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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 Do you think Shaif Al-Haimi will be rearrested after his statement that he was tortured by National Security?

No (6%) I don't know (8%)
 Yes (85%)

This edition's question:
 Do you think that president Saleh would succeed in convincing the US Authorities to Free Sheikh Al-Moa'ayed and Zayed?

- Yes
 - No
 - I Don't Know

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Saleh's U.S. visit: Analysts criticize Yemen's insistence to receive more aid

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANAA, May 2 — As President Ali Abdullah Saleh began his visit to the United States on Sunday, observers and analysts criticized Yemen's keenness to receive foreign funding.

Saleh's visit follows the 19th Arab Summit held in Riyadh in late March and the recent investment conference in Sana'a. His visit also comes amid fierce confrontations between Yemeni armed forces and followers of Shi'ite leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi in Sa'ada governorate.

Sana'a University political science professor Mohammed Al-Dhaheeri observed that Yemen is requesting additional funding at a time when its wealth is being wasted uselessly, adding that if the nation would utilize its resources well, no foreign support would be necessary.

It's important for Yemen to fight corruption and use its human resources, which can be achieved by providing a political will for the regime, Al-Dhaheeri told al-sahwa.net.

Fellow political science professor, at the same university, Abdullah Al-Faqih indicated that the Yemeni president will ask the U.S. for "bountiful" support on

both the economic and military sides, aljazeera.net reported.

"It'll be difficult for President Saleh to convince the U.S. to provide military support to Yemen. The Sa'ada war, which Yemen is describing as a war against Iran in order to gain U.S. support, will be a point of weakness, especially amid efforts by regional and international parties to portray [the war] in a specific way," Al-Faqih observed.

Hafedh Al-Bukari, president of the Yemen Polling Center, said the future of Yemen's system of governance remains unclear because "There are no real institutions to rely on in Yemen." Additionally, he wondered how the U.S. can ally strategically with a country such as Yemen, where decisions are contingent upon one individual, i.e., the president.

Fighting terrorism

In discussing with U.S. officials the fight against terrorism, President Saleh demanded the United States release Yemeni Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayyad and his colleague Mohammed Zayed, who have been detained on charges of funding terrorist activity.

In a meeting Tuesday with director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Saleh also demanded the U.S. drop Yemeni Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-Zindani from the list of terrorists.

Saleh also met with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to discuss military cooperation, namely fighting against terrorism. Gates expressed appreciation for Yemen's role in combating terrorism, professing that the two nations are partners in this regard.

The purpose of Saleh's visit to the U.S. is for talks on how to enhance bilateral relations. Arriving at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, he was greeted by its base commander, the chief of protocol for the White House and various representatives of Yemeni diplomats serving in Washington.

"We plan to discuss with President [George W.] Bush and officials in the U.S. administration ways to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation between our two countries in all fields," Saleh told reporters upon his arrival, adding that such discussions will include both regional and international issues.

This is Saleh's fourth meeting with President Bush since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. President Saleh also received U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

One-million signatures campaign kicks off in Sana'a



Al-Zindani was among the first to sign the document.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANAA, May 2— The one-million signature campaign began Tuesday in the capital city of Sana'a, organized by a Qatari charitable in coordination with Al-Hikmah Al-Yamaniah Association. It aims to collect one million signatures in favour of Quds and against Israel's attempts to destroy and desecrate Aqsa mosque.

The campaign first started in Kuwait, then Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab

Emirates, and now in Yemen. It will continue in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Sudan. It is worth mentioning that one million signatures will be gathered on a 1,000-metre document which will be sent to the UN Secretary-General early June.

In an inauguration ceremony, Yemen's minister of endowment said that Yemeni people and their president stand by the Palestinian people and their cause, calling on all Yemenis to participate in the campaign.

Continued on page 3

Army fails to quell rebellion, Sa'ada war continues

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, May 2 — An informed tribal source reports that armed confrontations continue in 12 Sa'ada districts, causing immense loss of life and property. The same individual noted that Houthi fighters do not remain in the same place for long, but rather attack the Yemeni army at a particular site and then move on to another.

Clashes also continue nonstop in

Dhahian, located very near Sa'ada city, with the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists exchanging fire using both light and heavy weaponry from time to time.

Likewise, confrontations are ongoing in Bani Mu'ath, with the Yemeni army commencing a new invasion at the beginning of last week after an offensive attack employing all types of heavy and medium-sized weaponry in those areas.

Soldiers now are combing the area in search of Houthi loyalists still hiding there. Once the army feels the area has been cleared, new Houthi elements emerge.

Meanwhile, areas outside of Sa'ada city, including those in Sahar and Al-Safra, experienced relative calm over the past few days after Houthis abandoned them. However, Houthi fighters returned and positioned themselves on mountains located between Sa'ada city

and Dammaj in Al-Safra district, as well as mountains near Kahlan area east of Sa'ada.

Houthis centered in Wadi Al-Ghail and Al-Adhal Mountains wage daily attacks on army sites situated on Al-Qahlah and Al-Sinarah Mountains with the aim of reaching a military encampment positioned in Kahlan area near Sa'ada city because it's one of the camps providing all army forces with weapons and munitions.

Last Monday, fierce clashes occurred in several Al-Safra districts and expanded to include Sahar district's Al-Sinarah and Al-Ablah Mountains. Fighting also ignited in the mountains behind Sa'ada city toward the area of Dammaj, including Al-Qahlah, Al-Adhal and Al-Ghail Mountains in Al-Safra district.

Moreover, last Sunday evening and Monday morning Houthi elements attacked a camp affiliated with the

First Armored Division led by Brig. Ali Muhsen Al-Ahmar positioned in Sa'ada city; however, losses on both sides remain unknown.

Sources report that "Houthis assaulted and seized army sites in Al-Ablah, Al-Sinarah and Al-Abdeen areas at the beginning of this week; however, the Yemeni army sought the help of fighter planes to raid those areas."

Intermittent clashes occurred on numerous Sa'ada fronts, with fighter planes raiding Al-Qal'ah area in Razih district and Al-Gharshah area in Ghamer district, as well as areas in Baqem district.

Sources also mention that the Yemeni army has blocked the road linking Ghamer and Razih districts in order to separate Houthis in those areas. Residents there are suffering much, with a sack of wheat going for YR 8,000 and sugar at YR 12,000.

Continued on page 3

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In brief

LAHJ

Tribesmen protest property confiscation

May 2 — Hundreds of tribesmen took to the streets in a peaceful march asking the governorate leadership to restore their lands, which they say were given to influential government officials. In a statement to Al-Sahaw.net, Brig. Badr Al-Ezeibi said that his tribesmen have been asking the authorities to restore their property and agricultural lands since 1990, but until now they have not reached any solution, even though President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave directions to the concerned authorities to return their confiscated property.

TAIZ

Syndicates enraged over delaying hardship allowances

May 2 — Taiz branches of Yemeni teachers and educational professions syndicates demanded the concerned authorities immediately give teachers, inspectors and other education workers their hardship allowances. The syndicates released a statement demanding that hardship allowances be delivered to education workers through an easy mechanism without any illegal deductions from the deserved sums. The syndicates welcomed statements by Taiz Education Office saying that as many as 28,387 male and female teachers will receive hardship allowances.

IBB

Journalists quit media committee

May 1 — The journalists Mansour Al-Najjar and Adel Ali Omar announced on Monday their withdrawal from the media committee on the National Unity's 17th Anniversary, due to be celebrated on May 22 in Ibb city. In a letter to Ibb Governor Brig. Ali Al-Qaisi, who is also the chairman of the celebrations' subcommittee, the two journalists justified their withdrawal from the media committee because of the daily attacks and violations targeting journalists in the governorate.

SANA'A

US official acknowledges Yemen's anti-terrorism role

May 1 — Director of US National Intelligence Michael McConnell said that Yemen is an active partner with the United States and the international community in combating terrorism, Yemen News Agency, Saba, reported on Tuesday. During his meeting with President Saleh, the U.S. official praised Yemen's efforts in the war on terrorism and noted his appreciation for the level of cooperation between security authorities in both states to attain security and stability in the region.

Youth program's first batch celebrates graduation

May 2 — The Youth Economic Development Center launched its graduation ceremony for 23 male and female students, the first batch that joined the program aimed at engaging youths in the civil community for the year 2006 – 2007. Director of the center Qabul Al-Motwakel clarified that the program aims to develop the capacities of Yemeni youths to effectively participate in the building of the civil community. Another goal of the project is to help youths to exchange experiences at the local, international and regional levels.

Yemenis to replace foreign workforce

May 1 — The Yemeni government is due to replace five thousand foreign workers with local staff in the health and educational sectors, The Yemen News Agency said. Director of Retired Peoples Affairs Department in the Ministry of Civil Service and Social Security Mohammed Abdu said that the replacements come as part of a government program to replace foreign workers with local staff. He indicated that the ministry stopped making contracts with foreign workers as of 2003.

ADEN

MP laid to rest

May 2 — Hundreds of people paid homage Tuesday to the MP Ishfaq Mohammed Abdurazaq, who died in Al-Sa'eed Hospital in Taiz from a traffic accident last Friday on the Taiz-Hodeida Highway. The deceased's son Mohammed, 8, also died while his wife and sister were injured and are now receiving treatment at the hospital. The funeral was attended by hundreds of diplomats, senior government officials, party leaders and citizens.

Efforts to control African migrations to Yemen

Shabwah, May, 2 — During the last two days, Yemeni coastguards arrested 130 African migrants, said official website.

According to 26 September Newspaper, which issued by Yemen Armed Forces, the coastguards arrested the migrants when they tried to enter Yemeni territories illegally.

The newspaper quoted local source that the displaced reached the coasts of Shabwah on three batches of 84 males, 34 females, and 12 children.

The sources pointed out that the displaced have been transferred into Kharaz camp for refugees in cooperation with the representatives of the High Commission for the Refugees Affairs after they have gathered in Meifa'a camp.

The High Commission for Refugees in Geneva announced recently that 18 Africans died in a precarious journey crossed by refugees from Puntland, northeastern Somalia, to Yemen across the Gulf of Aden which conducted at the hands of smugglers, revealing that every one of the displaced persons paid \$ 100 in return for crossing the Gulf of Aden.

In this regards, The Somali consulate in Aden, stated this week to IRIN that the number of smugglers' boats carrying African migrants from Somalia to Yemen could decrease in future as the authorities in the self-declared autonomous region of Puntland, , step up anti-trafficking actions.

He explained that Somali forces in Puntland would be able to reduce the number of smugglers' boats reaching Yemen, however he added that despite the Puntland authorities forming a task force in December, during 2007, reports indicate that at least 200 people died off the coast of Somalia.

Puntland has said many times that it is tackling the smugglers. It has made a number of arrests and confiscated boats and trucks but says it needs international help if it is to do more.

Somalia's general consul in Aden, Hussein Haji Ahmed, told IRIN that Somali forces are being trained to stop smuggling operations and illegal fishing. He said monitoring operations should be beefed up to outflank the smugglers.

Locust spreads again in Yemen

SANA'A, May 2nd — The director of the National Center for the surveillance and control of locusts, Mr Abduh Fare' Al-Rumaih, stated that locusts have spread in five Yemeni governorates. He further pointed out that the Center found a large presence of locusts in the Governorates of Hadramaut and Mahrah, followed by Shabwa governorate, while they found trace for simple multiplication in the governorates of Marib and Jawf. He further elaborated that the locust breeds usually in the winter in the governorates of Haggah, Hudaydah, Lahj, Abyan, Aden, and parts of the coastal line in Shabwa.

Al-Rumaih further stressed that the monitoring teams which were formed by the Center in a number of governorates are closely watching the growth and locust breeding in a number of areas. He also noted that the locusts are actually local and not coming from the neighboring countries.

The locust swarms have spread a few

weeks before in Hazr area in the deserted area of Thamood district. The invading locust was found by the eradicating team and was described to be yellow in color and in ovulation status.

