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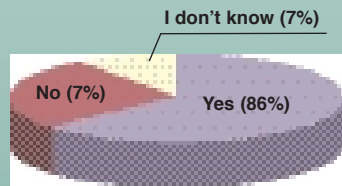


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 "Yemen continues to surprise us by its remarkable growth"

Education
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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 After refugees were found on a forsaken island accidentally by the coastguard, do you think that there are more refugees left astray on other deserted islands?



This edition's question:

Do you think president Saleh's visit to UAE is related to Al-Houthi insurgents' alleged links to Iran?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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Reaching out to the public

The Gender Equality project at the Ministry of Human Rights has produced a simplified version of articles relating to women in Yemeni laws in an attempt to reach out to the public and enhance general awareness about women's law in Yemen.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Jan. 31 - In a promising initiative, articles related to women were gathered from laws on labor, family and women's human rights and simplified so as to be accessible to the general public.

The initiative was conducted by the gender equality component of the Strengthening National Capacity in Human Rights Project implemented by the Ministry of Human Rights and supported by the United Nations Development Program.

"The point is to enhance community awareness - especially among women - about women's rights. The final material will be posted on the Human Rights Ministry's web site, printed in leaflets and posters and distributed in the form of audio cassettes in rural areas where there's a high illiteracy rate," explains women's rights advocate Hooria Mashoor, who's in charge of the gender equality component.

In order to validate the material creat-



Stakeholders gather in groups during the workshop to review the laws and give their comments.

ed, the team presented the outcomes of their research at a workshop involving various stakeholders for discussion and feedback Monday. Inaugurated by the Minister of Human Rights, the workshop brought together numerous senior government officials, non-governmental organizations and members of Parliament's Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee, as well as some Shoura Council members.

The workshop's main focus was to discuss the legal materials collected, classified and simplified (including frequently asked questions) by a team of national legal experts headed by Ahmed Al-Wadee. Participants will get back to the team with their comments and feedback within coming weeks in order to finalize the material for printing and distribution.

Continued on page 2

Saleh visits U.A.E. as donor conference follow-up

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Jan. 31 - Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh concludes his two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates yesterday, following an invitation by its president, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahayyan.

This is Saleh's first visit, aimed at fostering relations between the two Arab nations, since the sheikh assumed leadership of the Emirates.

The two leaders held a summit on various issues concerning their states' relations, including how to improve development programs in Yemen to enhance Yemeni-Gulf economic partnership, as well as touching on regional political issues, notably Iraq and Iran.

Additionally, the summit concentrated on strengthening Yemen's partnership with Gulf Cooperation Council member states, which experienced rapid development following the Abu

Dhabi summit late 2005, wherein Yemen's proposals were approved regarding qualifying its economy in order to be integrated into the GCC bloc.

Yemen's entry into the Gulf bloc seeks to strengthen its competitive capacities as well as attract Gulf and foreign investments. Late last year, Yemen received \$5 million at the London Donors' Conference to qualify its economy for GCC admission. Such funds are to be spent to qualify Yemen's development, build its infrastructure and strengthen its economy to compete with those of GCC member states.

The Emirates play a primary role in supporting Yemen and qualifying its economy to become fully integrated into the GCC bloc. The Yemeni community in the Emirates is very large, with most Yemenis operating businesses there.

Continued on page 2



President Ali Abdullah Saleh (left) warmly shakes hands with Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, at Abu Dhabi Airport during Saleh's two-day visit.

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15 troops killed, 32 others injured in Sa'ada clashes

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Jan. 30 - Fifteen troops were killed and 32 others injured as armed confrontations between government forces and Al-Houthi followers became fiercer this week, spreading in various parts of Sa'ada governorate, located 254 km. north of Sana'a. Most violent confrontations took place in the areas of Nishur, Al-Saifi and Al-Ammar districts, official sources said Tuesday.

Victims of previous clashes within the past few days were transferred to several Sa'ada hospitals, including many Al-Houthi supporters killed or injured in the clashes. Yemen Times sources in Sa'ada said the situation is dangerous and fighting is spreading to different parts of the governorate,

while government forces are using various combat tactics and weapons, including tanks and specialized armed forces.

Local sources couldn't specify the number of Al-Houthi followers and locals killed in the most recent clashes. According to them, authorities prevented transferring yesterday's civilian casualties to the main government hospital, in addition to preventing media personnel from reaching those areas where fighting is occurring.

There are conflicting views on the real reasons leading to the bloody clashes between government troops and Al-Houthi supporters. Government sources say Al-Houthi followers attacked a military camp and intercepted the advancing military forces.

Continued on page 2

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Nasrallah: Bush made Lebanon chaos

Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, has accused George Bush of creating chaos in Lebanon, and rejected the US president's latest criticisms of the Shia group.

Speaking at Beirut ceremonies marking the climax of the Muslim festival of Ashura, Nasrallah accused the US of ordering Israel to launch last year's attack on Lebanon.

"The one who fomented chaos in Lebanon, who destroyed Lebanon, who killed women and children, old and young in Lebanon, is George Bush and (Secretary of State) Condoleezza Rice who ordered the Zionists to launch the war on Lebanon," Nasrallah said.

The US president on Monday accused Hezbollah and its allies Iran and Syria of stirring up the latest violence in Lebanon in a bid to topple its government and said "those responsible for creating chaos must be called to account".

Thousands gather

Nasrallah said: "The one who must be punished, who must be tried, is the one who ordered the launching of war on



Nasrallah spoke as thousands attended Ashura ceremonies in south Beirut.

Lebanon."

The July-August war killed nearly 1,200 people in Lebanon, mainly civilians, and 157 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

"George Bush wants to punish you because you resisted, he wants to punish you because you won," Nasrallah said.

He made his address to thousands of Shia Muslims who converged on Beirut's southern suburbs to commemorate the killing in battle of Imam Hussein, the

Prophet Mohammad's grandson, in AD 680.

Earlier, the crowd marched in Hezbollah's Beirut stronghold, rhythmically beating their chests in a sign of grief over Hussein's martyrdom and chanting "Death to America, death to Israel".

Some carried red, yellow and black flags with religious slogans. Others wore green headbands and chanted, "We will never be humiliated."

"George Bush knows ... and we reiterate to him and the whole world should hear that we are a nation that doesn't succumb and can't be humiliated," Nasrallah said.

Sectarian clashes in Beirut last week between pro- and anti-government supporters left seven people dead.

Opposition supporters, led by Hezbollah, are calling for a veto in cabinet and for fresh elections and have launched a series of protests, sit-ins and a one-day strike.

Source: Aljazeera.net

Castro looks stronger in new TV images

By: Anthony Boadle

HAVANA (Reuters) - State television showed Fidel Castro for the first time in three months on Tuesday and the ailing Cuban leader said he was still in the fight to recover.

Castro, 80, looked stronger but still frail in images of Monday's two-hour meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, his closest ally in Latin America.

"This is far from being a lost battle," Castro said. He spoke slowly in an almost unintelligible voice in footage that showed him drinking orange juice and standing.

Castro dropped from public view six months ago after emergency surgery for intestinal bleeding.

Castro temporarily handed over power to his brother, Defence Minister Raul Castro, on July 31, the first time he had relinquished control since his 1959 revolution.

He was last seen on an October 28 video clip looking very frail and walking with difficulty. He appeared to have



Cuba's President Fidel Castro drinks a glass of juice during the daily newscast Mesa Redonda in Havana in this image taken from television January 30, 2007. Ailing Cuban leader Castro was shown on state television on Tuesday for the first time in three months, meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Havana. REUTERS

put on weight in the latest images.

Cuba has denied Castro has cancer but his precise illness is a state secret. He is thought to be suffering from diverticulitis, a disorder of the large intestine.

A Spanish doctor who examined him in December said two weeks ago that Castro is making a "slow but progressive" recovery, although his condition is serious due to his age.

Dr. Jose Luis Garcia Sabrido, head of surgery at Madrid's Gregorio Maranon public hospital, said Castro has suffered complications after surgery on his digestive system but may recover.

He largely dismissed reports by Spain's El Pais newspaper that said Castro had undergone three botched operations for diverticulitis.

Chavez said on Jan 19 that the Cuban leader was

"fighting for his life". A few days later, he said Castro was up and walking, adding in a light-hearted tone that he was almost jogging.

Iraqis fleeing conflict flood over borders

By: Alistair Lyon

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Violence in Iraq and instability in Lebanon are driving hundreds of thousands of people abroad in an upheaval not matched in the Middle East since the exodus of Palestinian refugees when Israel was created in 1948.

While Lebanese usually migrate legally to countries of their choice, Iraqis are fleeing across borders in distress to escape the bombings, death squads and sectarian cleansing that have savaged their country since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

Most of the Iraqis are ending up in countries that already host large Palestinian communities drawn from the 4.3 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations.

The carnage in Iraq has also uprooted about half the 30,000 Palestinian refugees who lived there in Saddam Hussein's time, forcing them

into a second exile or stranding them in limbo.

About 700 Palestinians have been stuck for months in wretched camps on the Iraqi-Syrian border after fleeing violence in Baghdad, despite U.N. appeals for Arab states to let them in.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees says up to 50,000 Iraqis abandon their homes every month. "Iraq is the big one," UNHCR's regional representative Stephane Jaquetmet told Reuters.

The agency estimates that up to 2 million Iraqis have moved to neighbouring countries, mainly Syria and Jordan, before and since the war, while 1.7 million are internally displaced.

Jaquetmet said he feared Syria and Jordan, which each host anywhere between half a million and a million Iraqis, might eventually close their borders to the refugees -- many of whom are fast exhausting whatever

resources they brought with them.

