upon the legal experts to sensitize themseves not only in the international norms and domestic laws which apply to the industry but also in the effective decision- making skills.

READERS' RESPONSE TO ARTICLES

Dear Dr. Abraham

I highly appreciate your article titled 'A reading lesson.' (Education Supplement No. 10). Actually I like Drama and I want to find someone to share with me my interest. if you don't mind and if you have enough time can you send me informative articles about

> Arwa Ghelan arwa_ghelan@yahoo.ca

Dear Anupma Tripathi

First of all, I'd like to convey my kind regards and high sense of appreciation to you for your nice essay "Gender and Law: Implication for legal education". It reflects your solid command of the English Language

I'm a regular reader of Yemen Times, trying to improve my English. I need your kind assistance to answer the following: 1. What are the main ways to improve the listening skill? Until now, I can read/write English but I can't understand while watch ing the English channels

2. What is the main book for teaching the fundamentals of translation

(English/Arabic)? Your kind support will be highly appreciat-

Dear Editor of Yemen Times,

Supplement (ES) in Yemen Times (YT) los-

ing, not gathering as it used to be, reader-

ship due to its delay and irregular appear-

ance on bookstalls. An example of this is

that I kept my fingers crossed to see one of

my contributions to appear in this page for

more than three months. One of my stu-

dents was waiting for almost a year to see

her contributions to appear. Once it

appears it does not come at the end of the

month as expected. For example, the

September supplement came with Issue:

(984), Volume 14, and another with the

Checking the Web for the issue is often

by DAVID OUELLET

October (Issue: 987), Volume 14.

Tawfeeq H.R Yemen, Sana'a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/ PRESENTER

Career prospects in information and communication technology



M.Yousuf Head. Department of E-Commerce Al-Ahgaff University, Mukalla yousuf@ahgaff.edu

-nformation technology has remained the main source of world economic growth since the beginning of globalization. Many nations invested in IT equipment and software and enjoyed the good results of economic growth. Educational institutions have contributed to this industry throughout the world by producing the intellectual cap-

Universities have faced enormous challenges in preparing students and conducting research for information and communication technology industry. Many undergraduate and post graduate programmes have been designed to fulfil the industry needs.

Still there is a long way to go to make the computing education more efficient and versatile. There are many computing degree programs. Here we discuss some undergraduate degree courses which are prominent. This article is for those students who are trying to determine which path of computing study fits their interests and goals.

Computing is a broad discipline that crosses the boundaries of mathematics, science, engineering, and business and it embraces important competencies that lie at the foundation of professional practice. All engineering and science subjects require mathematics. The better developed your mathematical skills are the more efficient an engineer you'll be. Modern engineering and science is likely to be a collaborative effort. In this context communication skills remain extremely important.

The following prominent degree courses in computing are discussed

- Computer engineering (CE)
- Computer science (CS) Information systems (IS)
- Information technology (IT)
- Software engineering (SE) Electronic Commerce(E-Com)

Computer Engineering is concerned with the design and construction of computers and computer-based systems. It involves the study of hardware. software, communication technology, and the interaction among them requires mathematics in terms of a disciplined, analytic approach to problem solving.

futile. Many keep waiting eagerly for the

answers of the lessons by Dr. Sahu and are

equally disappointed. Time and life are def-

initely changing faster than the ES can

cope with if it appears at irregular intervals

teachers and students who view this page

as a forum that brings intellectuals from dif-

ferent corners of the world. I look forward to

seeing the ES to appear weekly as it used

ACCESS CARD

Dr Ayid Sharyan

University,

(Associate Professor)

Department of English,

Faculty of Education, Sana a

As an educationist I share feelings with

Computer Science deals with innovation in computer use. They devise new

ways to use computers. They develop effective ways to solve computing prob-Computer science offers a comprehensive foundation that permits graduates to adapt to new technologies and

Information systems: Information science degree courses are tailored to prepare students for careers in the application of computers in business and focus on integrating information technology solutions and business processes to meet the information needs of business personnel, enabling them to achieve their objectives in an effective and effi-

IS professionals require a sound understanding of organizational principles and practices, so that they can serve as an effective bridge between the technical and management communities within an organization. IS professionals are also involved in designing technology-based organizational communication and collaboration systems

Technology: Information

Undergraduate degree course prepare students to meet the computer technology needs of business, government, healthcare, schools, and other kinds of organizations.

IT is a new and rapidly growing field that started as a grass root response to the practical, everyday needs of business and other organizations.

Employees throughout an organization require support from IT staff that understand computer systems and their software, and are committed to solving whatever computer-related problems they might have.

Software Engineering deals with developing and maintaining software systems that behave reliably and efficiently, that are affordable to develop and maintain, and that satisfy all the requirements that customers have defined for them.

Computer science and software engineering have many courses in common Software engineering students learn more about software reliability and maintenance and focus more on techniques for developing and maintaining software that is correct from its incep-

Electronic Commerce: The overall aim of the course is to provide you with the skills and knowledge to allow you to conduct and manage e-commerce in all kinds of organizations and to appreciate the major opportunities. It thus provides the unique and valuable combination of a business, management, finance and marketing education with the technology and principles of electronic retailing. It prepares students as online entrepreneurs. A few universities around the world have started this as a post gradue course and it is operated under the business and management schools. Al-Ahgaff University in Yemen has started this as an undergraduate course in the faculty of computer science to prepare graduates to compete in the global market as online entrepreneurs.