Al-Rumaih said, "We expect that the locust will not move from the current area and will continue to lay eggs in the desert until they die, and therefore, the real danger lies from the next generation which we expect will start appearing in three weeks from now."

The desert locust is concentrated in the dry desert regions of Africa and the Near East and South West Asia, comprising more than 30 nations. Dr Ali Al-Asali, a professor of Agricultural Economy, warned against eating locusts, and stressed the need for a genuine agrarian cornerstone for preventing diseases of migrant agricultural disasters before they occur.

He criticized the concerned authorities for their disability to create immediate plans to combat agricultural disasters such as locusts and stem rust fun-

gus, which was only banned this week by the World Food Program for it seriously affects wheat.

He pointed out that the ways to combat agricultural pests in Yemen are not integrated and the prevention programs work very slowly and irregularly. Further, he called upon the agricultural aviation to be used as a means to respond urgently to the disaster by spraying agricultural land with pesticides so as to control pests that are expected to cause agricultural disasters. He warned that if an emergency plan is absent, there will be disasters as well as environmental, health, and social damage; calling on agricultural media to create awareness on this topic.

Al-Asali also stated that educating farmers to ensure that their crops are away from damage during a disaster is vital to prevent massive losses. He also called for the activation of the specialized research centers as well as the control and monitoring processes so as to avoid losses caused by pests.

Private medical establishments shut down for violating standards

SANA'A, May 2, — the committee of monitoring and investigation in the Public Health and Population Office closed down private hospitals temporarily for violating health standards and specifications by the end of April 2007.

The two private hospitals in Aden and Al-Beidha are closed after two patients had died as a result of medical mistakes. The office received complaint from the two patients' families and started an investigation about the main reasons behind the death case.

Dr. Asam Al-Samaui, the General Manager of the medical establishments in the Public Health and Population Office confirmed that the investigation is still continuation with the two hospitals' administrative staff to make sure from the complaint of the patients' families.

Al-Samaui mentioned that most of the complaints of the patients' families are considered as criminal cases. The committee receives complaints through the criminal courts and then starting the investigation about them. "Our responsibilities stop when the committee report submitted to the criminal court to judge in the case." Al-Samaui added.

In the next months, the committee will arrange a campaign to check the performance of medical establishments in 8 governorates around Yemen, according to Al-Samaui stated.

Last year in April 2006, Sana'a governorate's Public Health and Population Office shut down 12 medical establishments, including five clinics, five drug stores, and two injection clinics, seizing and confiscating fake and smuggled drug quantities.

Outcomes of electromagnetic radiation symposium

As an output of electromagnetic radiation symposium, which was organized on April 28 by the Ministry of Telecommunication and in cooperation with the wireless telecommunication companies on the safe ways to deal with the electromagnetic radiation sources, the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology has signed an agreement with the French National Frequency Agency. The agreement includes cooperation between the two sides in the field of wire and wireless telecommunication together with managing, organizing and monitoring the spectrum frequency.

Engineer Abdul Qadir Abdul Elah, the ministry's director of frequency, said, "The memorandum emphasized on the collaboration between Yemen and France in the field of wireless telecommunication policy and organizing its impacts on the local users of the spectrum frequency". He added, "The agreement also aims to develop the

wireless Telecommunication systems and procedures as well as to control the wireless frequencies and monitor the spectrum frequency.

The symposium, which was attended by 120 local and international experts, recommended that monitoring devices should be provided by the concerned bodies in order to control the spectrum frequency and to conduct measurements on the electromagnetic radiation. The participants requested establishing a study and research center to be concerned with the electromagnetic pollution in Yemen and the secure ways to treat the electromagnetic radiations.

Additionally, the participants stressed that the involved bodies should launch education campaigns to increase public awareness about the safe ways to deal with the electromagnetic generators, emphasizing that manufacturers of such devices should adhere to the criteria and technical features issued by scientific institutes and

independent corporations concerned with this field.

The symposium further called for the incumbent authorities in all the countries that participated in its activities to put the right legislations in order to guarantee that any of such products should have the Test Report from a recognized and accredited laboratory in the manufacturing country followed by type appraisal before they are marketed. Furthermore, rules related to operating and utilizing such devices should be emphasized in the required legislations.

The participants confirmed that such symposium is of vital importance to share expertise and benefit from the researches presented during the symposium. They also recommended that the symposium to be held annually in order to look over any developments in the telecommunication field and prevent any potential risks that may emerge due to electromagnetic waves and radiation.

Journalists without Chains demand a newspaper license

SANA'A, May 2nd — Journalists without Chains demand to establish their own newspaper was denied on 2nd of May by the Ministry of Media. Ms. Tawakul Karman, Director of the organization, told Yemen Times that this act by the Ministry of Media was a deliberate attempt in order not to allow civil society organizations play a more active role in the democratic development of the country.

She said that Under Secretary of Media Mr. Mohammed Shaher stated that the organization has no right to publish a Newspaper, and that he, in the name of the government, will deny Journalists without chains the license to publish or operate a newspaper.

Karman indicated that this action is in continuation of the Ministry's desire to limit freedoms in the country, adding that over 60 requests to establish newspapers since 2006 has been rejected. Karman told Yemen Times that this action by the Ministry of Media is in violation of the country's constitution and laws, which guaranteed for all Yemeni citizens and organizations the right to expression, was it visual, verbal or in a written form.

"The Yemeni Law, she added, has given civil society organizations and political parties an advantage to only notify the ministry of media about their

publication for registration purposes, for which the ministry should respond to the notification within a maximum of ten days".

She also commented that they are not required by law to receive a license from the ministry in order to publish their newspaper, and that the Minister of Media Hassan Al-Lawzy, indicated that they will not give the organization a license, however, she can still apply for a license for a privet newspaper under her own personal name and liability and so she did but still her request was denied.

Karman concluded that the organization will continue demanding the license because, she said "this is our constitutional right and we will not rest until we exercise it, and rejecting our demands is a violation of our rights of expression as defined in Yemeni laws and constitution"

Journalists without Chains is a non-governmental organization seeking to foster and advocate the rights and freedoms, particularly freedom of opinion and expression, democratic rights, advocate of women's issues and defend their right to equal participation in political and public life, works to promote a culture of good governance, fight corruption, and engage young people in advocacy for change and reform.

MP Ishfaq Abdulrazak passed away

ADEN, May 2 — Member of the Parliament and Islah parliamentary bloc Ishfaq Abdulrazak died on Tuesday after he suffered a tragic traffic accident which also caused the death of his only son and caused critical injuries to his wife's sister.

The deceased prayer was conducted in Al-Muhammedi mosque. Thousands of Aden residents together with Islah leaderships attended the burial ceremony.

Sultan Al-Barakani, chairman of General People Congress bloc at Parliament sent a condolence letter in the name of his bloc to his counterpart in Islah bloc.

Joint Meeting Parties expressed their



deep sorrow over the death of a charitable person, noting Abdulrazak was an ideal of honesty and piouness. Also, he used to fight corruption and stand by the poor and suppressed people.

Upcoming stage is dedicated to combating corruption, Al-Hitar says

ADEN, May 2 — Minister of Endowment and Guidance Hamoud Al-Hitar confirmed that his ministry will focus on highlighting combat against corruption. It also will introduce the ideal people in terms of hard work and morals in the ministry. In addition, it will eliminate the negative image of the ministry's staff.

His statement came during the extended meeting of the Ministry's officials and general directors in all governorates to discuss the tasks of the ministry in the coming stage and the role it should play to improve its performance.

"Work in the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance represents a noble mission and honesty. Hence, such mission should be performed and directed properly. We should also keep and invest the ministry's finance and spend it on the right and required purposes" he said, pointing out that finance and properties of the ministry have become subject to misuse and corruption by a lot of people together with

officials in the ministry who seized those properties and misdirected them away from their charitable purposes.

Al-Hitar warned against lack of trust between people the ministry's officials as a result of misuse of its properties, stressing that all the ministry's officials and staffers should be ideal so that they can regain the people's trust. He further confirmed that the ministry should develop its mechanism of investment and move from the classical to the modern way of investment which guarantees good management and exploitation of the ministry's properties.

In addition, Al-Hitar emphasized the role that preachers of mosques should play in this regard, indicating that mosques should be away from any partisan conflicts so that people can be sure that mosques are a property of all. "Preachers should get rid of any sectarian, ethnical, tribal, racial, or partisan impacts and those who are unable to act so should leave the mosques' platforms and leave the room for others to play this noble role", he pointed out.

New stadium in Sana'a

SANA'A, May 2 — Gulf Championship Preparation Committee held a meeting headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Alimi to discuss the reports submitted by Youth and Sport Minister Hussain Obad, head of the committee and the person in charge of preparing technical plans for hosting the Gulf 20th Championship.

The technical plan includes all aspects such as hosting other teams, preparing Yemeni team for participation, reporting sport facilities and stadiums, and locating a place for setting up a new stadium in Sana'a.

The Committee approved preparing and grassing six other stadiums for trainings as well as discussing the cul-

tural and media activities due to accompany the Gulf 20th Championship. It also sets the budget for hosting, organizing, and beautifying Sana'a.

Further, the committee chose to erect the new stadium to the north of 60th Street, which was selected from among three sites. It also informed concerned authorities in public works to prepare the required designs for the stadium.

It is note-mentioning that the Cabinet formed a committee chaired by Al-Alimi and includes Ministers of Finance, Public Works, Youth and Sport, as well as Tourism so as to start preparing for the 20th Gulf Championship due to be held in Yemen in 2010.

International experiment finds pace of life is speeding up by 10 percent

LONDON, April 30 - An international study measuring the speed of walking in 32 cities around the world reveals that the pace of life is literally getting faster.

Prof Richard Wiseman of the University of Hertfordshire today announced the results of an international study in collaboration with the UK's cultural relations agency, the British Council, to measure the speed of life. Published in his new book - Quirkology - the experiment was conducted by British Council researchers who secretly timed thousands of pedestrians' speed of walking in city centres across the globe, including London, Madrid, Singapore, and New York.

A study carried out in the early 1990s demonstrated that pedestrians' speed of walking provides a reliable measure of the pace of life in a city, and that people in fast-moving cities are less likely to help others and have higher rates of coronary heart disease. Using identical methods to those employed in the previous work, the present day research teams discovered that the pace of life is now 10% faster than in the early 1990s.

The biggest changes were found in the Far East, with the pace of life in Guangzhou (China) increasing by over 20%, and Singapore showing a 30% increase, resulting in it becoming the fastest moving city in the study.

Prof. Richard Wiseman said: "This simple measurement provides a significant insight into the physical and social health of a city. The pace of life in our major cities is now much quicker than before. This increase in speed will affect more people than ever, because for the first time in history the majority of the world's population are now living in urban centres."

Surprisingly, London ranked outside the top ten, suggesting that many in the capital prefer to live life in the slow lane compared to Copenhagen and Madrid who proved to be the fastest European cities, whilst the Middle East tended to have the slowest pace of life. The results also challenge of the notion of the laid back Irish, with Dublin topping the table in the 1990s, and taking fifth place in the present research.

Michael White, Adviser to the British Council Science Department added: "All the measurements were made on the same day and at the same local time. British Council researchers found a busy street with a wide pavement that was flat, free from obstacles, and sufficiently un-crowded to allow people to walk along at their maximum speed. They timed how long it took 35 men and women to walk along a 60ft stretch of pavement. They only monitored adults who were on their own, and ignored anyone holding a mobile telephone conversation or struggling

with shopping bags. Comparing the results with those from the early 1990s revealed that the pace of life is now 10% faster."

The research teams also visited each of the capital cities within the UK. Londoners are moving the fastest ahead of Belfast and Edinburgh, whilst the slowest walkers are found in Cardiff.

Moving too fast for your own good?

The following questionnaire helps identify people who might be living life too faster. 5 or more 'yes' responses suggests that it might be take to take your foot off the accelerator and slow down.