Tightening controls

Jordan already interrogates and turns away some Iraqi migrants at the frontier, especially young men who fail to convince the authorities they risk persecution at home.

Syria, already home to 432,000 Palestinian refugees, has been the most welcoming host for Iraqis, despite the extra burdens they create in a struggling economy where jobs are scarce and public services are creaky.

Yet Damascus, often accused by the United States of helping Iraqi insurgents, wins little international appreciation for its contribution in shouldering the Iraqi refugee burden.

Tens of thousands of Iraqis have also sought safety in Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey and Arab Gulf states. Only a tiny fraction of those who apply for formal refugee status with the UNHCR are accepted for resettlement in the

West.

Even those who risk brutal punishment or death at home for working with the U.S. military as translators or in other supporting roles find it almost impossible to gain entry to the United States, which took in only 202 Iraqi refugees in 2006.

Inside Iraq, up to half a million people fled their homes to other parts of the country last year alone, the UNHCR says.

"The defining factor was the bombing of the Samarra sanctuary on February 22," said Jean-Philippe Chauzy, spokesman for the Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration, which monitors the displacement throughout Iraq.

The destruction of the Shi'ite mosque in Samarra set off a wave of Sunni-Shi'ite revenge killings that has yet to wane.

Displacement On Rise

"People have fled because of violence or direct threats against their families. The rate has been about 1,000 a week and it is on the increase," Chauzy said. "People are moving to areas according to ethnic and religious lines."

"In many areas people pay rent to live in insalubrious conditions where there is little clean water or electricity. Fuel is also a problem. Many are living with relatives. It's a humanitarian crisis and the needs are enormous," he added.

Rampant insecurity in Iraq has hamstrung foreign aid agencies since the 2003 bombings of the Baghdad offices of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

While Iraqis try to escape the maelstrom of bloodshed, a quieter exodus of Lebanese has gathered pace since last year's war between Israel and Shi'ite Hezbollah guerrillas led to a protracted political crisis that burst into

violence in January.

Lebanese economists say tens of thousands have left to seek jobs and safe havens abroad in recent months, draining youthful talent and swelling a diaspora that may already account for a quarter of the Mediterranean country's four million people.

One recent survey showed 60 percent of young graduates and older people with families hoped to leave, either because they saw no future in Lebanon or wanted to keep their children safe.

Pamela Chrabieh, a researcher in contact with many would-be migrants, said she often advised them to think twice before grappling with the trauma of settling in countries where they might face official barriers, discrimination or unemployment.

"But those who have completely lost hope say: 'It's a permanent wait and we don't know what we are waiting for any more because the whole region is in flames'," she said.

Expression of Interests

Technical Assistance for Preparation of the Girls' Secondary Education Project
The Project Administration Unit
Ministry of Education, Yemen

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has received a PHRD Grant from the Japanese Government through the World Bank towards the cost of the preparation of the Girls' Secondary Education Project.

The Project Administration Unit (PAU) now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the below-listed technical assistances. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

To achieve the Project proposed development objective which is to reduce the gender gap in secondary education while laying the basis for related improvements in the quality, relevance and efficiency of secondary schooling; the government plans to prepare the above-mentioned project, and seeks the assistance of international reputed firms to conduct the following background studies.

1) Conduct a Study of Secondary Schools and Communities

The objective of this technical assistance is to prepare a qualitative report on the conditions in schools that encourage and discourage female enrolment and influence the quality of educational provision.

2) Conduct a Study on Private Investment in Secondary Education in Yemen

The objective of this technical assistance is to conduct a study on private education and make recommendations regarding how to encourage private investment in education.

The selection of the firms will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested firms may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by February 13, 2007.

Ministry of Education
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1) Prepare Project Component - Physical Inputs to Improve Access

The objective of this technical assistance is to assess the current state of secondary school mapping, school design prototypes, and planning for physical inputs to enhance girls' enrolment in Yemen and provide the Ministry of Education with recommendations on priority interventions and preparation of the project component at the secondary level.

2) Prepare Project Component - Cost-effective Incentive Program

The objective of this technical assistance is to assess the recent awareness and incentive programs to promote girls' enrolment in Yemen and provide the Ministry of Education with recommendations on priority interventions and preparation of project components at the secondary level in light of international experience and sound economic benefits.

3) Prepare Project Component - Quality Enhancement

The objective of this technical assistance is to assess the quality of secondary program development and delivery in Yemen and provide the Ministry of Education with recommendations on priority interventions and preparation of the project component at the secondary level in light of international experience.

4) Prepare Project Component - Secondary Teacher Professionalism

The objective of this technical assistance is to design improvements to the quality of secondary school teacher preparation, training, and deployment in Yemen and provide the Ministry of Education with recommendations on priority interventions and preparation of the project components at the secondary level in light of international experience.

5) Prepare Project Component - Implementation Structure and Capacity Building Arrangement

The objective of this technical assistance is to assess the current educational project management structures within the Ministry of Education and plans and progress for decentralization and reorganization and recommendations on priority interventions and coordination of the project component at the secondary level in light of international experience.

The selection of the firm will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested firms may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by February 13, 2007.

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A conversation with Dr. Geert W.J. Heling, professor of organizational behavior

The critical issue in development is cultural development

Professor Geert W.J. Heling is a renowned professor and consultant on organizational behavior and change who is visiting Yemen as a part of the Maastricht School of Management Executive MBA program being held in Sana'a in collaboration with Sana'a University. The Yemen Times met with Heling to discuss the issue of cultural development in Yemen and how Yemenis can help themselves realize their own development on all fronts.

Interviewed by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Dr. Heling, please tell us about your background.

Well, I come from Europe, from the Netherlands. My educational background is psychology; more specifically, I studied cultural psychology. I've always been interested in different languages and different cultures, and, actually, that's also what I'm doing for my work.

I began my career as an academic researcher at the University of Nijmegen and later became full professor of organizational behavior at the Maastricht School of Management on a part-time basis. I combine this with my main job, which is management consultancy, and I have my own consulting firm.

Most of my work with the Maastricht School of Management is in outreach, as Maastricht MBA programs are being taught in many different locations worldwide, particularly in emerging economies and developing countries. There's already considerable experience in developed countries; therefore, we're focusing on developing the rest of the world.

We've ventured into countries like China, India and Indonesia, as well as Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. Actually, this is my first visit to Yemen. I've been teaching in Cairo and I've visited Tunisia, but I consider this my first real encounter with this part of the world because my previous visits were a long time ago.

Yemen has been implementing a development strategy involving economic, political and social development. However, we've witnessed only limited progress and success via these strategies so far. I think the critical issue in development is a cultural issue.

If that's a question, it's a simple one to ask, but there's no simple answer. Of course, we know about the development of the 'Asian tigers' and other Asian countries. I've been there many times and I've seen it grow. It's booming at the moment and their development is incredible. Is there one key to it? No. Does the cultural issue matter? Yes. Like I said, there's no easy answer to it and I don't want to claim that I can provide you with a simplistic solution to copy.

To a certain extent, from what I see in several Asian countries, it's all about attitude and of course,

you can connect attitude to culture. For instance, when I go to China, I see many people working. Even those who are unemployed still are doing something. In the poorer areas, people are doing things like cleaning their streets. Why? Apart from individual drives, they share a social obligation toward the betterment of their communities.

It's this industrious mentality of the Chinese to keep busy and to improve the things around them. This is amazing – something unheard of even in the Western world – and they're growing rapidly. There's something in their values and cultural system that makes them like to work. They feel they have an obligation to contribute to their social environment and to the community.

If we translate this to Yemen – and I apologize if I don't have a complete picture, as I've been here only a few days, so please feel free to fill me in – based on what I've seen so far, the difference is the mentality of how to get from having a plan to actually implementing it. You see, making a plan isn't so difficult. Of course, a certain intelligence and expertise are required to make a good plan, but that's not the difficult part. The difficulty is to actually implement it and start carrying out what was planned to do.

In many cases, the plan isn't implemented and doesn't lead to the hoped for results. People then blame it on the plan itself and think they must have a better plan and start anew. But mostly, that's not the problem. Implementation matters most.

Often in my work organizations, I encounter those with the attitude that hav-

ing a plan, in combination with the intention to carry it out, is enough. Thus, they stop pursuing implementation because they think they've already done the job. However, this is only the starting point, of course. This is seen particularly in bureaucratic organizations.

Maybe this attitude also exists in Yemen. I see many plans here. I spoke to several people during the past couple of days who talked about the government's many plans, etc. This means you have enough plans – and the plans are probably considerably good – yet why don't you execute them, go through implementation and achieve good results? Something's missing there – the action part.

You can call it culture or attitude or maybe it's just a lack of understanding of the mechanisms behind it because we must understand the behavioral mechanisms that enhance performance. If we look at Yemen's situation, the danger is that we simply could blame it on "the culture." However, culture isn't some independent thing or an abstract entity – it's you and me. Culture is what people think and do.

The same applies within an organization. An organizational culture isn't something abstract or something being enforced by top management or some consultant; rather, an organizational culture is what we're doing here. It's the behavior of managers, employ-

ees and everyone who constitutes part of the organization. Culture is the behavior we exhibit every day. The good news is that people can change their behavior.

If we look at the behavior of a typical Yemeni employee, student or even journalist, we find they work an average 20-hour week and most of their work isn't valuable additions, but repetitive activities to which they've become accustomed. If you want to change this culture or behavior and get Yemenis to work and spend 7 to 8 hours of constructive effort and focus on the quality of their output, how do you do that?

That's a challenging question. People mention to me the habit of extensive qat chews and the time these chews consume at the expense of working hours. It's a simple mathematic calculation. If you only work four hours a day while others work eight or 10 hours a day, it's clear that you have a disadvantage and you'll never get as far as the others.