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Community Dental Public Health Education and Training in Yemen: Scope and significance



Dr. Ali M. Al-Mashhadani Associate Professor, College of Dentistry University of Science and Technology, Sana'a

he purpose of this article is to bring together personnel representing different interests so that they might help to crystallize the objectives of field training, delineate the type of experiences needed, and suggest some of the methods and techniques to be considered for public health dentist training in Yemen.

Types of Field Training

There are, of course, many types of field training. While the discussion of training programms for the purpose of this article is directed at the graduate dentist or postgraduate students, one must recognize that even the undergraduate dental student requires various kinds of study and experience, including field training. New teaching methods and modifications in dental school curricula are providing both the dental and dental hygiene student with varied experiences including work outside of the educational institution using other facilities of the community.

Field training designed for the graduate dentist is also of many types. Training in the field can form a part of the graduate or postgraduate curriculum designed for the student of dental public health. Field training may act as the orientation portion of a broad educational program. Field training might also help both the student and the instructor to evaluate the aptitudes of the student. It might constitute the bulk of an educational program or it might provide small, auxiliary portions of a large comprehensive educational program.

Objectives of field training in dental public health

The objectives of a field training program for public health dentists may be twofold, to provide

- An introduction to the field of public health dentistry (orientation), and
- 2. Supervised field experience in dental public health practice.

Dental public health as a specialized discipline is one of the relatively new fields of public health. Contrary to the belief that the opportunities in the field of dental public health are markedly limited, the potentialities for this type of specialists are limited only by the number of states, countries, or other geographic areas that now have or will have in the near future. full time health units serving them. Added to this are national agencies and organizations concerned with health programs.

In order to interest young dentists in this field an internship of 3-6 months should be available as a part of organized and approved field training programs. Such an internship would serve to orient the intern in the field of general public health and acquaint him specifically with dental health problems as they fit into the generalized program. The trainee should have the opportunity to observe the social, economic, and political factors as they affect the health of the community. Thus, in effect, the internship program may serve as a tool for recruitment of dentists for public health. Those interested may then go on to formal graduate and residency training.

Residency or Post-academic training

The objectives of residency training for dentists in public health should be essentially the same as those already established for other public health personnel. These are primarily to be able to look at

the community as a unit; to see specific problems in the community in proper perspective with the whole gamut of problems existing in a community; and to be able to take one's place on the public health team.

The program should be such as to ensure that academic training is realistically implemented in its application to varying community situations. This training should provide for both observation and active participation on the part of the resident.

Residency training should provide the opportunity, under supervision, to cope with the social, economic, and political factors in the community as they relate to public health and specifically to dental public health problems.

Problems in statistics and public health administration as taught in many schools of public health in Yemen are concerned principally with the routine problems in the field of general public health. To supplement this training an awareness should be created about problems related to dental health. Thus the trainee should have the opportunity to apply epidemiological survey techniques and do short field survey on community dental problems and to analyze and interpret the data. The residency should provide the opportunity for the trainee to work as a member of the team of public health workers whose individual disciplines contribute to the whole of public health practice.

Systemic planning and continuous evaluation of public health programs should be a concern of every program director. Part of the residency training period might well be spent in evaluating one or more aspects of ongoing programs.

The give and take that must be a part of budget preparations is something one can earn best by sitting in on a budget conference where the program director must justify his request for funds for specific items. The difference between what the book says about budget preparation and what happens when a program director faces a fiscal officer can be appreciated only by one who has tried to apply theoretical training in a practical situation.

Other fields in which the public health dentist should have practical field experience include the application of the principles of public health education, research methods as they relate to dental problems, and personnel relationships.

Clinical education through which the dentist obtains field experience during the academic course and with residency training should follow an academic agenda. Field training is an integral part of both of these phases of education in public health. For clarification of terminology, education in public health may be summarized as follows:

Academic education a. Classroom lectures

- b. Laboratory work
- c. Clinical education

Integration of the various phases of training include the following:

- 1. Field experience in a block (Intraacademic)
- 2. Internship and residency (Post-Academic)
- In service training
- a. Apprenticeship
- b. Observation c Orientation
- d. Refresher courses
- e. Other

Indirectly at least we should also be concerned with what might be given to the student at the undergraduate level that would help to prepare him for first level positions in public health.

Joining academic and field experience including residency, under the general supervision of the school of public health and making both a requirement for a degree is the urgent need of the hour in the Republic of Yemen, where public health education in general and dental public health education in particular needs to be geared up and streamlined on a war footing keeping in view the magnitude of the problems of dental health care.

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** Identification Automated Data Plastic Student Bolted Debts Internet Prepaid

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions -

Broadcasting Dental Digital Building Buzzer Discount Lights Casino Entry **Events** Lots Caution Chain Finance Mail Chip Gambling Media Circuit Games Motel Club Garage Code Gate Compound Guestroom Gvmnasium Computerized

Technical Laboratory Private Telephone Laminate **Process** Television Proximity Locked Punch Thin Ramp Turn Remote Underground Restricted User Vinyl Rooms Network Safety Website Write Number Server Parking Smart Permit Stairs Personal Strip

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

Oh, my Sweetheart Oh, my beloved Sweetheart For you, I practice a joyful art. You are the queen of my heart You are my most integral part. Life without you is intolerably bad Your absence made me awfully sad And changed light to dim dark. need your tender hands To guide me in the encircling gloom To show me how to use every day

To love life plus make others smile.

Especially for you and every Also acheive what Alla'h ordained Prayer, fasting, beside good deeds. All these will be my SAVIOR For the Day of Judgement.

Therefore, the inspiration made me compose This poem which captures my feeling Towards my Queen and.... DARLING.

alslahi amin@yahoo,con