- 1) Do you seem to glance at your watch more than others?
- 2) When someone takes too long to get to the point, do you feel like hurrying them along?
- 3) Are you often the first person to finish at mealtimes?
- 4) When walking along a street, do you often feel frustrated because you are stuck behind others?
- 5) Would you become irritable if you sit for an hour without doing anything?
- 6) Do you walk out of restaurants or shops if you encounter even a short queue?
- 7) If you are caught in slow-moving traffic, do you seem to get more annoyed than other drivers?

Al-Sa'eed foundation honors winners

TAIZ, May 2 — At an award ceremony, Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture awarded four participants the prizes for 2006 in fields related to medical sciences, literary innovations, and Islamic sciences, while prizes of other fields were veiled in other categories as the submitted research papers were not to the specified level.

Mohammed Saleh Hassan won the prize of medical sciences, Mohammed Saif Al-Hussami received the prize on literary innovation and Mohammed Saif Abdullah along with Ameen Noman won the prize of Islamic sciences. Minister of Culture Mohammed Al-Mafflahi pointed out that Al-Sa'eed Prize is a step for a larger cultural project to be consistent with the level



of Hayal Sa'eed economic group. He added that the Foundation sets up the festival as an indication of this group's partnership with the official

efforts to develop culture in Yemen.

Ali Mohammed Sa'eed, chairman of the board of directors at Hayel Sa'eed Group of Companies, pointed out that his group, represented in Al-Sa'eed foundation, will continue their support for talented and gifted people in aspects related to culture and sciences.

Fuad Al-Bana of the judging panel assured the importance of the scientific research, maintaining that the lag between us and others exists simply because they care about scientific research while we don't.

The winner, Abdulhamid Al-Hussami, indicated that the prize is a distinguished one and it gives hope for the devoted and ambitious researchers.



Continued from Page 1

Army fails to quell rebellion, Sa'ada war continues

For his part, leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi declared that Sa'ada governorate is being exposed to massacre and that his followers have seized four of its 15 districts, Al-Tajamou newspaper reported.

The leader denied allegations that Houthis are receiving foreign assistance and noted that they are fighting according to their autonomous capabilities, adding, "The capabilities of Sa'ada's sons are great. They are ready to do more." He added that they are getting their weapons by attacking military sites and buying them from arms markets.

Member of Parliament Yahya Al-Houthi, currently living in Germany, told Al-Jazeera satellite television channel, "The military solution will be of no avail, even if the battle lasts 400 or 500 years."

He further denied allegations by Yemeni authorities indicating that the movement is receiving foreign aid. "Had we foreign assistance, we would have been at the doors of Sana'a," the

MP stated.

U.S. Deputy Ambassador to Yemen Nabeel Khoury expressed his nation's concern about the nonstop Sa'ada war, pointing out that such conflict may expand to other Yemeni areas. He also stressed the importance of finding a solution that ensures the rights of all Yemenis.

"There should be equal treatment between all citizens. The real risk comes from the arms trade," Khoury noted.

He insinuated that he isn't speaking about those Yemenis with one or two pieces of weaponry, but rather arms tradesman, who bring in a large ship filled with all types of weapons, noting that such a phenomenon should end.

Furthermore, Khoury criticized Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mujawar's comments considering military action as the last and only option for handling the Sa'ada conflict.

He also advised the Yemeni government to follow all measures and political solutions to halt the ongoing war in Sa'ada, as every war ends in peace; however, each peace should meet cer-

tain conditions.

This is the first time a high-ranking U.S. diplomat has spoken directly about the Sa'ada war, essentially holding the state accountable for the war by mentioning the arms trade and equal treatment of citizens.

Khoury's statement comes within the context of both regional and international concern about the Sa'ada war, with many parties expressing the risks of the situation's continued developments.

One-million signatures

campaign kicks off in Sana'a Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani called on Arabs to stand united, condemning the silent position towards Israeli's violations in Palestine. He suggested establishing Arabic and Islamic army to be tasked with defending the nation's holy land, wondering about the importance of 58 Arabic and Islamic armies." If this [Islamic] nation took matters firmly in hand and stood united seriously, the world would then listen to our cause without signed lists," he said.

Islah launches the first forum for rights and freedom

By: Fatima Al-Ajel.

SANA'A, May 2 — the women sector in the Islah party arranged on Thursday 26 April, the first forum for rights and freedoms under the banner "who gets his rights, gets his freedom" in Sana'a international hotel.

A number of human rights specialists; members of parliament and parties, as well as civil society men and women participated in the forum in which three work papers were presented. Also, it displays a short show indicating some of the violation cases which are still held in the concerned court.

It was observed that most of the press attendees were represented by some of the joint meeting parties with the absence of some parties such as General People Congress.

In her speech, Nabila Saeed, the deputy manager of the women sector in the Islah party focused on the daily violation directed against freedoms. "There are many views reflect the absence of freedom in Yemen. So, today, we try to form a seed for freedom and we look for our rights."

A paper was presented by Mohamed Najei Alaw, a lawyer in

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, Hood.

"The problem is not in the freedom laws; it is a crisis in awareness and interactions." Alaw stated. The freedom, fear, and the consultation exist before humans begin to exist. Alaw reviewed examples of some Yemeni and Arab historical defends resulted from extremism in using freedom.

Fatihi Al-Azab, the chief of the media sector in Islah party focused on his paper on the mass media, the media staff, and the requested role that they have to do to change the recent situation in Yemen. He ensured that both political parties and mass media don't reach the level of opposing parties. "In Yemen, we don't have



Al-Islah Opposition party calls on political parties and civil society organizations to uphold the rights and freedoms of Yemeni citizens.

real opposing parties which can compete to reach the authority chair. They still straggle for survival." Al-Azab said. Adding that, the opposition parties will not reach the authority. Further, he indicated that the public views will never change because the mass media are in the hold of the authority.

Al-Azab mentioned some media work hindrances which weaken the role of media in reforming the authority. Then, he summarized the desire of citizens toward the mass media and the media staff in reinforcing the principle of freedom and eradicating the political illiteracy among citizens.

Tools and guarantees in keeping the general rights and freedom was the title of the paper presented by

AbdulRazag Al-Hagri, a member of the parliament. He recapped the reason of increasing violations as the lack of citizens' awareness about their rights. He added that the Yemeni constitution and law include guarantees to protect its citizens. Furthermore, it ratifies party pluralism as a right for all citizens. However, some Yemeni parties still suffer persecution which weakens them.

Al-Hagri called upon the Yemeni authority, the political parties, and the civil society organizations to reinforce and protect human rights and freedom to achieve development and progress for Yemen. "It is impossible for a country to develop if its citizens' freedom is lost or spoiled." Al-Hagri noted.

RAS ISSA OIL TERMINAL PROJECT Republic of Yemen

Extension of Deadline Of INVITATION OF PREQUALIFICATION OF EPC CONTRACTORS

Further to our advertisement, April 2007 at MEED 6th, Khaleej times 15th & 16th, Yementimes 5th & 9th, Althawrah newspaper 4th, 5th, & 7th, inviting prequalification of EPC Contractors for construction of Oil Terminal at Ras Issa in the Red Sea (on-shore and off-shore works). The Project Directorate, in response to requests for extension, is pleased to announce an extension of two weeks in the date of submission of application for prequalification.

Accordingly the last date of submission of application along with necessary document shall now be May 20, 2007.

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For more details please refer to the above mentioned publications and to our website at (www.yogc.com.ye) (www.yemenogc.com)

Venezuela to quit IMF and World Bank

By: Saul Hudson

CARACAS (Reuters) — Venezuela will withdraw from the Washington-based lending organisations, the IMF and World Bank, in a symbolic move that distances leftist President Hugo Chavez from much of the international economic community.

Chavez, who plans to create an alternative lending bank run by South American nations and funded in part with his OPEC nation's high oil revenue, said on Monday Venezuela no longer needed the institutions dominated by U.S. "imperialism."

Leaving the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would sever ties between the fifth largest oil supplier to the United States and the world's leading lenders to emerging nations.

"We don't need to be going up to Washington ... We are going to get out," Chavez, who calls Cuban leader Fidel Castro his mentor, said at an event to celebrate May Day workers' rights.

"I want to formalise our exit from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund," he said.

Chavez blames the organisations' decades-old economic recipes of tight budget control, privatisations and open markets for continued poverty across Latin America.

He wants to build a socialist state based on policies rejected by the institutions in Washington, such as those he announced on Monday — a 20 percent minimum wage hike and a gradual reduction in the working day to six hours.

The move to quit the multilaterals is politically symbolic but should have



(From L to R) Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega, Cuba's Vice President Carlos Lage, President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Evo Morales of Bolivia and Rene Preval of Haiti prepare to take the official photo for ALBA (Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas) in the village of Tintorero in Barquisimeto April 29, 2007. Chavez said on Monday the OPEC nation will withdraw from the Washington-based international multilateral lending organisations, the IMF and World Bank. REUTERS/Miraflores Palace/Handout

little immediate financial impact.

Since Chavez first took office in 1999, Venezuela has gradually reduced its cooperation with the organisations and, after years of strong oil prices, said it paid off its last debts to the World Bank this month.

Venezuela is one of several countries, particularly in Latin America, that have in the last few years reduced their dependence on the multilateral agencies and so tempered the lenders' global clout.

Some leftist Latin leaders hosted by

Chavez at the weekend proposed quitting a World Bank body that arbitrates between foreign investors and states as they seek greater freedom to dictate the terms of foreign investment in their nations.

Chavez is nationalising huge swathes of the economy this year and on Tuesday will lead a massive rally to take over the operations of multi-billion dollar oil projects run by some of the world's largest companies.

He said it marked the end of an era of Washington-dictated policies and returned Venezuelan resources under the state's control.

"The wheel has turned full circle," he said.

Al-Qaeda denies death of Iraq chief

Al-Jazeera — An al-Qaeda-linked group has denied that Abu Ayyub al-Masri, the purported leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, has been killed.

Amid confusion within the government about whether al-Masri, also known as Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, had been killed, the self-styled Islamic State in Iraq said in an internet statement on Tuesday that he was alive and safe.

Iraq's government had said that al-Masri had been killed either by rivals in al-Qaeda or by Sunni tribesmen.

Later, however, Brigadier-General Abdul-Karim Khalaf, spokesman for the interior ministry, said al-Masri's death had not been confirmed.

Another senior official, Major-General Hussein Kamal, said the government was "trying to investigate and confirm the report" that al-Masri had been killed in a battle within his own group.

The internet statement by the Islamic State in Iraq "assures the Islamic nation about the safety of Sheikh Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, may God save him, and that he is still fighting the enemies".

Tribe claims credit

Late on Tuesday, the leader of a Sunni Arab group opposed to al-Qaeda told

Iraqi television that his fighters tracked down and killed al-Masri along with seven of his aides, two of them Saudis.

"Eyewitnesses confirmed his death and their corpses are still at the scene," Abdul-Sattar al-Rishawi, head of the Anbar Salvation Council, said.

Another member of the Anbar Salvation Council, an alliance of Iraqi tribes that are opposed to al-Qaeda's presence in the Iraqi insurgency, told the AFP news agency that al-Masri had been killed by members of the al-Dulaimi tribe.

"The clashes started between the Dulaimi tribe, which is part of the Salvation Council, and Al-Qaeda at 9am (05:00 GMT) and continued until 11," Sheikh Hamid al-Hayis, head of the Anbar Salvation Council, said.

"They killed him along with two Saudi leaders and three Iraqis."

Confusion

Iraq's interior ministry said on Tuesday it had received intelligence information on al-Masri's apparent death, and that Iraqi security forces were not involved.

"Some information ... needs confirmation, but this information is very strong," said Brigadier-General Abdel Karim Khalaf, interior ministry opera-

tions director.

"The clashes took place among themselves. There were clashes within the groups of al-Qaeda. He was liquidated by them."

Khalaf said that al-Masri was apparently killed in a battle near a bridge in the town of al-Nibayi, north of Baghdad.

He said that Iraqi authorities did not have al-Masri's body.