Referring to your question about how to change that, let me warn you about one thing: the solution never can come from outside. If you want to change this, then the desire to do so must come from within. For example, if you impose a new type of working system within your organization, simply imposing such a system won't change people's attitude. They're smart enough to disrupt it, they're intelligent and creative and they'll find a way around it; thus, it must come from within.

If we talk about commitment as a motivator, you can't impose this on people. I can't motivate anyone, I can only help others motivate themselves and create conditions within which they can commit themselves. Now, here's an important key and something a lot of managers and leaders misunderstand: you can never impose a change of behavior upon someone. Sure, you can enforce it, but that only works for the short term. However, for the long term, he must convince himself that it's beneficial for him to change his behavior and that's not a simple thing to do.

For example, you can't convince a person that smoking cigarettes or chewing qat is bad for him. He probably already knows it, so if you try to convince him with rational arguments, it doesn't work. He must convince himself and I think the only way is by helping him see and feel what the benefit is for him. He must see for himself the rewards of his behavior.

If he can see the reward of working eight hours instead of four, then he can choose to change. If you force him, he'll



Dr. Geert W.J. Heling reads through a copy of the Yemen Times.

only act like it, but he'll never really change, and this acting like it is what we see so often in organizations. Managers and leaders demand that we must act differently and that we must change, but people just don't commit themselves to it, so they'll just act as if they comply. When the manager turns his back, they just fall back into the old behavior patterns.

In theory, when we question why people don't get to the stage where they really see and feel the rewards of changing their behavior, I think they focus too much

on the input and the work side of it instead of on the reward side and what will be the outcome. They focus too much on making plans instead of on achieving results.

If I see that working longer hours is rewarding for me, not only in payment but also in job satisfaction, sense of achievement and maybe even higher status, that will help me convince myself to take action and really change my behavior. Of course, the social context is important too because people must feel that the new behavior is acceptable or even more desirable. You can call that culture, but it's ultimately about the choices people make themselves.

As you said, development is a choice on a personal level. However, there are misconceptions around the concept that development is inflicting alien concepts upon society. How should we as educators deal with this?

I see that there's a misconception about development and progress in many societies, as if it would mean changing their culture to match those of Western societies. A change of culture should be such that it enriches the culture itself while developing its own unique set of characteristics without losing its own values or identity.

For instance, collectivist values are very important in many societies – so don't try to get rid of them and become individualistic! That's a misunderstanding many people have. Globalization (many fear that it's synonymous with what I call 'Americanization') doesn't necessarily imply that you give up your own identity.

On the other hand, one can't deny that the economy is a global thing, so you can't separate Yemen from the rest of the world. For development, I think we should develop mechanisms that foster economic growth through individualists' profits, etc., but combine it with more collectivist values.

When talking about social responsibility in economic growth for a nation or for a people, you can say, "We want this to be balanced and we want companies and governments that also look at the social issues of economic growth." So regarding development in Yemen, I think people will change their behavior, but not necessarily lose their values or cultural identity.

I asked my students in this class their reasons for joining the MBA program and most said they want to learn and improve themselves. That isn't incompatible with a collectivist society because every one of them realizes they also have a social responsibility. I'm glad they affirmed their commitment to social development in this country.

We spoke about education, about globalization, about what sparks changing one's behavior and about one's social responsibility. How do we spark a

day there will be a global culture – not a uniform one, but one that contains a lot of diversity. So I hope the whole world won't be Westernized, Americanized or even 'China-ized,' but rather will look more like a multicolored blend that preserves each society's main values with mutual respect toward each other. I believe this will be the case some day.

But how can you get from underdeveloped to developed? You can answer this question in an economic way regarding how you can grow as an economy and this is fairly simple. Work harder, be more efficient, invest more and trade more with the rest of the world. Learn from others, act on it and you'll see the benefits rapidly.

However, if you talk about cultural development, then I hesitate. Don't try to change Yemeni culture to a Western culture. You may want to develop Yemeni culture into a new, future Yemeni culture coinciding with economic development as well. But such change never can be imposed or done from outside – it must happen from within. It's the people's choice. If they choose not to develop, then no one can ever make them develop.

If you want to develop as a nation, challenge the people and try to set the conditions so they can commit themselves to development. I strongly believe in education as a development tool, not to change a culture, but to develop it. Education makes people see and understand more, as well as understand more about their own position and background. It doesn't bring something radically new; rather, it mainly allows them to grow and

see things from different perspectives. It's like building a tower with many bricks – the higher the tower gets, the more you can see when you're standing on top of it.

With education, people develop a broader view, they know more and can interpret things differently and they can choose to take up action accordingly. That's what education can do in contributing to develop a society. Also, exposure to those from other places and cultures is crucial in order to develop different perspectives.

You ask how long it takes. I estimate it would take approximately 15 years to really achieve the results from such kind of development, which, relatively speaking, is a short time period. But you mustn't stop at merely having plans and intentions – act on them and guard the progression!

Development does not mean becoming like the western world

Thank you for your time and for discussing this issue of cultural development. I look forward to welcoming you in Yemen in the future.

Thank you. I truly hope to come back again. And if I may add, my visits to Yemen and to other countries are helpful for me too. Through my travels, I have the opportunity to meet new people and learn from their views and opinions. I've already learned so much here, especially from my students, and this enhances my understanding of your culture too. I get to learn more about Yemen from the inside. Now when I go home, I'll meet those in my country who've never gone abroad and I can explain to them what Yemen is all about and tell them about its fascinating people.

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QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية

Regional VP of Western Union Money Transfer Jean Claude Farah “Yemen continues to surprise us by its remarkable growth”

Although Yemen is considered to be among the least developed markets in the region, several international companies have ventured into Yemen and achieved significant growth in operations. They've had their share of reaping the fruits by being early entrants into Yemen's virgin market. One such company is Western Union Money Transfers. Yemen Times met with the Regional Vice President of Western Union, Jean Claude Farah and had the following conversation regarding Western Union's progress in Yemen.

Interviewed by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Firstly Jean Claude Farah, we would like to welcome you to Yemen and wish you a successful visit here. Is this your first visit to Yemen?

Allow me to thank you for your kind welcoming remarks, this is my fourth visit to Yemen. I wanted to visit to stimulate our activities here. Actually it had slipped my memory how beautiful Yemen is and how hospitable and kind the people of Yemen are, so this visit triggered some lovely memories.

What is the span of Western Union's operations in the region and how successful have you been in the regional market?

Western Union has a history of over 150 years in transmitting money and it is the global market leader in electronic wire transfers. Western Union's market share of money transfers has rose from 10 percent in 2003 to 15 percent in 2005 and has grown an additional 3 percent in 2006 to reach 18 percent of all such activities on a global scale. Therefore, you can see that our operations are growing rapidly and we look forward to more growth in the near future. Our annual turnover reached \$4 billion per annum, and we have around 4,000 employees working for us as well as over 300,000 service points worldwide.

Tell us about your growth in developing countries including this region.

Western Union is growing on a global scale in terms of size of operations as well as market share, but to address your question, our growth in developing countries correlates with their national growth levels considering that many developing countries in Asia and in this region achieved remarkable growth in recent years, we are very optimistic about growth in the Middle East region, which includes Yemen, in spite of the relatively smaller size of transactions compared to North America.

Please tell us about the objectives and motivations behind this visit to Yemen and the expected outcome.

In addition to being in love with Yemen, my agenda includes visiting many of our respectable clients, which we are associated with, and to further strengthen our business partnership. Today we are visiting the International Bank of Yemen, which was our first client in Yemen. So therefore we are interested in reviewing the preparations for 2007 as well as reviewing performances of 2006, and also congratulate our clients on the remarkable outcomes exceeding our expectations.

How would you describe your relationship with the International Bank



Mr. Jean Claude Farah, Regional Vice President of Western Union pointing at Western Union Advertisement published in Yemen Times.

of Yemen, your first client in Yemen?

We have an exceptional relationship with the International Bank of Yemen, we wish that our relationship with our other clients in Yemen and outside of Yemen be as good as our relationship with the people and management of the International Bank of Yemen. So far in cooperation with the International Bank of Yemen and our other clients we have achieved a strong presence in various parts of the country, however this is only the beginning because we can further establish our presence in Yemen and move closer to our customers and we will also increase the number of offers we provide for our Yemeni consumers.

I'd like to ask for more details about your strategy in the country and in the region and how you deal with your competition.

Before answering your question I will give you an example to illustrate the difference between us and our competition: If we say we would like to travel by road from Sana'a to Hodeida, would the journey in a Mercedes be the same as the journey in a Kia? The same distinction applies also to any other competitors competing with Western Union quality wise, consider an Indian expatriate who would like to send cash to his family in India; we have 35,000 service centers in India while none of our competition has a number that would even come to ten percent of that. Even in this region, if you would like to send cash to neighboring Saudi Arabia, we have over 140 service centers while our nearest competition has only 10 service points. There is a huge gap between us and our competition, we reject the notion that competing in the field of money transfer is strictly a cost issue or a price war, as we offer a complete package that includes far more than what our clients can offer in terms of convenience, and this also applies to

our international strategy as well as our strategy in Yemen.

Western Union offers a set of services which are not available in Yemen, such as home delivery of cash transfers.

I can give you a few more of the services Western Union may provide to ensure convenience of our customers. Home delivery of transfers is by no means a replacement for service centers, but it is an additional option in selected locations. This service and others may be brought to Yemen as we consider Yemen to be a virgin market with a lot of potential, and if you ask me about the growth limitations of the Yemeni market I would be untruthful to you if I tell you that I know what those limitations are. Yemen continues to surprise us time and again by its remarkable growth and size of the market; the money transfers by Yemenis in the gulf region or in the United States exceed expectations and indicate that there is a lot of business to be done with and in the Yemeni market.

Tell us about your market saturation in Yemen.

We have over 200 service points in Yemen and growing, we also have several clients in Yemen including four of the main banks. Our partners are chosen through a careful criterion especially after the events of Sept. 11. Because of new issues such as money laundering, compliance of partner clients with regulations; we have invested over \$40 million in the company in order to develop a compliance department to detect cases of money laundering. Therefore any client who would like to work with us has to comply to the requirements from several perspectives, was it goodwill, adhering to business ethics, as well as having good saturation in the market and financial resources and cash flow that

permits the partner client to respond to customers.

If we discuss your marketing strategy in Yemen, I understand that you formulate your communication in several languages such as Amharic, Hindi and Filipino. Is it in your strategy to target foreign communities in the region?

With regards to our marketing and communications strategy, that strategy has two parts, first the generic communication which is to inform you about the range of services Western Union provides and that is either in English or in Arabic. The other part is to make sure that the whole world knows of the services of Western Union, including foreign communities and expatriates. For example I'd like to see Omar read about Western Union in his own language, I want a Filipino person to read in Tagalog about the service, I want the Ethiopian to recognize our brand in Amharic. The same norm is applied to other countries which have Arab communities, we do publish advertisements about Western Union in Arabic in the United States and so fourth, it is a diversion of ethnic marketing we pursue on a global scale.

Can you tell us about the ratio of transfers from Yemen to abroad and vice-versa?

Yemen is one of those countries continuously surprising us. Our previous perceptions about Yemen is that it would be more of a recipient country, forecasting our operations to be 85 percent paying out remittance from abroad and 15 percent sending remittance to abroad, but we were wrong. Our operations today are 50 percent remitting to abroad and 50 percent receiving. Apparently there are large foreign expatriate communities working in Yemen and sending money overseas. I do not have precise numbers at the moment about the size of activity,

Business In Brief

Government & Businessmen agree to enforce Sales Tax

The government has agreed with the Union of Chambers of Commerce to enforce the Sales Tax after making several modifications to be agreed on within six months with assistance from International and Regional taxation experts.

Middle East Development Corp. to build an economic city in Yemen

President Saleh has met with Sheikh Tariq bin Laden who expressed willingness to build an economic city in Yemen to include industrial zones, business centers, hotels, entertainment venues as well as a sea and air ports, detailed plans will be announced on due course.

President Saleh calls on businessmen to promote Yemen

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called on local and regional businessmen to promote investment in Yemen in preparation for the Invest in Yemen conference. He stated that local businessmen who welcome regional investors and work with them for more economic growth in the country.

700 Businessmen to participate in Invest in Yemen conference

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperative Council has stated that over 700 gulf-based businessmen and investors will participate in the Invest in Yemen conference to be held on 8-10 April 2007.

Family Businesses Conference to be held

The Yemeni Businessmen Club to organize the First Family Businesses conference scheduled to be held in Sana'a on the 21st - 22nd February.

Tadhamon Islamic Bank Achieves 51 percent growth in income

Tadhamon International Islamic Bank has achieved 51 percent growth in income in 2006 reaching to 12,649,360,000 Riyals, over half of which was returns on overseas investments.

but I know that our operations in Yemen are very active in sending and receiving money.

From your experience, what are the secrets of success of Western Union?

I must say that the most important factor in the success of Western Union is its commitment and fulfillment of the promises it makes. Our commitment raises confidence in our brand and strengthens our relationship further with our clients and this is our secret for over 150 years of continuous success.

With your bold expansion plans in Yemen, how do you view your future relationship and partnership with your first Yemeni client, the International Bank of Yemen?

When I first came to Yemen I met with the management of the International Bank of Yemen in its previous headquarters and its current offices were still under construction. We have seen the International Bank of Yemen achieve giant leaps in progress and development and we have also witnessed our relationship growing stronger and moving towards more progress and I look forward to the further growth and prosperity of the International Bank of Yemen as I am sure that our mutual relationship will grow and new milestones will be achieved in our partnership in Yemen.

Business Arbitration in Yemen

By: Gabriele Herrmann

In 2006 the Center for Business Arbitration and Conciliation at the Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry, based in Taiz, conducted a number of activities.

There were several legal and skills development courses carried out with the assistance of experts from Germany and Bahrain.

Business Arbitration Promotion Days took place in Aden, Taiz, Sana'a and Mukalla. The idea was to initiate a dialog between the business community and the commercial judges and lawyers. A small delegation of business arbitrators traveled to Bahrain to visit the GCC Commercial Arbitration

Center and other related institutions. Besides some internal training course and meetings also a documentary film about business arbitration and the development of the center has been produced.

The center comprises of 12 Yemeni chambers in Aden, Mahweet, Saada, Sana'a, Al Jawf, Mareb, Dhamar, Mukalla, Al Baydah, Shebwa, Al Dalee and Taiz. The Chambers of Ibb and Abyan also applied for membership.

The center was established in 2005 following a series of training courses and development since 2002. The aim of the center is to ensure proper case management and apply the arbitration rules developed. Therefore cases remain at the individual member chambers, however the same procedures and

rules should be applied wherever the cases take place.

Business Arbitration and conciliation has always been part of the chambers. Since 2002 the German Government, through GTZ, is supporting activities to professionalize traditional business arbitration. Yemen is in the process of accession to the WTO and the GCC and require a lot of adjustment and changes. A professional business arbitration system to solve national and international business disputes is in great need and assists the country in modernizing its system. Considering the difficulties of the legal system in Yemen, business arbitration and conciliation provides an appropriate alternative. Many countries of the world apply business arbitration

because of its advantages such as being cheaper, faster and more problem-oriented than courts. In countries like Germany business arbitration clauses have become an efficient part of contracts and it's a good business as well. In Yemen however the majority of cases are being solved still through traditional arbitration.

The Center of Business Arbitration and Conciliation at Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry is trying to achieve the goal of professionalizing business arbitration in Yemen thus contributing to an improved business environment in the country. The center is presently reaching out to increase its cooperation with the expertise available in the GCC.

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- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, contact and qualification information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered.**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites *Yemeni Nationals* to apply for the following position with its project Programme Development Oversight & Coordination.



1-Post Title: Public Financial Management (National Technical Officer):
Duration: 12 months.

Responsibilities:

- Report to the Public Finance Management(PFM) Expert
- Assist in providing support and guide to Implementing Units/Deputy Ministers in the preparation of detailed proposals in accordance with the Action Plan
- Assist in reviewing proposals for procurement of goods and services inline with available resources
- In consultation with PFM Expert provide technical advice to the Government of Yemen (GoY) on issues related to the implementation of PFM reforms, including on issues related to the implementation of the new classification in the 2007 budget
- Assist in Providing training where appropriate to larger numbers of GoY staff, for example on use of the new Chart of Accounts for the preparation of the 2007 Budgets and for the posting of all the GoY's accounting transactions in 2007
- Assist in preparation of reports as requested by PFM Expert

Qualification:

- Holder of an advanced degree in accounting, finance, business administration or economics
- Have at least two to three years experience in public financial management, covering budget preparation, execution, controls and financial accountability, procurement and capacity building
- Experience in implementing complex PFM reform agendas, including effective engagement with government officials at all levels
- Ability to communicate in Arabic and experience of working on PFM issues in the region are desirable though not essential
- Ability to use word processing and excel

2-Post Title: Admin and Finance Assistant
Duration: 12 months.

Responsibilities:

- Arrange in consultation with PFM Expert and UNDP procurement of project equipment;
- Maintain all project files and records;
- Assist in the procurement of goods and services for the project as required and in accordance with the project work plan;
- Maintain update project inventory records;
- Prepare request for direct payment, quarterly financial reports, and maintain updated expenditure control and managing the financial bookkeeping and filing;
- Organize meetings for the project management and participate in organizing in-country workshop and other related training activities (including study tours and workshops abroad)

Qualification:

- Holder of BA degree in Commerce with at least not less than three years of experience is a minimum requirement. Knowledge of UNDP rules and procedures in finance, procurement and personnel related matters.
- Good communication skills
- Ability to use word processing and excel
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written)
- Accounting skills

3-Post Title : Translator
Duration: 12 months.

Responsibilities:

- Translate all incoming and outgoing mail from and to the project;
- Conducted simultaneous translation in project meetings, workshops, etc
- Translate training materials and reports
- Assist in the preparation of reports

Qualification:

- Holder of BA degree in English literature five to seven years of experience in the area of translation.
- Good communication skills
- Ability to use word processing and excel.

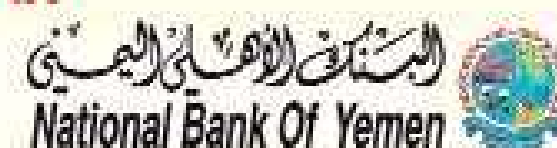
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The deadline for receiving applications is Tuesday, 13 February 2007
UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

NATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2006



Mr. Abdulrehaman Mohammad Alkhalil, Chairman of the Board of Directors and manager



National Bank of Yemen's Board of Directors held its annual meeting on Thursday, 25th January, 2007 in the presence of all members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Management to approve the Financial Statements for the financial year ending as of 31st December, 2006, and hear the report of the bank external auditors Messrs. Dahman RSM, at the Head Office of the bank in Aden.