US response

A US military spokesman could not confirm the report, and said that several previous reports of al-Masri's death were found to be false.

"I hope it's true, we're checking, but we're going to be doubly sure before we can confirm anything," Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Garver said.

In March, Iraqi media reported that al-Masri had been wounded in a shootout with Iraqi soldiers, but the information proved unfounded.

US officials have said al-Masri is an Egyptian who specialises in car bombings.

He has allegedly headed al-Qaeda's operations in Iraq since the death of then-leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in a US air-raid in June 2006.

Defiance

Erdogan, in a clear move to identify with the people, proposed that future presidents be elected by voters instead of parliament.

The government has also made remarks in a display of unprecedented defiance against Turkey's military generals.

"In democracies there is no better way of making warnings [to the government] than ballot boxes," Erdogan said.

The Turkish army has ousted four governments since 1960, the last in 1997.

Shock defeat

Barnaby Phillips, Al Jazeera's correspondent in Ankara, said the court ruling was a clear defeat for the ruling party and there was disappointment within.

"Senior AK party officials have told us they did not expect this verdict," he said.

Parliament will vote again on Wednesday before an election date is set, government officials said.

Phillips said the AK party may go to parliament anyway and try and resume the process of getting Gul elected as president.

He said they may be hoping to do a deal with some of the smaller parties, particularly with the Motherland party which has about 20 members.

"If they do succeed in winning them over, they may succeed in getting the majority that they need to get Abdullah Gul elected as president," he said.

Palestinian workers to strike over half pay

By: Mohammed Assadi

RAMALLAH, West Bank, May 1 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Palestinian civil workers will strike on Wednesday to protest the government's failure to secure their full wages unpaid since the militant Hamas group came to power in March 2006.

Government workers' union chief Bassam Zakarneh, after a meeting with the finance minister who offered to pay half salaries, said there would be a one-day strike on Wednesday.

He threatened a new round of work stoppages by more than 65,000 employees to demand full pay and back pay following the meeting with Finance Minister Salam Fayyad on Tuesday.

"There will be a strike for a few days during each month until our salaries are paid," Zakarneh told Reuters.

The union's stance underscored the difficulties Fayyad and the two-month-old unity government face meeting the expectations of Palestinians who have not received their full wages in more than a year, following an embargo by Israel and international aid donors against the Hamas Islamist group.

A 133-day strike by civil employees demanding wages from the Hamas government in 2006 and 2007 paralysed the Palestinian Authority. Seeking an easing of the embargo, Hamas formed the unity government in March with the secular Fatah movement which had long dominated Palestinian politics.

Hundreds of public school teachers took part in a one-day strike on Monday which turned rough when police used batons to push back protesting teachers at the Ramallah offices of the Palestinian prime minister.

Fayyad told union leaders he will pay at least half salaries to government workers, but not their full wages,

because the year-old embargo remains in place. He told them the first partial payments would be made next week, Zakarneh said after the meeting in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

No resources

Fayyad said he understood the employees' dissatisfaction but the government did not have resources to meet their demands.

"What I have proposed to them is an arrangement whereby we commit ourselves to specific times in which we make payments," he told Reuters in an interview after meeting union chiefs.

"We obviously cannot meet the full obligation in terms of what the employees are owed each month," he said.

Fayyad is counting on receiving at least \$55 million a month from Arab League members to cover about half of the Palestinian Authority's monthly payroll.

Fayyad's payments would be timed to coincide with "allowances" paid to workers through a European aid programme, which are expected to total up to \$34 million a month.

Western powers cut off direct aid to the Palestinian Authority to press Hamas to recognise Israel, renounce violence and abide by interim peace deals.

The ruling Hamas movement formed a unity government in March with President Mahmoud Abbas's secular Fatah faction in a bid to end internal fighting and ease the year-old economic embargo.

But tensions between Hamas and Fatah remain high and the Western aid ban on the Palestinian Authority remains in place.

Deputy Palestinian Prime Minister Azzam al-Ahmad, a Fatah leader, said on Monday the unity government led by Hamas should be disbanded if the embargo is not lifted within three months.

Bush vetoes Iraq pullout bill

By: Bill Trott

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President George W. Bush on Tuesday vetoed legislation from the Democratic-controlled Congress that would have set dates for withdrawal of U.S. troops in Iraq, saying such a timetable would be "setting a deadline for failure."

"Members of the House and Senate passed a bill that substitutes the opinions of politicians for the judgement of our military commanders," Bush said on the fourth anniversary of the "Mission Accomplished" speech in which he prematurely declared an end to major hostilities in Iraq.

Bush's veto came as Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani said highly reliable information indicated Abu Ayyub al-Masri, leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, had been killed north of Baghdad. An al-Qaeda-linked group, however, denied the report and U.S. officials said it could not be confirmed.

Democrats in Congress appear not to have enough votes to override Bush's veto, which was only the second of his term.

The withdrawal dates were part of a \$124 billion (62 billion pounds) funding package for the wars in Iraq in Afghanistan and Bush said congressional leaders from both the Democratic and Republican parties had been invited to the White House Wednesday to reconcile differences.

Bush had repeatedly promised to veto legislation that would set dates for troops withdrawals and in a televised address on Tuesday he called such a timetable "rigid and artificial." He said it also would demoralise the Iraqi people and encourage killers across the Middle East.

"Setting a deadline for withdrawal is setting a deadline for failure and that would be irresponsible," Bush said.

"... It makes no sense to tell the enemy when you plan to start withdrawing. All the terrorists would have to do is mark their calendars and gather their strength and begin plotting how to overthrow the government and take control of the country of Iraq."

Under the legislation, which won the support of only four Republicans in Congress, American troop withdrawals would have begun as early as July 1 and no later than October 1, with the non-binding goal of removing all combat troops by March 31.

Both sides draped the bill in symbolism. Democratic congressional leaders waited to present the legislation to Bush on the "Mission Accomplished" anniversary while the president vetoed it with a pen given to him by the father of a Marine killed in Iraq.

The veto came as violence has been escalating in Iraq and after an April in which more than 100 troops died in Iraq.

Chester Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, said the speculated death of al-Masri would be "positive," even though it would not put an end to al-Qaeda violence in Iraq, where it is blamed for trying to push the country into full-scale sectarian civil war.

Bolani said details about Masri's death would be released soon but when asked later to confirm the death said: "If he has not been killed today, he will be killed tomorrow."

There has been growing friction between Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda and other Sunni Arab insurgent groups over al-Qaeda's indiscriminate killing of civilians and its imposition of an austere brand of Islam in the areas where it holds sway.

If Masri was killed by insurgents, that would signal a deepening split at a time when the Shi'ite-led government is trying to woo some insurgent groups into the political process.

On the political front, Iraq's main Sunni bloc is considering quitting the Shi'ite-led government because it believes the concerns of Sunnis are not being addressed, members of the bloc including the vice president said.



U.S. President George W. Bush announces that he has vetoed the Iraq Supplemental Spending Bill as he speaks at the White House in Washington May 1. REUTERS

Some members of the Sunni Accordance Front have been urging the bloc for several months to pull out of Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's cabinet, partly over accusations that reconciliation with minority Sunni Arabs has moved too slowly.

A pullout would not be enough to topple Maliki, as he would still have a majority in parliament through his ruling Shi'ite Alliance and a coalition of Kurdish parties. The Accordance Front has 44 seats in the 275-member parliament.

Erdogan wants polls to end standoff

Al-Jazeera — Turkey's prime minister is pushing for early polls to resolve a standoff with the country's secular groups, including the powerful military, after the country's highest court annulled the first round of presidential elections in a boost to opposition secularists.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan proposed on Tuesday that future presidents be directly elected by voters instead of parliament and said his Islamist-rooted government would seek to hold national elections as early as June 24.

Going to the people

"The parliamentary system has been blocked... We are urgently going to the people. Our people will make the best decisions," Erdogan said on television on Tuesday.

The Constitutional Court ruled that not enough parliamentarians were present when the first round of the presidential vote was held in the 550-seat assembly on Friday.

The court ruled that the government needed 367 members or two-thirds of the chamber to get its candidate, Abdullah Gul, through the first round.

Only 361 deputies voted, 357 of them for Gul, the sole candidate.

Parliament, in which the AK party has a big majority, elects the president for a seven-year term in predominantly Muslim Turkey.

The secularist establishment says Erdogan and Gul, who is foreign minister, want to break the separation of state and religion, but the two men have

rejected the charge.

Analysts say early national polls are the only way to defuse the standoff.

Secular groups have been calling for early national polls which were initially scheduled for November.

They want the secular system established by the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, 84 years ago, to be retained.

But a growing class of prosperous and more religious-minded Turks want a relaxation of curbs on religious symbols and expression.

Markets rattled

Erdogan's AK party is widely expected to win the presidential polls, but the standoff has rattled Turkey's financial markets, recording their biggest falls in a year on Monday.

The Turkish currency lost more ground on Tuesday as concern grew about possible instability after an anti-government rally of up to one million on Sunday and the army's threat to intervene in politics to prevent an Islamist president from the threatening country's secular constitution and identity.

Erdogan tried to sound a positive note on Tuesday.

"I see Turkish markets will improve in the next few days with our positive steps in politics," he said.

"I told EU officials Turkey would return to a more democratic process with elections, and the democratic process in Turkey will successfully continue."

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African migration to Yemen: A journey to the unknown

For many years, African migrants have endured perilous voyages for the purpose of sailing across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen and other Arab states in search of economic opportunities or to escape bloody wars in their homelands. In 2006 alone, the United Nations estimated that 26,000 Africans embarked upon such perilous journeys across the Gulf of Aden - but not all of them made it. Many were savagely beaten to death by smugglers and others drowned, while the rest lost their way and were declared missing. Each one had a goal compelling them to believe that they would be able to face any risk - even death - in order to achieve that goal.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

A December 2006 U.N. report exposed numerous facts and stories about Ethiopian immigrants seized while attempting to sneak to the Somali port of Bossaso to board smuggling boats bound for Yemeni coasts. Accompanying such stories were many reports of inhumane treatment, risks and pain migrants suffered.

"We were robbed on the way by a group of armed men who stopped the truck and demanded everyone get out and pay for passage. They conducted thorough searches, making us remove our underwear as they looked for hidden money. They threatened to set alight those travelers who refused to

pay. We were also beaten," recounted an 18-year-old female migrant, whose story paralleled the others, confirming that they were abused and robbed by the armed brokers who were supposed to get them to the smuggling vessels.

Most migrants, including women, are humiliated by the searches such men conduct. With a view of extorting money for their services and beyond, the men reportedly beat the migrants with sticks and demand all clothing be removed, ripping open the seams and the soles of shoes looking for money. Searches also include women's private body parts and braided hair.

One woman reported that she hid a 100 Birr note in her mouth in order to save some resources for the rest of the journey. Men who refuse to pay have been put in a five-foot deep hole in the



Many migrants are believed to have perished on the open seas after having been thrown overboard by smugglers.

ground with firewood while one of the men threatens to set them alight with a flaming torch.

Additionally, the trucks used for transport almost always are overcrowded, dirty and driven on rough terrain in attempts to avoid main roads and thus detection. Travelers seldom are given enough food and water and hardly allowed to relieve themselves except when the driver chooses to do so.

Most migrants, including women, are humiliated by the searches such men conduct. With a view of extorting money for their services and beyond, the men reportedly beat the migrants with sticks and demand all clothing be removed, ripping open the seams and the soles of shoes looking for money. Searches also include women's private body parts and braided hair.

Many are abandoned in the desert before reaching Bossaso, forced to walk for up to three weeks in search of the main road leading to Bossaso. They recount horrible tales of thirst, hunger, exhaustion and attack by bandits. Their particular vulnerability due to not knowing the local language or directions results in them being robbed

repeatedly, swindled out of their money and physically attacked.