The meeting was commenced with a speech by Mr. Abdulrehaman Alkhalil the Chairman of the Board of Directors, who indicated that the National Bank of Yemen had since 1998 proved, and year after year, remarkable ability to achieve steady and distinguished growth and was able during those years to achieve high growth rates in all its financial indicators, which reflects the volume of the considerable expansion in its activities and its position in the Yemeni banking market.

He added that: 2006 was another fruitful and distinguished year in the bank's successful progress filled with achievements. We were able to achieve all objectives laid down by us in the bank work plan, and we achieved distinguished results and growth in various investments and banking fields by increasing the bank sources of revenues, improvement of its profitability and increase its share in the banking market. The performance of the National Bank of Yemen in 2006 reflected important success whether at level of increase ratio of customers' deposits or at level of increase of paid up capital. This performance indicates the bank's ability to enhance and develop its services, in addition to its ability to compete and achieve its targeted objectives and meet the various and changing needs of its clients.

On the other hand, the Chairman of the Board of Directors indicated that the results and achievements which the bank successfully achieved during 2006 were because the management adopted flexible strategy consisted represented mainly in fulfillment of high revenues and management of risks in an effective way with due attention at the same time, on winning the satisfaction of clients with tailor made service, improvement of productivity, efficient operation, cost effectiveness, and support bank's capitalization.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors indicated that the bank for the fourth year respectively was able to increase its capital by 37.3% over last year to become among the highest in the Yemeni banking sector, and represents about 74.4% of the local owner's equity which reflects continuing growth by 9.2% the bank's assets for the year 2006, which reflect the persistence in growth in bank's capital. He added that the bank also continued to maintain a high liquidity percentage of 81% (the highest percentage in banking industry, which keeps its always able to confront all exceptional circumstances and meet its obligations under all circumstances.

Mr. Abdulrehaman Alkhalil announced that those developments in the bank financial indicators in the bank financial statements were reflected in the rating awarded by the bank from international rating institution during 2006. National Bank of Yemen was rated by Capital Intelligence, a renowned international rating institute, H+ for long term liabilities in foreign currency and R for short term liabilities, which corresponds with the classification of the Republic of Yemen; and DD for the bank's group financial position. It is the highest classification received by any commercial bank in Yemen. These classifications rated the bank future financial stable, and this classification is one of the highest ever won by the bank in Yemen and cannot over ride the sovereignty rating of the Republic of Yemen. It also indicated that the National Bank of Yemen has strong local presence and efficient management and conservative lending policies which led to improvement of its assets quality and financial position.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors added: "that the financial achievements of the bank contributed to strengthening and fostering its financial position and improvement of its profitability ratio, and confirming its place in the banking market as an effective financial institution which is effective and capable of continuous growth and distinguished performance with increasing profitability. As result of these the bank's performance was acclaimed more than once and the bank won the best bank in Yemen Award for year 2006 by the Monitor the British magazine, belonging to Financial Times

He added that the National Bank of Yemen will continue this year its successful progress and achieve more significant results at various level of efficiency, development and profitability, and success in providing and diversifying banking services and products fitted to needs of its esteemed clients."

Mr. Dahman Awadh Dahman - bank external auditor, read his report which showed the bank's business in financial statement for the year ending on 31st December, 2006. The Board of Directors and the executive management and the employees in the bank presented the achievements during 2006 to His Excellency President of the Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh, in appreciation and acknowledgement of his leadership and his dedicated directives to achieve comprehensive economic development in our country and stability of investment atmosphere and enhancement of Yemen economy. They also thanked the Prime Minister, The Minister of Finance, The Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, and all Ministers and heads of departments, Government institutions and the banks clients for their confidence and continuous support to the bank.

The Board of Directors also extends greetings and thank to the bank's executive management and bank staff for their faithfulness, their efforts and their professionalism in performing their duties.



The law of the translator

By: Muhammed Alba'abani
Faculty of Arts, Ibb University
katyouwe1@yahoo.com

All of us praise Ibin Almkafa'a translation of the Kalila wa Dimna tales. But this admiration is for the honesty of Ibin Almkafa'a and his skill in adaptation with the requirement of the policy and Arabic expressions. No one went over that in the origin of that book, but all had a look at the text, they admired, and they praised their translators because their illustration for the unknown author. Today, and after thirteen centuries, nothing has been fundamentally changed.

The ignorance for the affection of the translation evokes many questions in which I will mention only one: What is the circumstances of the translators of arts, thinking and knowledge? Those who transmit civilization, what kind of rank are they occupying? What kind of conditions do they have in their jobs and what rights do they deserve? The real political problem for translation hides with absence of the

official description for a translator. The absence of this description may mean that translation does not require specific conditions, neither in the target language nor in source language nor in the action itself. And every defect in translation should return either to the weakness in the experience of the translator or to his digestion or to his linguistic talent. So, it has to be said that we do not acknowledge with existence of the translator except when he fails. But who is the responsible for this failure? It is not us who deny his existence and his job, neglect his preparation and protecting him from the pressure of the publisher, the reviewer and the corrector who are desiring - to simplify sentences, approximate the picture as well as to take normal expressions which freeze the language and the taste? The sufficiency which is lingual, methodologically, specialized and technical. These four necessities do not gather in any other specialization. So, they are useful for the scientific introduction to distinguish the translator. The official distinguishment which we request for the translator makes

him an innovator for the personal glory through the excellence of translation and the wide knowledge with which he supports his job. But the innovation needs a legitimate protection lean on the "law of the translation" which shows his duties as well as his rights. On the other hand, the innovation also needs the translator to rise from the literal and superficial and he should not get bored from the text and its difficulties. So, he should read the text with his eyes, his heart and with his mind. Then he should re-draft it as a proficient writer. All of us know that the translation of Bodlior for the tales of "Edgarbow" is superior than the origin and Foad Kana'an's style of translation of the novel "Auginy Grande" is more beautiful than its owner "Balzac." We can actually increase masterpiece like these. Today, Arab translation is shouting as Jobran when he shouted one century ago: "What do you want from me, my mother's son?" Do you want a modern translation with the tools of the past, active with the efforts of few persons? Where is the exchange of the informa-

tion between the Arab countries to prevent translation one book many times? Where is the consolidation of the idioms in order to unite and popularize them, where are the idioms of the Arabic language dictionaries and the office of coordination of the translation into Arabic, where is the communication of the translators, where is the magazine of translator which treats the scientific issues he face in his job, where are the rights, immunity and the rank of the translator? So many ideas are put forth for the progress of translation. In fact, the real problem is not with ideas but with the practical policy the Arab countries take in the cultural field. Translation is just a part of many of the cultural movement in our counties. It is enough to notice the statement of the Arab League, the first responsible for cultural communication and coordination between Arabs, to be aware of the disappointment which misleads believers of Arabism and its future. It is enough to review what most of the cultural Arab ministries achieved to discover the misery of lives from what he gains with his pen and who at the head of them are the translators.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
majed_thabet@hotmail.com



Expatriation today and tomorrow

Every human has a place to live, but indeed, nowadays is like the homeland. Few people like to live far from their own countries and most very much prefer living in their own motherlands where they can freely enjoy the value of their dignity. However, this doesn't mean that those who leave their countries are denying their origins or forsaking their patriotism. Undoubtedly, something else serious is behind this. The phenomenon of expatriation has become common, especially among young men who leave everything, i.e., family, studies and sometimes low-income jobs. Some return with an amount of money devoted for marriage, for example, or similar projects. Worse still, they sometimes borrow money to travel again to collect whatever they can to be spent on their next return. Several years may pass wherein everything remains the same or maybe even worsens as they just travel back and forth. What's the use of such expatriation when it ensures no better tomorrow, neither for the expatriates themselves nor for their nation as a whole? In many cases, hard times come upon such people, forcing them to leave their homelands, although some don't like it.

They live afar in a strange environment that daily forces them to drink the bitter cup of homesickness. They experience painful days when they remember families, relatives and sweet and lovely moments spent in their country. However, the real pain is when they realize that they daily pay the cost in vain because they receive no changes in their lives. Surely, they must have strong hopes to return, but they have a duty to themselves, their children and their nation. They should take it seriously to solve some, if not all, of the obstacles that forced them to leave and then shape a better future. In fact, if bad circumstances had been solved wisely, the word 'expatriation' would find no place in the dictionary of such people and, subsequently, the homeland would be the best place to live life. Dear expatriates and youth, it's now your duty to go hand in hand to discover the reasons for this phenomenon and do your best to shatter its impulse in order to shape your own circumstances in such a way that offers stability to you and future generations. Therefore, it's better to balance the equation of expatriation - its positive and negative impacts - not by emotions or prejudice, but through the mind's eye.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a 26 year old writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz, Uni.An ex-editor of Eng. Journal of the Uni. (majed_thabet@hotmail.com)

Camellia

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

In the early summer
And the late spring,
With the full shining sun
So fast toward her,
The river cheerfully runs.
Many times,
His long current's voice
Repeated,
"Come over here, Camellia."
She tries to come closer,
But she feels shy.
When he smiles,
Before her whirls,

She comes back
With a longing smile,
Saying,
"What diligent water you are!"
He declares, "I know."
"What does your hustle and bustle require?"

Camellia avows
For my heart's demand
To be grown like an Alba rose
As she says, "Forget-me-Not."

If you need to know
Where I walk and go,
She always confirms,

To the spring's heart.
No doubt,
This world can't be
My private right,
Only when he is still,
My love's pro.

In the day
When I meet Mars' Love,
He loves to...
But I have a tiny clue,
How jealous the bush lily is?
She tries

To plant amounts of "lycorine"
To poison my licorice
To make my life's path

Full of bitterness.

Camellia rose
Always calms my soul
The powerful spores she holds
With her doleful pistil
Would flower.
The summer burrows its snout
To not shower.
It is a cruel summer.
The summer's charm can't fetch
Her dewdrops to rain, to soar
Or to pass clouds lower.
Only she can be brought
By my warm clout
And cool power.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- Trial balloon
 - Kind of bar
 - Start of North Carolina's motto
 - Teenager's woe
 - Illegal lending practice
 - State indicator
 - Start of a quip
 - It may be blown
 - Potatoland, USA
 - Is sure to be heard
 - Gulf southeast of the Sinai
 - Scarlett's plantation
 - Goes for broke?
 - This company rings a bell
 - Block letters?
 - One of three in 1492
 - Emit lava, for instance
 - Convert hide into leather
 - Middle of the quip
 - Medical research agcy.
 - Word with "cut" or "line"
 - Buttocks
 - It's measured in spots?
 - Try to manage without help
 - Convert food into absorbable substances
- DOWN**
- Savoir-faire, e.g.
 - Reflected radio wave
 - Cinch
 - One of two in a score
 - Napped materials
 - Taiwan resident, for one
 - With lots of vegetation
 - With the bow, in music
 - Batiking need
 - Perfume ingredient, perhaps
 - It may hang from a cave roof
- stances
- Gas for the theater district
 - Female opera star
 - Kind of fit
 - Kind of jelly
 - Kids' game
 - End of the quip
 - Garr of film
 - Bird of prey weapon
 - Nutritive mineral
 - Highland tongue
 - Delivery room surprise, sometimes
 - Pup follower?
- One way to enjoy a breezy day
 - Fish-eating birds
 - Opposite of "whoa!" (Var.)
 - "Love Story" actor O'Neal
 - Add to the pot
 - Hall opening?
 - Worn out
 - Mischiefous elf
 - Sorcerers or magicians, e.g.
 - Plant louse
 - Change course
 - Window segments
 - Mental torment
 - Majestic swimmer
 - At that time
 - First commercial computer
 - Narrative of heroic exploits
 - You can't live without it
 - Cinch
 - One of two in a score
 - "My Three Sons" son
 - Runyon or Wayans
 - Insurance figure
 - Always
 - Use the teeth to erode
 - Fruit with a wrinkled rind
 - It may eventually become bald
 - At another time
 - London fellow
 - GTE competitor
 - Single or double, maybe

"UNCERTAIN CHANGE" by Ed Early

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - الحي السياسي - الأصحى - بيت بوس
سيار: ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨٠ - مكتب: ٦٧٩١٦٦

تسجيل عقاركم للإيجار أو البيع في مكتبنا، سيفرض علينا خدمتكم باحتراف، بمصادقية وسرية كاملة.

- للبيع... أرضية حر، حوالي ٧ لبن في مدينة الشباب والرياضة للإيجار... فيلا ثلاثة أدوار، في الأصحى الجديد قريبة من شارع الأربعين الرئاسة والأربعين المؤدي إلى حدة. ١١ غرفة كبيرة، حمامات و ٢ مطابخ وموقف لثلاث سيارات. نظيفة جداً.
- الإيجار الشهري مخفض إلى ٧٠٠ دولار
- دورين مفروش بالكامل مع حديقة رائعة ١٢٠٠ دولار شهرياً
- دور مفروش في حده، غرفتين نوم، حمامين، صالون طعام، مطبخ وحوش، مستقلة. الإيجار الشهري: ٨٠٠ دولار

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والمطبخ ملحق بالبدروم ملحق بالبدروم وغرفة للحارس مع الحمام والمطبخ (٥) مساحة المبني ٢٢٠ متر مسطح (٦) المساحة الكلية للأرض ١٢ لينة. سعر العمارة مائة مليون ريال يعني (قابل للتفاوض) للإستقسان: ٧١١٩٥١٦٨٥٨

- للبيع: أرضية ١٢ لينة شارعين + أرضية ٦ لبن شارعين + أرضية ١٠ لبن شارع - الموقع: الدائري الشمالي + أرضية ١٥ لينة شارعين - حي تجاري والمنافس للشوارع التجارية.
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١ أو عبدالله ٦٧٩١٦٦
- للبيع: أرضية أربعين لينة شارعين جنوبي وغربي - الموقع: بيت بوس - السعر: مليون وسبعائة ريال.
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١ عبدالله - ٦٧٩١٦٦

يرغب في العمل في أي مجال. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٦١٤٠ / ٧٣٤٤٠٥٨٠٣
• محمد عبدالله - دبلوم فني تجارة - دورات فب اللغة الإنجليزية - خبرة في مجال الحاسوب - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة .
• هاني الشرفي - مهندس كمبيوتر - خبرة في مجال الكمبيوتر لمدة عشر سنوات - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو في أي شركة.
• عامر محمد علي - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية والفرنسية وأيضا الألمانية بطلاقة ولديه شهادات معترف بها عالميا - حسن المظهر - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة سياحية أو في مجال الترجمة.
• يحي حسن القليبي - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية + دبلوم سكرتارية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقا مع إجابة تامة لإستخدام الكمبيوتر. يرغب في العمل في أي مجال مناسب.
• ممدوح - مدرس متخصص في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية يريد إعطاء دروس خصوصية لجميع المراحل خاصة الثالث إعدادي والثالث ثانوي (الأسعار مناسبة)

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• أحمد محمد التهامي - بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب بمرتبة الشرف (الثاني على الدرجة) - خريج جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا - لديه معرفة جيدة جداً باللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل كمترجم أو كمدرب لغات برمجة.

• محمد الأسدي - طالب جامعي - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية والفرنسية - لديه الرخصة النولية لقيادة الحاسوب (ICDL) - يجيد صيانة الهاسوب - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال مناسب في الفترة المسائية.
• يحي القليبي - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية + دبلوم سكرتارية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقا - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه
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• فواز صالح - ليسانس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم لغة فرنسية - يجيد إستخدام الحاسب الآلي - خبرة في التدريس والترجمة لمدة ثلاث سنوات - له كتب منشورة في الترجمة - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه ويفضل العمل مع شركات أجنبية.

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مستشفى حدة الأعلى : ٠١-٤١٣٨١
المستشفى اليمني الألماني : ٠١-٤١٨٠٠٠
مستشفى الملك فيصل : ٠١-٤١٨١٦٦
المستشفى الألماني الحديث : ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠-٦٠٢٠٠٠
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فنادق

فندق فرساي : ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧٠/١٢
فندق شيراتون : ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠
فندق موفيتيك : ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦
فندق تاج سيا : ٠١-٢٣٧٣٧
فندق ريلاكس ان : ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي : ٠١-٦٠٣٥٥ - ٦٠٣٥٨

البنوك

البنك التجاري : ٢٧٧٣٤ : فاكس : ٢٧٧٣١١
مصرف اليمن البحري الشامل : ٢٦٨٧٥٠٣٧٥ : فاكس : ٣٦٤٧٠٢٥٠٣٥
بنك اليمن الدولي : ٠١-٤٠٧٠٢٠
البنك العربي : ٠١-٣٧٦٥٥٨٢
بنك التسليف الزراعي : ٠١-٥٣٣٨١٢
البنك المركزي : ٠١-٣٧٤٣٤

معاهد

معهد يالي : ٤٤٨-٣٩-٣٩-٤٤٨٠٣/٢٣-٤٤٨٠٣ : فاكس: ٣٧-٣٧٠
معهد اللغة الألمانية : ٢٠١٤٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر : ٣٦٦٣٢ : فاكس: ٥١٧٥٥٥
معهد كاروكوس : ٥٣٣٤٥/٥ : فاكس: ٥٣٣٤٥٠٢
معهد لينكس : ٥١-٢١٢٠٢-٢٤٠-٨٣٣ : فاكس: ٣٦٥٥٣٧

تأجير سيارات

زوييه (Budget) : ٢٠٦٣٧٠-٥-٢٣٧٠ : فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
يوري كار : ٣٧-٧٥١ : فاكس: ٣٧-٨٠٤
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء : ٠١-٤٤٠٢٠٩ : فاكس: ٥٥٩٥٨٥
فرع شيراتون : ٥٥٩٥٨٥
عدن : ٠٢-٢٤٥٢٤٥

شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين : ٢٧٣٧١٢/٢٧٣٧١٣ : فاكس: ٢٧٣٧١٢
مأرب للتأمين : ٢-٦١٢٧/٨١٣ : صنعاء : ٢-٦١٢٧/٨١٣
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين : صنعاء : ٢٨٤١٣٢
عدن : ٢٤٤٨٠
تجزت : ٣٥٨٨١
شركة اليمن للتأمين : صنعاء : ٣٧٨٠-٦٧٧٣٦٣/٤٣ : عدن : ٢٤٧٢١٧
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مدرسة البركة الدولية : ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩
مدرسة المعاهد اليمنية : ٢-٦١٥٩
مدرسة رينبو : ٤١٤٠٠٣٦/٤٣-٤٣٣

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تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٤٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٧١١١

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إب : ١٠-٤٠٧٤١٩
المكلا : ٢٠-٣١٤١
ضيه : ٢٠٣٣٦٦
سيئون : ٤٠٤٢٩٩

مطاعم

مطعم ومخازنة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٤٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٧١١١

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سيارات

• للبيع: سيارة مرسيدس E. ٢٤٠ - اللون: رصاصي - فل أوبشن - مواصفات كاملة.
• للبيع: سيارة كورولا ٢٠٠١ - مواصفات خليجية - أجره فاصل واحد.
• للبيع: سيارة كورولا ٢٠٠١ - مواصفات خليجية - أجره فاصل واحد.