"Since we'd lost all of our money, we had to beg because we hadn't eaten in five days. We walked to Bossaso for three days, begging for food and transport along the way," recounted a 21-year-old Ethiopian farmer traveling with her sister and husband before being arrested. "I was separated from my husband after our arrest. He was deported, but I don't know if he has reached home yet. I'm afraid to go back because people at home probably will hold his sister and me responsible for his absence," she added.

Along with their money, most migrants report that their IDs also are taken, leaving them unable to prove their identities to authorities; however, how the stolen IDs are used is unclear.

Saudi, not Yemen

The U.N. report pointed out that the typical African migrant is a single male, usually in his 20s, with very little or no education and traveling alone. Women also travel along the same route. They are young, sometimes as young as 15 or 16, but usually in their 20s and often traveling with a male relative.

Most Ethiopian migrants are farmers, leaving behind large families typically consisting of more than five siblings and one or both parents. Such families generally are poor and survive on subsistence farming. The majority are from northeast Ethiopia, particular-

ly the towns of Kemisse, Atyae, Senbete and Tumuga.

Most migrants interviewed by the U.N. confessed that Yemen isn't their main destination; rather, it's used as a transit point to sneak into Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, where men generally look forward to working as camel and goat shepherds. Women, on the other hand, anticipate employment as housemaids.

Most don't have any idea about how much they can expect to earn and those that do expect to earn between 700 and 900 Saudi Riyals (\$185-\$240) per month. It's widely believed that women will earn more than men, although none of the respondents had any idea how much men would be paid.

Nearly all of the migrants state that their decision to head to Saudi Arabia is due to others in their localities who have been there, but subsequently were deported back home. In terms of wealth, these individuals left their homeland without much; however, when they returned from Saudi, they displayed relatively marked improvement in their living standard.

the boat crossing to Yemen, which they admit can be dangerous, but not enough to abandon their decision to migrate.

Upon deciding to leave for Saudi Arabia, a traveler then must proceed to raise the necessary amount of money for the trip, which can be anywhere between 1,000 and 7,000 Birr (\$115-\$800). Some save money earned from their normal sources of income while many borrow it from local merchants. However, migrants admit that the journey's financial burden leaves many with relatively large amounts of debt that they can't pay easily. Additionally, the initial fundraising often compels them to part with valuable or essential property, including that used as means to earn a basic livelihood.

Death, detention, deportation

According to UNHCR reports, those able to escape the authorities in Bossaso and take the boat crossing to the Gulf of Aden are exposed to extreme dangers because such boats are hardly seaworthy, often overcrowded and at high risk of capsizing. Many migrants are believed to have perished



A man rested after long perilous voyage.

"Many people in our neighborhood have been deported from Saudi Arabia. They left home with small plastic bags and returned with large suitcases. There they lived better than the rest of the villagers, explaining that they went to Saudi Arabia through Bossaso," one migrant said regarding his reason for choosing Saudi Arabia. Like the others, he thought the only potential risk was

on the open seas after having been thrown overboard by boat operators.

As only Somalis are considered refugees in Yemen, other African nationals are subject to detention and deportation, both in Yemen and the Gulf states. Many human rights organizations continue questioning the circumstances surrounding such detention and deportation.

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Sidewalks: Home for the Homeless

By Saeed Al-Batati
albatati88@yahoo.com

The gray-haired Ali retires to bed daily at 11PM. Before falling asleep, he reclines on two sleek stones which he uses as a pillow for his head. The mattress of the bed is a piece of plain cardboard. Mr. Ali always lies on the sidewalk along the main street of Mukalla. Routinely, Mr. Ali smokes cigarette before retiring to bed. Yemen Times visited Ali on his side walk before he hit the sheets.

Mr. Ali was in Taiz before he came to Hadramout. He heard of the vast numbers of potential opportunities in Hadramout. He first arrived and

worked in Mukalla, however finding any accommodation was the bane of his stay. He works throughout the day and at night he sleeps on the pavement. "No one wants to rent his house or flat to us. They say that they don't rent houses to workers," he said.

Mr. Ali lavished praise on those who made the streets their bed - "Those who sleep on the street are happy-go-lucky. They enjoy both stability and security".

At night, container vehicles shake the ground when they pass but they never wake up Mr. Ali. "Cars pass in the street. They never disturb me and I never disturb them," he stated

For Ahmed Mansour who came with Ali, sleeping in the street is a heavy cross to bear. "If we don't sleep in the street, then where do you want us to sleep?" he wondered. "People here only rent their houses to families. We can't bring our families to Hadramout because we can't make ends meat."

Rain always brings trouble for the workers "Last years' heavy rains forced us to take shelter under houses' balconies" said one of the homeless workers.

They murmured about the negligence of the cleaning workers "The streets are filthy. They leave garbage barrels out for a long time but when somebody important visits Mukalla, they clean the streets down" said another worker while resting his head on a brick.

Ahmed is another person from Taiz. He described himself as a bird. "I work in many neighborhoods of Mukalla and at night I come back to my nest. We are destined to live such life."

Another individual who hails from Mukalla claimed that he was the breadwinner of a very large family. According to Ahmed, at night,

he has two options - either to pay 70 Rials per night to sleep in an apartment, or to sleep on the pavements. "Sleeping in the street is the best option since we can sleep for free".

To protect himself from mosquitoes, Ahmed sets up a mosquito net every-day.

The young man seemed to be content with his life and thinks that the life of the rich is not meant for him. "Health is wealth. Although we are penniless, we think we are better off than those who have millions but spend their nights tossing and turning. We fall asleep as soon as our heads hit our pillows".

Roused by the bites of mosquito swarms, the electrician Ali Saleh couldn't sleep a wink - "when I cover my body I swelter and when I remove the sheet, the mosquitoes sting me. I sleep for half an hour and then stay awake for an hour."

Mr. Saleh suggested the provision of caravans to solve the problem of the homeless workers. For these they could pay a peppercorn rent. "In Saudi Arabia, they build motels for the workers".

The workers who have been interviewed by the Yemen Times are however just the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of those who come to Hadramout for work lie down in the streets, even in the dog days of Mukalla or Seiyun.

The phenomenon can be detected clearly if anyone takes a stroll downtown in the city during the night or in the early hours of the morning.

After getting up, the workers throw their beds (cartons, bricks, stones) all over the place.

These people who sleep on the pavements have exasperated shop and building owners in Mukalla and other places in Hadramout.

'Snow Cream' is a four-star place located in the heart of the city. The sides of the building were paved with very expensive tiles and the people who frequent the place are predominantly wealthy. The receptionist told



Comfort may not be a priority, but a good night sleep must be mosquito-free at least.

the Yemen Times that he had exhausted all possibilities to clear the pavements of the sleepers - "I warned them many times not to take a nap on our doorstep, but they simply disappear and then come back."

Al-Muhshar Exchange Company erected a metal fence around the place in order to keep the sleepers off the pavements.

On the other hand, the landlords say that it is the workers mischief-making putting a blot on their character "Most of the workers, especially those who come from the north governorate of the country, don't pay their key money on time and they always stalling for time."

The house-owners also explained that the tenants usually leave the houses in a poor condition; "They throw qat leaves in the corridors. We sometimes ask them to vacate the house even before the end of their tenancy."

Inborn tendency

Commenting on the phenomenon, Abu Sallam, a university lecturer from Hadramout, noted that Yemenis in general don't like to live in ease and comfort "They have a disposition towards living in hard times. It is not true that those who sleep in the street are

embroiled in such situations. They have the financial ability to stay in a hotel if they just saved 250 Rials from the money they spend on qat."

However, from even a quick glance

at the streets of Mukalla during the afternoon, one can draw the conclusion that the hardship-seekers are ready to live in the street but not ready to abandon qat.

VACANT POSITION

A leading trading company is seeking to hire a General Manager/Project Manager in the field of telecommunication business. Candidate to have he following qualifications:

- A University degree in business (MBA preferable),
- Work experience not less than 5 years (preferable in the telecommunication sector),
- Not to be more than 45 years,
- Fluent in both Arabic and English,
- Leadership personality; has the ability to manage 40 employees.

Candidates to send their CVs to fax: 01-326732 or email: kaalghil2@y.net.ye

Job Opportunities

HITS-Unitel

HITS-Unitel a telecommunication company is pleased to announce vacancies for both male and female candidates to fill the below positions in:

IBB

Position	Reference
Customer Service representatives	CS-04-07
Sales Representatives	SA-05-07
BSS Engineers	EN-08-07
RF Planning Engineers	EN-09-07
Electronic & Electrical Technicians	EN-10-07

The incumbent must have the following requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in a related field
- For EN-10-07, Technical Diploma in Electronic Or Electrical
- Good command of English language (speaking, reading & writing)
- Good computer skills MS-office
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Team player, presentable, dynamic, sociable and customer oriented
- Ability to work under pressure and handle multitasks
- Flexibility with working hours and conditions
- Ability to handle sensitive and confidential information
- Valid driving license only for outdoor positions

Interested candidates who possess the required qualifications are kindly requested to submit their CVs along with a covering letter to indicate the position they are applying for, quoting the reference number and to send them to the below E-mail Address no later than:

15/5/2007

CVs should be e-mailed to: hudeidahrecruitment@hitsunitel.com

UNICEF YEMEN

P.O. Box 725
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TEL: (967.1) 211 400
FAX: (967.1) 206 092

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 06/07

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:

Title: Supply Assistant
Level: GS-5
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty station: Sana'a

Under the supervision of the Supply and Procurement Manager in UNICEF Sana'a office, the Supply Assistant - shall be responsible for the following duties:

- 1- Uses PRoMS software package to monitor supply expenditure against programme budget. This information should be tabulated and circulated to the operations officer on a monthly basis.
- 2- Maintain lists of local sources of procurement, contacts local vendors for price quotations, prepares summary of bids including information on price and conditions of offer.
- 3- Prepare meetings of the Tender Committee or Local committee on Contracts, by arranging for suitable dates and rooms, and by preparing and distributing files containing the cases to be presented.
- 4- Assists in obtaining prices and quotations from the market when UNICEF undertakes local procurement.
- 5- Reviews allotment supply requisition of separate fund sources to ensure funds availability; records expenditures, and advises procurement officer as to status of allotments, on a regular basis.
- 6- Extracts procurement information from logs and records and summarizes for use into the biennium budget presentation, adjusting costs for inflation and other anticipated changes (i.e. effect of staffing changes on office equipment and supply purchases.
- 7- Maintains manual and automated procurement files and records; provides purchase information to receiving and inventory staff; maintains procurement supply and vendor reference library.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- Completion of secondary education or equivalent, supplemented by courses in purchasing methods and/or accounting.
- Seven years of progressively responsible clerical or administrative work, with specialized experience in purchasing a variety of materials and services.
- Experience with computer databases, for the maintenance of procurement records.
- Fluency in English.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to the - Operations Officer, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Applications received after 16 of May 2007 will not be considered. Only the short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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

Evaluation of the Education Component in the Third five-year national plan reveals:

We are far behind the plan

By: Rasha Jarhum
jarhum@gmail.com

The Women's National committee (WNC) sponsored by OXFAM - GB (Yemen), and under the patronage and attendance of his Excellency Dr Abdulsalam Al-Joffy- Minister of Education held on 30 of April 2007 a workshop to share the findings on an evaluation study of the progress in implementation of the first year of the Third Five Year Plan for Development and Eradicating Poverty 2006-2010. The study focused on the Education component, and more specifically, the objectives which aim at raising the acceptance and enrolment rates of females in Primary Education and increasing the number of female teachers in rural areas. In particular, the study selected the components of the implementation of the construction of female schools as well as female teachers' employment during the year 2006 in three governorates that were chosen according to the high rates of girls' enrolment. Those are Taiz, Abyan, and Haggah governorates.