عقارات

• للبيع: عمارة في شارع هایل مكونة من ثلاثة أدوار وسبع شقق.
• عمارة للبيع (١) أربع شقق في الدور الرابع مكونة من غرفتين وحمام ومطبخ وصالة (٢) شقتين في الدور الثاني مكونة من غرفتين وحمام ومطبخ وصالة + شقة مكونة من ثلاث غرف وحمام ومطبخ وصالة (٣) أربع شقق في الدور الأول مكونة من غرفتين وحمام ومطبخ وصالة (٤) بدروم ثلاث شقق مكونة من غرفتين وحمام ومطبخ

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عنوان التواصل:

قص هذا الكوبون وإرساله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٣٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٣٦٨٦٦١/٢٣)

South Asian earthquake: Relief effort saves lives, stems losses, but reconstruction tasks loom large

In the wake of a successful relief effort that helped to prevent additional casualties in quake-devastated areas, the aid community is facing a new crucial task of restoring livelihoods to hundreds of thousands of people left homeless and destitute by the disaster.

The Story

On 8 October 2005, a devastating earthquake struck South Asia killing tens of thousands and leaving many more homeless and in danger as a bitter

winter approached. An intensive effort to find, rescue and feed survivors was closely followed by the media around the world due to the sheer scale of the disaster - 73,000 people perishing in Pakistan and 1,300 in India, a crisis that UN Emergency Coordinator Jan Egeland characterized as the "worst logistical nightmare" the world body had faced. Despite the challenges, the concerted international and national effort succeeded in preventing a feared second wave of deaths, massive population movements and outbreaks of epidemics as the harsh winter spread

across the region. Thanks to the massive relief effort, recorded mortality in the affected areas was no higher than during the previous winter. A nutrition survey showed no major food deficiency compared to the pre-earthquake level.

Today, nearly seven months after the disaster struck, the post-quake efforts are at another crucial junction that deserves close attention by the media and the public. As the recovery effort shifts from relief to reconstruction, UN officials warn that the most difficult part of the job may be only just beginning. Experience from other countries shows that still desperately needed donor support often ebbs once relief phases out. If this were to happen, many quake survivors could face another precarious situation next winter. As the humanitarian community strives for a smooth transition from relief to early recovery and reconstruction, a painstaking task of restoring livelihoods and rebuilding lives should not be allowed to elude media focus.

The Context

- As part of the UN-coordinated international response to the quake, more than 500,000 tents were delivered, some 5 million iron sheets were distributed, over 6 million blankets/quilts were provided.
- Safe water was restored to over 700,000 people, and thousands of latrine slabs were installed. Over 1 million children were vaccinated against measles. Countless

helicopters flights -- from the Pakistani military, NATO, US, other countries and the UN -- airlifted food and non-food items.

- The Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority of Pakistan, in collaboration with the UN and several civil society partners, has agreed to the basic framework of an Early Recovery Plan, a set of operational programmes, aimed at supporting

the longer-term road to recovery and minimizing the gap between relief and reconstruction, for which an estimated \$188 million is required over the next 12 months.

- The major challenges foreseen in the coming months are a successful return process, road accessibility in remote areas, potential landslides, continued assistance for vulnerable people, and ensuring the broadest possible reach of basic services.

"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

The editor



Returnees on the road back to Battagram from Meira quake camp.
IRIN/Alimbek Tashtankolov

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ELT Panorama

Book Review

The Mistress of English Prose



Reviewed by Dr. R.S.Sharma
Professor of English,
Faculty of Languages,
Sana'a University, Sana'a

The book under review is a veritable anthology covering the entire oeuvre of an internationally acclaimed star writer, Arundhati Roy: her celebrated novel, *The God of Small Things*, which bagged the 1997 Booker Prize, and her political writing. Under a single cover, Murari Prasad offers a bouquet of some of the best and recent writing on Roy.

In the Foreword, Bill Ashcroft, the founding exponent of postcolonialism, designates Roy as an activist writer. In his own words, "Roy demonstrates that acts of representation may, and indeed must go hand in hand with acts of political resistance". This is at least true of what has been described as 'postcolonial writing'. But it needs to be added that a proper estimation of Roy's activism is still awaited. We may reach important insights if we compare, for example, Roy's *The God of Small Things* with Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *Devil on the Cross*, as far as the spirit of activism and rebellion is concerned.

The editor's Introduction is distinguished by the fact that it supplies all the personal and literary details that one requires for an insightful reading of Roy's work: her fiction and non-fiction. He draws on Roy's own words, where necessary, and makes a stout attempt to defend her against such critics as CD Narasimhaiah and Rukmini Bhaya Nair.

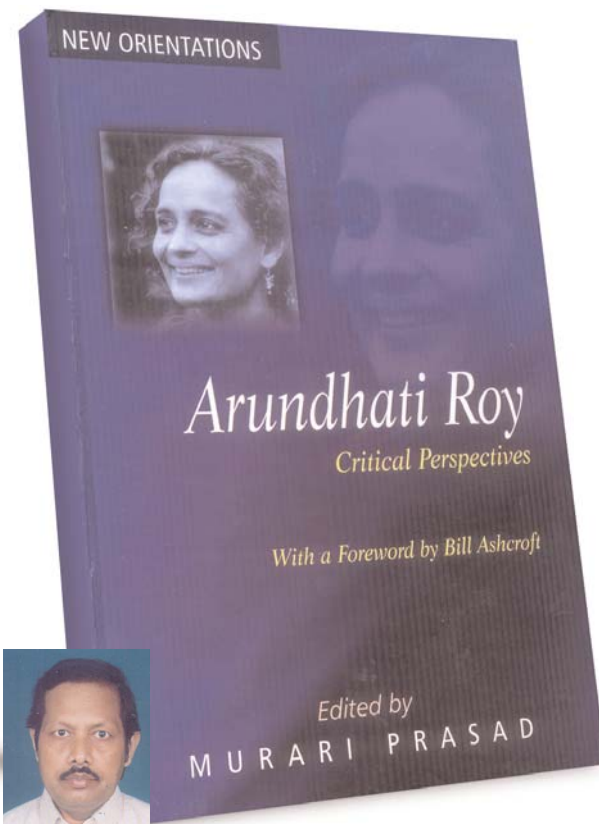
Further, Amitava Kumar extracts the salience of Arundhati Roy's mission and vocation in his succinct piece. The essay titled "Reading Arundhati Roy Politically" by Aijaz Ahmad is well-known to the Roy scholars and finds numerous references in other articles in this collection. Ahmad analyzes Roy's anti-Communism and comes to the conclusion that "she has neither a feel for Communist politics nor perhaps

rudimentary knowledge of it." What Ahmad does not appreciate is the fact that the novel drew contrary reviews from CPI (M) and CPI (ML), the latter praising her realism for highlighting the torture that the Naxalites suffered at the hands of CPI(M) in Bengal and Kerala. Nonetheless, Ahmad's criticism about Roy's naivety in political matters of India, including her position in her recently launched book, *13 December, A Reader, The Strange Case of the Attack on the Indian Parliament* (<http://www.outlookindia.com/author.asp?name=Arundhati+Roy>) has found echoes in discussions of Roy's activism and has been extended to all areas of political controversy espoused by her.

On the other hand, Ahmad applauds Roy's achievement in creative writing. He regards *The God of Small Things* as a landmark in Indian English fiction. "In this line of evolution," he observes, "Arundhati is an original. She knows about language and form what Rushdie knows. But with English she has even greater inwardness and naturalness; the novel is actually felt in English." This claim on behalf of Arundhati Roy has met with general consensus among the cognoscenti, but the common reader is baffled by the novel's complex and contrived plot structure.

No doubt *The God of Small Things* is a 'writerly text' and its temporal structures are complex and interlocking. Madhu Benoit in her essay has made a commendable attempt to analyze the multi-layered narrative and relate twists and turns of the temporal stretches to thematic element, though all the correlations are not equally convincing.

Alex Tickell examines Roy's "post-colonial cosmopolitanism", but he fastens upon a single image and goes for—sort of—overkill. Tickell is quite right in assuming and exploring the cosmopolitan element in *The God of Small Things*—and Roy is not alone in



Murari Prasad (ed). *Arundhati Roy: Critical Perspectives*. Delhi: Pencraft International, 2006, pp.211.

this, because postcolonial writing generally includes a cosmopolitan living. But it would be myopic to suppose that the family group is confined "in the foreign, socially contained space of the sky-blue Plymouth". Rachel herself, the mediating consciousness in the novel, breaks the bounds of postcolonial construct.

Few critics, I guess, would agree with Brinda Bose when she argues that exoticism is represented as politics in *The God of Small Things*. On the other hand, the essays by Antonio Navarro-Tejero, Julie Mullaney and Devon Campbell-Hall are well-argued interventions in the diverse thematic aspects of Roy's novel, such as power relationships, globalization and eco-feminism. Julie's line of argument is quite convincing inasmuch as she focuses on Roy's contribution to "the development of a feminist transnational anti-capitalism" but perhaps she bites off more than she can chew—she says precious little about *The God of Small Things*.

Bishnupriya Ghosh studies the process (almost miraculous) by which numerical figures relating to various

national and international issues are presented and converted into frightening moral inequities in Roy's non-fiction. By employing the abstract entities of mathematics Roy prominently foregrounds the suffering of the displaced by Narmada Valley Project, the have-nots in Indian society and the Iraqi victims of the American invasion. She advocates Roy's cause and endorses her hyperbolic style as a merit in Roy's non-fiction. Bishnupriya herself, I feel, is guilty of this exaggeration when she mentions Roy along with some great martyrs of history.

Articulating the marginal appears to be the chief concern of postcolonial criticism and the topic is quite familiar. What distinguishes Murari Prasad's essay is a scholarly and systematic exploration of the creative process including the linguistic devices by which Roy has articulated the marginal in various sectors of the global community. He suggests that in the case of Roy's corpus, the discourse of marginality must be considered in conjunction with the representation of resistance.

I entirely agree with Prasad when he pleads that the title of Roy's celebrated novel must not be applied to Velutha exclusively. N. Ram's interview with Arundhati Roy enables us to get things from the horse's mouth, as the saying goes. The questions are mostly journalistic, focusing on Roy's activism and Ramachandra Guha's tirades against her. I think her rebuttal that Guha quotes her sentences out of context and tendentiously is worthy of serious consideration because writers, the world over, do suffer from what I would call 'the politics of misquotation and dissimulation'.

To sum up, the compilation is critically valuable, immensely informative and up to date. But I am constrained to mention two reservations. Most of the essays operate within the single parameter of postcolonialism. Secondly, the collection has drawn largely on *World Literature Written in English*. However, the skewed slant is not going to detract from the real virtues of this solid and significant contribution to Arundhati Roy studies.

A letter to the learners of English: 1 Learn Arabic well



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

Dear learner friends,
Aren't you surprised about my title? You may wonder why I am suggesting that you learn Arabic well, instead of saying 'learn English well'. I have my reasons to make this suggestion; it is a selfish one, perhaps.

If you learn Arabic well, it will help you learn English well. Several researchers talk about the transfer effect: the abilities you gain in one language will be transferred to another language. Of course, this view has also been challenged by a few researchers. Let's not get into that controversy.

It is common sense that learning strategies are language neutral; they are not specific to any one language. For example, memorizing is not something specific to English or analyzing something is not specific to Arabic. Compensation strategies such as using a roundabout way if you don't know a particular word when you are speaking to someone are not specific to any one language; this is commonly practiced by any language learners.

In addition, I did a small research long ago in India in which I found that one who reads English effectively has been an effective reader in his/her mother tongue; the reading

strategies one develops in one's mother tongue for example, guessing the meaning of a word from its context, can be applied when one reads in English. So, if you develop good reading abilities in Arabic, you are sure to be good reader in English as well.

There are other advantages too. When you learn grammar of English, you can compare or contrast it with that of Arabic. For example, when you learn the number system in English, singular and plural, you can be alerted by the fact that Arabic has a three-number system – singular, dual and plural, unlike that of English. Similarly when you are learning the adjectives in English, you can contrast it with the use of adjectives in Arabic; in Arabic adjectives, except the numerals (eg. Arabic equivalent of 'seven stars'), are used after the nouns (eg. Al bint as jameel) whereas in English adjectives are used before the nouns (eg. a huge building). This knowledge can trigger your use of adjectives in English correctly.

Similar comparison and contrast between the sounds in English and those in Arabic can help you learn the English sounds better. There are sounds in English (eg. those produced by sh, k, l, m, n) which are similar to the ones in Arabic and there are sounds (eg. those produced by ch, th, p) which are absent in Arabic. These can caution you while you produce English sounds and help you speak English better.

Do you now agree that you should learn Arabic well in order to learn English well? Good luck.

Learn well; let your learning influence yourself.

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

Continued from page 1

Reading for EFL college students

The majority of the subjects for the college freshman are presented in printed materials: handouts and books. There are Linguistics courses, courses on English Literature, courses on English Teaching Methodology and others. Good EFL readers are unlikely to face difficulties in trying to handle a large amount of these written materials. On the other hand, poor EFL readers are seen struggling a lot in reading the materials and also in the preparation for the examinations.

The importance of reading skills is realized while using "Internet" for searching for topics, articles, journals and researches. We are living in a world that is called "the Digital Age". One feature of this age is the widespread use of internet in education formally and informally. Our students in English Departments are asked, sometimes, to submit some projects (i.e. researches on small scales) especially when they are in their Fourth Year. Their teachers give their assignments on "Teaching Materials",

"Contrastive and Error Analysis" and sometimes on English Literature courses such as "Novel", "Drama", and "Poetry."

More often than not students go to Internet café (Cyber Café) for getting some articles that are useful for their researches. In fact, when our EFL learners browse Internet, they depend mostly on their "Reading strategies". Skilled readers spend little time to get hands on what they want. On the other hand, "Poor Readers" waste their time and their money to come up with the same result the skilled readers got.

English Departments in Yemeni universities try to develop the "Reading Proficiency" and "Reading Strategies" of the learners by devoting four "Reading Skills" courses in the first and second years. However, not all reading strategies can be developed and covered during the formal classes. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the learners themselves to develop their reading strategies by practicing reading.

ANY GUESSES?

1. What is **veto**?
2. What is the distinction between **'He is dead'** and **'He has died'**?
3. What is meant by **'mysophobia'**?
4. What is the meaning of the word **'chutpah'**?
5. What does **'Commonwealth'** refer to?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

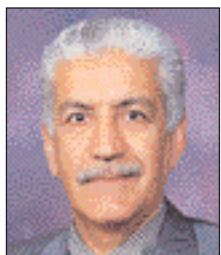
1. A **'valetudinarian'** is a 'person who pays excessive attention to preserving his health.' Such a person worries about his health all the time. Even when he is normal, he imagines that something is wrong with him.
2. Both **'yes'** and **'yeah'** express consent or agreement. However, 'yeah' is used in more informal than formal contexts in the U.S. 'Yes' can be used in both formal and informal contexts.
3. A **clue** is 'something that helps to find an answer to a question, difficulty etc. For example, when the police go to

the scene of a crime, they look for clues which could help them and nab the culprit. A **hint** is usually intentional. It is an 'indirect indication or suggestion.' When you hint something to somebody, you do not tell the person what is in your mind in a direct manner.

4. The 'lecture' in the phrase **'curtain lecture'** refers to the scolding that a wife gives her husband at bedtime, especially at a time when all that the poor man wants to do is sleep! When the couple gets into their bed, the wife begins her complaints. Hence the express 'curtain lecture.'

5. The expression **'rain check'** refers to postponement of any kind – the postponement of a dinner, a sports event and so on. The usual expression is 'take a rain check' on something. For example, 'Dr. Mahmud invited me to lunch this morning but I took a rain check on his offer.'

Emerson and Thoreau as transcendentalist philosophers in American literature



Dr. Bashar Ghazi Askar
Head, English Department
Faculty of Humanities
University of Applied Sciences
Sana'a
bsharaskar90@hotmail.com

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a man of great moral integrity and strength. He had a deep sense of belonging to the society which he attacked, namely the New England society of Puritan traditions. He was a New England gentleman and a man of letters. In general, he wanted to be in harmony with his society but with a sense of a change. His naturalism, his orientalism, and his longing for simplicity in life only reflect his intellectual fascination with certain unorthodox ways of life. He declared, "Every natural fact is a symbol of some spiritual fact." He confused moral statements with scientific statements. As a transcendentalist he believed that "knowing oneself and

studying nature make one feel tolerable."

Emerson was influenced by orientalism, Hinduism in particular. He found in the "Hindu Gita" a way of expounding social and moral values which proved his own point concerning morality and will. In fact, in India society and religion are fused together so when they are separated they lose their practical validity. It seems that he misused the Hindu concepts.

He was influential in his age because he combined the functions of a preacher, a philosopher, a literary writer and a poet. He was concerned with ethical and spiritual implications, particularly when he wrote poetry.

Henry David Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau was also another American thinker and philosopher of the time. He led a simple life and his philosophy was simple. He believed that "one should give a fair trial to one's ideal of which he attempted to do in his life." It is to be noted that all of his ideals were unpragmatic. For example, he believed that a person's earning should be related to his living. The philosopher's life was outwardly simple but inwardly complex. It is true that a philosopher thinks differently than others.

Both Emerson and Thoreau shared a transcendentalist conviction that the individual's conscience is the safest

guide in the conduct of human affairs. Both wanted to free themselves from evil. Good and evil are in conflict in this world but it seems that evil is loose in this world, to do whatsoever it could. Both were against slavery, racial discrimination and the Mexican war. The abolition of slavery, equal rights for women, freedom of religious thought and practice, educational reform, and more had their impact on the whole life of the new nation. The influence of their ideas and visions continue today in many aspects of the culture. Neither encouraged any wrong action in the society. Both were unique in their philosophical approaches. As idealists, they were great in their simplicity, nobility, and purity of conscience. Emerson remarks; "Let man stand alone, walk alone and possess the world." Nature was the resort where to direct oneself away from the burdens of industrialism and the new commercialism in America.

Transcendentalism is a philosophical, spiritual and literary movement which focused on self-reliance, self-esteem, individualism and a new vision of self-guidance. The movement provided intellectual and moral vision for many social transformations in America. Both Emerson and Thoreau provided America with the conceptual framework and a new path of living and new vision for each individual.

The nineteenth century witnessed

great changes in the overall thinking. Transcendentalism is a pragmatic philosophy, a state of mind, and a form of spirituality in living. The main tenets of transcendentalism of the 19th-century are the following:

- The individual is the spiritual center of the universe and he can be found in close relation to nature.
- Everything begins with self-knowledge.
- The Transcendentalist accepts the neo-platonic conception of nature as a living mystery.
- Nature is symbolic. Nature mirrors our psyche.
- Individual happiness depends upon self-realization.
- The external is united with the internal.
- Transcendentalists believe that "knowing yourself and studying nature make you feel tolerable and happy."
- If I can not understand myself, may be understanding nature will help to enter into the in-depth of the human soul.
- The transcendentalist rises above the lower animalistic impulses of life and moves from the rational to the spiritual.
- The human soul is part of the universal spirit.

In general, transcendentalism is a new vision of life.