The study revealed that in most cases there was a gap between what was planned to be implemented and what was actually implemented, the latter being lower than the proposed objective. It was found that only 58% of schools were constructed and 38% of new classrooms were added. The study also drew upon a huge gap between what the districts indicated as their need for female teachers to what was actually hired, as the female teachers recruited accounted for only 14%. The results also showed a lack of coordination between the different authorities on the national and local level. In addition, the need for a systematic process of evaluation, follow-up, and monitoring was suggested in order to unify information, increase the reliability of data and avoid redundancy. The study concluded that if there are no positive actions taken to correct the



H.E. Dr. Al-Jawfi: "We are considering the feminization of Basic Primary Education."

deviation in implementing the plan, the millennium development goal towards education for all in 2015 will never be reached in time.

Ms Hooria Mashour, Vice-Chairperson of WNC, stated to Yemen Times that this study is valuable to WNC as it has come to serve as the soul purpose of the committee, a purpose which was identified in the establishment decree for the committee to be the governmental body to create policies targeting women's development, making sure they are reflected in the implementation plans of the competent implementing bodies, and then to follow up and evaluate the implementation of those policies. She also expressed her hopes for the recommendations of the study to be taken under consideration by the Ministry of Education and for corrective actions to be taken. She also noted the importance of the evaluation process to all the components in the Third Fifth Plan regarding female development and thanked OXFAM-GB for their sponsorship to the evaluation of the Education Component and called upon other donors to sponsor other components such as Health, Economic Participation, Political Participation...etc.

In addition, Dr Abdullah Ba-Sahai, the Country Program Manager of

OXFAM-GB (Yemen), ensured the willingness of OXFAM to continue sponsoring and funding the evaluation process for the Education Component in the Third Fifth Plan during the implementation years of the plan which end in 2010. He further elaborated that this study presents the successes, failures, and difficulties acquired in the first year of the plan for WNC and the Girls' Education Sector in the Ministry of Education, to follow-up the input indicators, compare them to the output indicators, and take the necessary actions to resolve any failure on time.

His Excellency, Dr Al-Joffy, stated that the evaluation and follow-up process has become vital in his ministry and that for the first time in the history of the ministry an Annual Revision has been held for two years now and participated in by the ministry, donors, education authorities in governorates, civil society, and local administrations. He also extended the invitation to WNC to participate and to share the results of this study and to be taken under consideration in the Third Meeting of the Annual Revision to be held on 7-9th May 2007. He also emphasized the importance of girls' education as it represents a basic necessity and the key for human development. He further indicated that this issue does not only represent an international obligation committed by signing international conventions or a requirement to meeting donors demands, but it also represents a national, social, and humanitarian necessity.

He then elaborated some of the efforts that have been done to encourage girls' education such as the establishment of a special sector for Girls' Education and the issuing of a decree to cancel school education fees for girls from grade 1-9 which is considered part of social participation. He also indicated that 95000 girls were selected according to poverty rates, girls' enrolment rates and female stu-

dents' percentage of the population...etc to be beneficiaries to the International Food Programme. He also stated that in order to spread primary education among girls, they initiated widespread school establishment

more positive statistically than the performance of their male counterparts. Hence, his Excellency stated that they are studying the scope of feminising the management and staff of schools. Furthermore, Ms Khadiga Radman,



In spite of the importance of the workshop, representatives of the World Bank, UNDP and UNEPA and several involved Yemeni civil society members did not attend the workshop.

in the form of One-Classroom Schools in many villages where high population rates existed in rural areas. This was aimed at eliminating the school distance from residence obstacle. He also noted that they found that water sources also represent an obstacle for girls' education as most of the time girls are not allowed to go to school because they are needed to bring water to their homes from far places and so the ministry submitted a report to the Ministry of Water and demanded a targeting of those rural places to benefit from water and rural development projects.

Furthermore, his Excellency revealed that they are considering the feminisation of primary education as research revealed that female teachers performance in primary grades are

Consultant of Education Minister in the Technical Office, commented that the study had an overlap and inconsistencies with data at the central and decentralized level, which, indicate a lack of communication and coordination mechanisms between the General Department of Planning, governorates, and districts levels. She also elaborated that this problem is accounted for in the future plans of the Ministry of Education to establish such a mechanism. She also stated that it is important to involve the local authority, which is the supervisory and monitoring body to the level of implementation to have a role in the planning process and identification of the actual requirements in regards to schools construction, school locating, and female employment. There is a prevalent cul-



The debate was most constructive, due to involvement of most stakeholders as well as government officials

ture in some quarters to determine a high percentage of unrealistic requirements on the account that they will eventually be reduced. In terms of resolving the female employment issue that the study proposed by recruiting secondary school female graduates from the same areas that are in demand for teachers, Ms Radman stated that it is a

vital role of the Local Authority to provide training and incentives in coordination with the Ministry of Education.

Ms Tahani Al Khaiba - Gender Consultant at OXFAM -GB (Yemen), stated to the Yemen Times that this study comes as a signal to draw attention to what is wrong and accordingly initiate efforts to resolve those issues in time to reach the required objectives, and place the Plan back on track. She further elaborated that this study is beneficial for the WNC to increase their experience and help them in the evaluation process for the coming years of the Plan, as well as beneficial to the Ministry of Education as such evaluations will help them keep the implementation process moving in the right direction and hence enhance its performance.



Spot Image Products & Solutions

About Spot Image

Spot Image is the worldwide distributor of geographic information products and services derived from the Spot Earth observation satellites.

Spot Image also distributes complementary optical and radar data acquired by other satellites offering low to very high resolution images. Spot Image was appointed by CNES as sole commercial operator of the SPOT satellites, the first of which was placed in orbit in 1986.

Spot Image acquires the SPOT data through a receiving station at its premises in Toulouse and via a network of partner stations around the world. Spot Image is the first European supplier of satellite data to have been awarded ISO 9001:2000 certification. This includes the design, production and sales of geographic information products, systems and services based on satellite data and is a guarantee of high quality services.

Spot image provides also elevation and 3D products data, and has already the whole coverage of Yemen in high resolution with 3D data.

About GEOTech Yemen

As the SPOT Image distributor and the first and experienced GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing solutions provider in Yemen, we are able to offer clients leading solutions that quickly and efficiently manage their data and turn it into powerful geographic information.

Our goals is to achieve the integration of spatial data into decision making through end user applications with embedded GIS Technology.

GEOTech implies dynamic information Technology Company that specializes in providing GIS Solutions, and has a various of services such as GPS and GIS data collections, electronic dynamic survey, Navigation Systems, Geo-marketing, GIS projects design and implementations, training and consultancy.



Eng. Abdulkhalik Al-Qasali
Managing Director
GEOTech Yemen

of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, in collaboration with the French Satellite Imaging company Spot-Image, A symposium was held last week in Movenpic Hotel in Sana'a, in order to discuss the need for Satellite Imaging and the need for such services in various sectors in Yemen for the sustainable development of the Country, such as sensing water resources, geological surveys, Oil and Gas, Marine applications, Defense and Security, among other uses.

Attended by the undersecretary of Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministry Mr. Yassin Mahmoud Ali, and undersecretary of Water resources Ministry Mr. Moham-

Applications for Satellite imaging are endless in Yemen

med Al-Hamdi; the symposium started with a presentation by the Yemeni Center for Remote Sensing, which illustrated how advanced the Technology of Satellite imaging has become, in turn providing more value-added services for humanity.

The Magaing Director of GEO-Tech Ltd., Mr. AbdulKhaleg Al-Qasali has indicated that GIS - Spatial data Technology - today is the knowledge required to act and decide in all life aspects, and in Yemen with the undergoing development in all sectors would need such technologies and services that would help in planning and management in many fields, starting from electronic data collection and surveying, build GIS systems for many organizations, manage plans and projects, support decision making.

The Regional Sales Director for Spot Image, has indicated that his company has held talks with the previous minister of Communications and Information System, during an official visit to France last year, and have



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discussed areas of cooperation which has resulted in holding this seminar in order to educate the government officials, the business community and the general public on the many uses and the advantages of Satellite imaging which can prove beneficial to the country.

He said that the objective of the workshop is to show how remote sensing can be the foundation layer for many types of applications, stating that satellite imagery is a very valuable tool with many uses for developing the country, which are being used by many others countries for various purposes, was it agriculture, Telecommunications, land management and civil works, Oil and Gas, military or any other purpose.

Undersecretary of the Telecommunications and Information Technology has stated that the Ministry has established the Yemeni Center for Remote Sensing because of its understanding of the importance of Satellite imaging for the different sectors within the country, adding that the ministry has a vision of introducing the concept of satellite imaging to various government agencies which are bound to use this technology to benefit the country.



Mr. Yassin Mahmoud
Undersecretary of
Telecom. Ministry



Mr. Jean-Francois
Gouyet
Regional Sales Manager
Spot Image



Mr. AbdulRahman
Al-Misbahi
Chairman - YCRS

Unlimited freedom scope amid poverty, illiteracy and oppression

By: Rashad Al-Shara'abi

I will discuss what I am asked to do in the form of an essay or a journalistic report in a way having no relation with the scientific standards followed by researchers. I am going to discuss the state of Yemeni press and press freedoms, along with the surrounding environment in a neutral and objective manner. I will introduce my definition of the professional and good journalism in my simple method and through my experience that doesn't exceed 10 years. During these years, I erased all the definitions introduced by those holding high degrees but are not engaged in the profession.

As far as I am concerned, the professional and good journalism is the one that defends the rights of citizens and human beings to obtain the information they desire in an easy way without chains or obstacles. Also, it should defend citizens' rights to express their opinions though different they are. Performance has to be in line with the well-known standards in the profession of the press, away from restrictions and bans, be they legislative, social or religious, as the journalist perform his/her duty and mission in the required way without chains or restrictions except for values of the profession. Nobody observes performance of the journalist except for his/her own conscience and faith in the necessity of exploring facts, helping the oppressed whose rights are abused, defending them and facing

corruption and oppression that abuse rights and violate freedoms.

The professional and good journalism works hard to enable human beings reach and obtain the information easily and allow them a chance to express their opinions. This journalism should invent the attractive means and methods for its readers and give them a chance to entertain, as well as to reflect the clear picture of what is going on and what is happening in their communities or the other communities. In the meantime, journalists should not submit to extortion and directions or orders to serve particular interests or attitudes of the government or the opposition.

Meeting the two conditions of professional and good journalism is not limited to what has been mentioned earlier, as journalism has a great role to play while journalists shoulder a greater responsibility. It is considered the fourth authority and the profession of hardships. It should discuss the concerns and problems of journalists, as well as their expectations and hopes for journalism to be one of sources concerned with resolving issues of its workers and helping them reach their sought ambitions. In addition, journalism may be a means for treating diseases and suggesting solutions and awareness methods in various health, social, personal and economic areas.

Good and professional journalism has a vital role in providing people with information and transferring the process of decision taking from subjective impressions into objective

facts. By this, it makes out of the different viewpoints evidence for dialogue and diverse negotiations, and works hard to obtain information and offer them to its readership in an independent and neutral manner. In the meantime, reporters, correspondents and all those working for media institutions have to care for objectivity, consider the public needs, publish real facts and confront totalitarianism and totalitarian visions. They should enhance the culture of accepting diversity and difference by being liberal and open to everyone without any partiality.

It is known to everyone that journalism emerged in Yemen at the very beginning the last century as a mission and means of information. It paid closer attention to the concerns of Yemenis before its counterparts did in the Arabian Peninsula. Journalism played a prominent role nationwide, particularly in Aden City, which remained under the British Occupation until 1967. But, as an industry, art, profession, career, liberty, influence and probably an authority, journalism is still living an infancy stage under the umbrella of young democracy experienced in Yemen. Yemen is one of the few countries characterized by young democracy, however, its democratic experience excelled that of other Arab countries, particularly the Gulf states. Yemen's democracy has its own laws that ensure rights and liberties with all their different types, mainly the freedom of expression and press freedom.

For nearly 3 decades, following the 26 September Revolution in 1962 in the north and the entire independence in the south in 1967, journalism in Yemen remained one of the means controlled by the totalitarian regimes of the two parts of the country. Both regimes exploited journalism as a means to promote their policies and ideologies. When the two parts of Yemen merged into one in 1990, the unified state's constitution and law stipulated the establishment of a democratic political regime based on party pluralism. The new state paid closer attention to improving human rights state in the country, as well as ensuring public freedoms, mainly the freedom of expression and press. The country experienced a distinctive move in the establishment of political parties, civil community organizations and media institutions.

It is difficult to say that journalism in Yemen has no influence on the daily life of people, as it turned into a haven for the oppressed and those suffering human rights abuses and public freedom violations. With the emergence of independent and professional media, in addition to the electronic journalism that appeared over the past few years, the press influence increased and expanded. Journalism had stronger presence, however, its returns don't meet its spending demands nor were these returns enough to raise workers' salaries and improve their living standards.

Source: Nasspress.net

COMMON SENSE

Cheap Blood

“Boy, is Moslem blood cheap!” said Monassar, as he sifted through the newspaper. “What makes you say that, Ali?” Monassar's wife asked as she brought him some cake and coffee.

“Oh, I see lunch is going to be late today! Why the cake so close to lunchtime?” Returning back to the topic at hand, Monassar continued: “Look at all the wars that are occurring in the world today. You will find that most of them are in the Moslem world. Isn't Islam supposed to be the religion of peace?” asked Monassar, in wonderment after letting his wife know that he would rather have his lunch than a piece of cake.

“Sorry about the late lunch, but you only brought the groceries just half an hour ago, remember? The sad part about these wars you mention is that many of them are carried out by Moslems against Moslems. Surely this is not in keeping with Islamic principles.” Farida said, as she sat on the sofa, near her husband, trying to see what her husband was reading, adding: “Wouldn't it be better if you tried to help our son find a job, before he gets any idea of joining the Army to make an 'honest living'?”

Monassar was quick with his response: “Oh no, my dear, my son is not going into the Army to help out in this madness in Sa'ada, where Yemenis are killing each other needlessly, just so some cutthroat war merchants can continue bleeding the Yemeni Government treasury. With his degree, he should be able to get a job easily, since there are very few in Yemen with his technical expertise. But I will veto any idea of joining our armed forces. Besides, they got enough mercenaries around to do the Government's dirty job, with all the unemployed people around the country.”

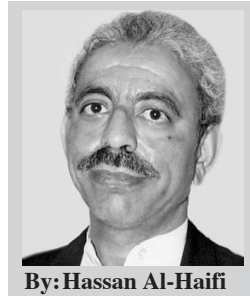
“Look, Monassar, shouldn't the Government make sure that people do not take the law into their own hands and decide to take up arms against the Government, whenever they feel like it?” his wife was trying to uphold the Government's case in the War in Sa'ada.

Monassar was not finding cause to be sympathetic to the Government: “Sorry, Farida, but this is one war that simply does not make sense. Why should thousands of people die, just to make sure that nobody hurts the feelings of Uncle Sam or Uncle Olmert? If those people want to shout 'Death to America, death to Israel', they might have a case there. Look at all the havoc that these two countries have caused throughout the world. How many Moslems have these two countries killed or are directly or indirectly responsible for their killing? Look at the madness in Iraq! Who is all that monstrous shedding of blood for? Surely Islam is innocent of it. But for Israel and their American sponsors, it does not matter if the whole Moslem World is wiped out of the map. Why is Mr. Bush so adamant on seeking a military confrontation with Iran? Why is America keeping quite about the many hundreds of civilians that are dying in Sa'ada, when they can see that this has nothing to do with the so called 'War on Terror'? Yes, then these people in Sa'ada are only expressing their disgust at all this maniacal behavior by two supposedly morally inspired nations: the United States and Israel. How can the Salafis, who are fighting on the side of the Government now be considered as bona fide citizens of good standing, when the entire world knows that the so called terror that is rampant throughout the world emanates from the likes of these religious ignoramuses? Is it not time to really start calling a spade a spade?”

Farida tried to assure him that the Government has not lost its marbles in Sa'ada: “My dear Monassar, you know that there is a lot of political arithmetic involved in the Sa'ada War, some inspired by the local political scene, while some other emanates from regional or international considerations.

Monassar was not convinced: “Political considerations or not, the blood of those proud Sa'ada Yemeni citizens is just as valuable as the blood of the people from Sanhan, Hashid, Barat or any of the tribes that the Government can count on for the rolls of mercenaries it needs to impose its will on the people of Yemen? Isn't it tragic that there has to be now some 5,000 deaths and some 5,000 families or so without homes for the expression of a slogan that could never have reached the US Embassy in Sana'a, let alone the State Department in Washington. As far as I know, there is not one decent true believing Moslem anywhere in the world, who would not demand for justice to be done in Iraq and Palestine. That is really the crux of the matter isn't it?”

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

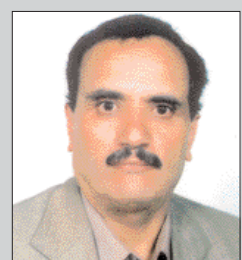
Journalism: Between profession and mimicry

When journalists play the

role of an observer of what they write, they lose much of the core contents represented by credibility, self-satisfaction, and freedom. Consequently, the pen becomes similar to an instrument for drawing sounds without souls while the ink turns into merely a color to mark the frequencies of sounds on a white space.

When journalism turns into a group of Sofism paths, it riskily harms its survival. Further, it becomes separated from the daily life and avoids criticizing different phenomena concerned with the everyday life, resulting in slim difference between profession of the journalist and his favourable mask, which makes him enthusiastic to defend ethics of the noble profession.

In the developing countries, there is no remarkable difference among the various press forms in terms of the general content. Even if there is a slim difference, it is in the fashion when media institutions introduce the most modern printing techniques for the sake of futile



By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

contents that fail to compensate for the cost. Additionally, introducing such printing techniques is considered to reflect development and advancement of press.

The lack of establishing authentic journalistic traditions embodies the concept of the modern civil community in a way

confusing between the official newspapers, press printings, and journalists, on the one hand, and street vendors on the other.

Imitating the form that dominated some of the mental faculties, which found themselves in a face-to-face position with illusive materialistic facilities, the content was merely a mixture, the ingredients of which can be provided via attracting various writers.

Several people believe that journalism means writing and has no job description of its own like other careers of deep human contents, as well as wills and responsibilities grown by reading, writing, and integrating in different areas of journalism.

Writing is a creative intellectual work that helps the writer earn reputation and respect in his surroundings. It

also makes him able to depict the problems, sufferings of the daily life so as to explain them in expressive words.

Again, Journalism is not only writing. Rather, it is an activity and a career with its own privacy. We cannot call a great writer a journalist while he is engaged in other job, or to give him another job title while he doesn't occupy a professional prestige at any press or media institution.

The writer considers writing a creative and intellectual effort and not a profession. Besides, other great writers, who covered huge events, such as the World War II, were called correspondents of military media means, which were publishing their news, report investigations, and stories. Ultimately, they were named writers.

The journalistic writing is merely a description and elaboration in the form of intensive and direct statements without any need for the symbol, particularly in the modern journalism. The press in the developing countries is exposed to terrible threat standing in their way while attempting to compensate for its main tasks and get closer toward the daily issues of people. All these problems don't reflect the significance of these publications to defend their survival and the human role they play. But being remiss and careless about their duties, journalists and media institutions find themselves engaged in conflicts with each other.

The press and publication law in any country often reflects development and advancement of journalism, printing and publication. In total contrast, the firm laws restrict the production of media while media syndicates and unions turn to be loyalists with their regimes.

Historically, “press freedom” is known as such because it was printers and newspapers that fought for this right which nowadays refers to media in general. It is a right that goes beyond an individual's freedom of expression, much as it is also built upon that right.

In many places, it is privately-owned newspapers that continue this quest or help preserve victories against powerful forces who are sensitive to certain information becoming public. The question be addressed here is the extent to which the battleground of press freedom today has a new frontier that incorporates cyberspace. This also entails taking stock of the main forces in the realm of new media, and indeed whether old and new media are even on the same side in respect of this new arena. There are also questions of tools, tactics and issues in the contest for and against “press freedom” in this non-traditional environment.

Ismail Al-Ghabri is a Senior Yemeni journalist, working in Yemen Times for almost 14 years.

Letters to the Editor

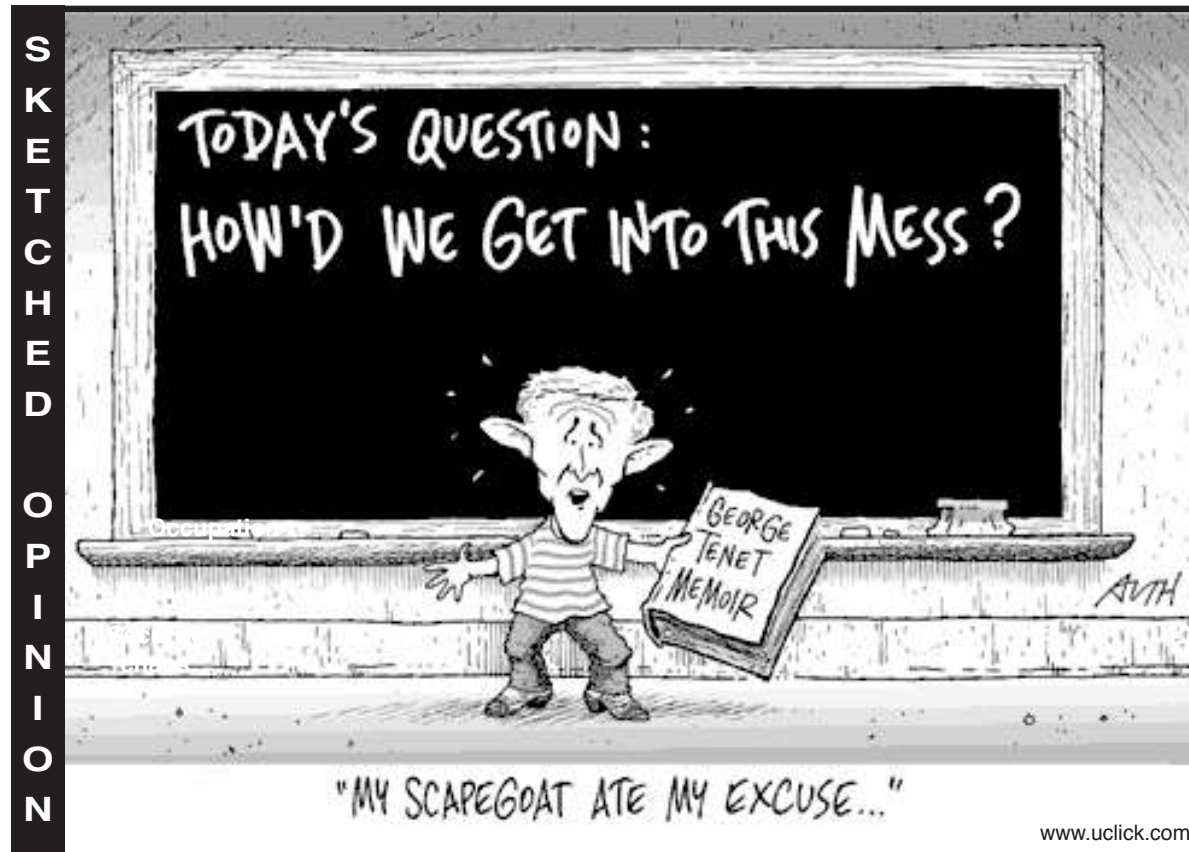
Thank you for a quality article

Dr Saadaldeen Talib, thank you for writing about the social and political history of Hadramaut. Thank you for writing to the young Yemenis and to the world to know our nation better. Those who immigrated has influenced the world. Those in Asia revitalize their culture wherever they go.

In general, Yemen depended mostly on its people and its migrants to support economical developments and that they often come back home. They do not forget to contact and remember their land and their families.

I love Hadramaut songs, accent, and I love their honesty. I wish that we have some good contacts in all their adapted countries: Such as Asia-Indonesia, India, and Europe in order to encourage them to promote the Arab-Yemeni culture there. They also need the government's help in that regard, and we should keep pushing to make it a reality.

Al-Gumae Shafika
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Grumble, groan or wail

By: Jihad el-Khazen

A fire broke out at George Bush's ranch in Crawford and spread to his private library. The fire burned the two books that were in the library before the president was able to finish coloring the pictures in them.

The above is intended as sarcasm against George Bush's ignorance: he entered and graduated from university through nepotism and came to the presidency through the same means. Today, every time he reads a book, he holds a press conference to announce that he has read one.

It is a disaster to have an ignorant president; it is even a bigger disaster for an ignorant person to be the president of the world. With regards to George W. Bush in particular, the greatest disaster is the selection of books he reads.

The latest I read about what the president reads was in an article written by neoconservative Irwin M. Stelzer in the 'Weekly Standard', the mouthpiece of the cabal, about a meeting at the White House attended by some extremists and British historian Andrew Roberts, who proudly declares himself 'extremely right-wing'. Roberts' latest book is entitled: 'History of the English-Speaking Peoples since 1900'.

In a meeting attended by Dick Cheney and his cabal, the conversation was about extremism, like his friends. I don't believe that Bush understood the dialogue, as was evidenced by his support for neocon Norman Podhoretz's rejection of Arthur Koestler's conclusion that man is in a battle between black and 'various shades of gray'. The president said that he does not 'feel any pressure', because to him answers come from God. I say that he feels no pressure because insane people always feel at ease.

Stelzer said President Bush recommended that those attending the luncheon discussion read another book, 'America Alone: The End of the World as We Know It', by Canadian neoconservative Mark Steyn, who sometimes writes racist articles in the London-based 'Daily Telegraph', of which I cannot remember reading any to the end.

This is not reading, but rather brain-

washing. President Bush does not look for libraries in Washington DC to choose what he can read, but someone is choosing for him. He only reads what the aspirants to the US Empire and the neoconservatives from the Likudist Jews, who favor Israel's interest over the US', recommend.

Prominent US liberal writer Jim Lobe reminded us in his article entitled: 'Uh Oh, the President's Reading Again' that in the summer of 2002, Bush read the book 'Supreme Command' by neoconservative historian Eliot Cohen. It seems that the president was impressed by the book to the extent that Cohen has now become the US State Department Counselor.

I wrote in 2004 that President Bush read the book of the Russian, Jewish, Israeli extremist Natan Sharansky: 'The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror'. This is what we all wish for, so that the Palestinians get their freedom, Israeli tyranny and terror are defeated in the Palestinians' lands and Sharansky returns to Russia. The book was as ridiculous as the author is an extremist racist against Arabs and Muslims, particularly the Palestinians. Nevertheless, the educated president incorporated some of his ideas into his 2005 Inaugural Address that he later recommended to the White House staff.

Indeed, the title explains that the book says what the president wants to hear, but the reality in the Middle East is that the Bush administration has destroyed democracy's projects in the region, after its poor performance in Iraq became a model of failure, and terrorism has risen throughout the world while it is fighting it.

Any book of this kind is enough to subject George W. Bush to brainwashing, although he has already been brainwashed by his religious ideas and what he directly receives from 'above'. Notwithstanding, Lobe said in his article that during the Christmas holidays later that year, Bush read 'Imperial Grunts: The American Military on the Ground' by Robert Kaplan, who is another neoconservative extremist and racist against Arabs and Muslims. Kaplan's book is a flagrant incitement against Muslims around the world and an invitation to repress them by American arms (I chose the word "grunt" but "grumble", or "groan" or

"wail" could also do).

All of the above reminded me of something I read about President Bush's reading during last summer's holiday. It included a book about J. Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb, a new biography of Abraham Lincoln and the 'The Stranger' by Albert Camus, which was issued in 1946.

Does this novel explain the Virginia Tech tragedy, where the worst single massacre in American history was committed? The novel is set in Algeria during the days of the French occupation. It addresses unjustified violence and its horrendous consequences. The hero of the novel, Meursault, kills an Arab by shooting him on the beach, even though he does not know him and was not subjected to anything from the local Arabs that would justify his violent reaction. He appears in the novel as an alienated schizophrenic, just like the Korean student in Virginia.

Camus is trying to say that violence can sometimes be a form of mental illness, a psychological case or a casual whim that has nothing to do with planning or ideological commitments.

This could explain the violent behavior of Cho Seung-Hui, who had a disagreement with his girlfriend, Emily Hilscher, and ended up killing her and 30 other students and teachers, before killing himself.

But the 'The Stranger' does not explain the violent ideas promoted by the American and Israeli warmongers who brainwash George Bush with their ideas. The crime here is not a mere whim, but rather a plan that has premeditatedly and deliberately been brewed under the cloak of darkness.

I conclude with what I began my column with: the president of any country should be educated, but in George Bush's case, I'd prefer for the president to do nothing but play computer games and watch baseball games on television.

His real image was revealed when he was notified of the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, while he was reading 'Pet Goat' to young students. He continued reading, perhaps because he was interested in knowing the end of the story more than the students were.

Source: Daralhayat.com

The strange death of multiculturalism

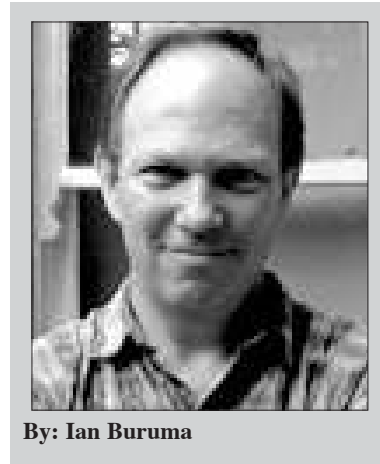
An ideology which holds that people from different cultures must live in separate communities within a country, should not take an interest in each other and must not criticise each other is both wrong and unworkable. Of course, multiculturalism's more thoughtful advocates never imagined that a cultural community could or should substitute for a political community. They believed that so long as everyone abided by the law, it was not necessary for citizens to have a single hierarchy of values.

The ideal of multiculturalism at home was echoed with an ideology of cultural relativism abroad, especially in the 1970's and 1980's. This evolved stealthily into a form of moral racism which held that white Europeans deserved liberal democracy but that people of different cultures had to wait for it. African dictators might do dreadful things but somehow they did not meet with condemnation from many European intellectuals, for criticism implied cultural arrogance.

The Netherlands, where I was born, has perhaps been divided by the debate over multiculturalism more than any other country. The murder of the filmmaker Theo van Gogh two and a half years ago by an Islamist assassin has incited a wrenching debate about the country's entrenched culture of tolerance and easy access for asylum-seekers.

Long before the arrival of Muslim guest workers in the 1960's and 1970's Dutch society was in a sense 'multicultural' in that it was already organised into Protestant, Catholic, liberal and socialist "pillars," each with its own schools, hospitals, TV stations, papers and political parties. When guest workers from Morocco and Turkey became de facto immigrants, some began to champion the creation of an additional Muslim pillar.

But at the moment that multiculturalism's advocates were making this suggestion, Dutch society was undergoing a dramatic transition. With secularization taking hold, the traditional pillars began to break down.



By: Ian Buruma

Moreover, fierce attacks on Muslims started to come from people who, raised in deeply religious families, had turned into radical leftists in the 1960's and 1970's. From defining themselves as anti-colonialists and anti-racists – champions of multiculturalism – they have become fervent defenders of so-called Enlightenment values against Muslim orthodoxy. These people feared the comeback of religion; that the Protestant or Catholic oppressiveness they knew first-hand might be replaced by equally oppressive Muslim codes of conduct.

But their turn away from multiculturalism is not what prevented the emergence of a "Islamic" pillar in Dutch society. The main problem with this idea was that people from Turkey, Morocco, and the Arab countries, some deeply religious and some quite secular, and all with perceptible animosities towards each other, would never have agreed on what should constitute such a pillar.

In any case, it is now too late to create such a pillar. With the earlier pillars having collapsed, the emergence of a new one would bring about a situation where an increasingly integrated majority would be negotiating with a minority, thus perpetuating its isolation in the process.

Whether Europeans like it or not, Muslims are part of Europe. Many will not abandon their religion, so Europeans must learn to live with them and with Islam. Of course, this will be easier if Muslims come to believe that the system also works to their benefit. Liberal democracy and Islam are reconcilable. Indonesia's current political transition from dictatorship to democracy, although no unqualified success, shows that this is achievable.

Even if all of Europe's Muslims were Islamists – which is a far cry from reality – they could not threaten the Continent's sovereignty and, by the same token, its laws and Enlightenment

values. Of course, there are groups to which Islamism appeals. The children of immigrants, born in Europe, sense they are not fully accepted in the country where they grew up, but neither do they feel a special bond with their parent's native country. Islamism, besides offering them an answer to the question why they do not feel happy with the way they live, gives them a sense of their self-worth and a great cause to die for.

In the end, the only thing that can truly damage European values is Europe's response to its non-Muslim majority. Fear of Islam and of immigrants could lead to the adoption of non-liberal laws. By defending Enlightenment values in a dogmatic way Europeans will be the ones who undermine them.

Our laws prohibiting incitement to violence and insulting people for reasons of their religion are sufficient. Further constraints on freedom of speech – such as anti-blasphemy laws or, indeed, those laws that make Holocaust denial punishable – go too far.

But this doesn't mean that we should not weigh our words with care. We should distinguish carefully between different kinds of Islam, and not confuse violent revolutionary movements with mere religious orthodoxy. Insulting Muslims simply on the basis of their faith is foolish and counterproductive, as is the increasingly popular notion that we must make sweeping pronouncements as to the superiority of "our culture." For such dogmatism undermines scepticism, the questioning of all views, including one's own, which was and is the fundamental feature of the Enlightenment.

The trouble today is that Enlightenment values are sometimes used in a very dogmatic way against Muslims. They have become in fact a form of nationalism – "our values" have been set against "their values." The reason for defending Enlightenment values is that they are based on good ideas, and not because they are "our culture." To confuse culture and politics in this way is to fall into the same trap as the multiculturalists.

And it has serious consequences. If we antagonize Europe's Muslims enough we will push more people into joining the Islamist revolution. We must do everything to encourage Europe's Muslim to become assimilated in European societies. It is our only hope.

Ian Buruma Author of 'Bad Elements: Chinese Rebels From Los Angeles to Beijing'. Source: Project Syndicate.

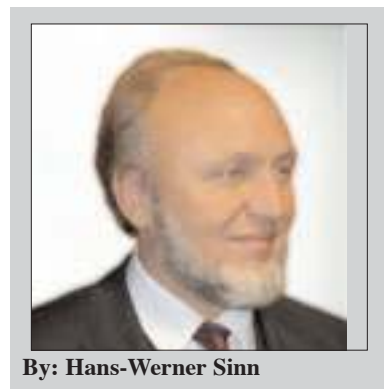
France's path not taken

The new president of France, be it Nicolas Sarkozy or Ségolène Royal, will face a tough challenge when it comes to putting the French economy back on its feet. While the world economy is booming for the fourth consecutive year, with a historically unprecedented growth rate of about 5%, the French economy is limping. In 2006, it grew by only 2.2%, while growth rates of only 2.1% and 1.9% can be expected for 2007 and 2008, respectively, according to a recent forecast by the German Economic Research Institutes. This is significantly below the average of the old EU countries for these three years – 2.7%, 2.6%, and 2.4%, respectively.

France is currently one of Europe's laggards, only slightly ahead of Italy and Portugal. Even Germany is performing better. With a growth rate of 2.7%, the German economy clawed its way back to the average of the old EU countries in 2006, and it can be expected to grow at 2.4% in 2007 and 2008, far faster than France.

France's meager growth is surprising. Until recently, the economy was doing fairly well, outperforming many EU countries. While Germany grew by only 14% in the ten years from 1995 to 2005, ranking as Europe's "vice-laggard" next to Italy, France grew by 23.6%, which was nearly the old EU countries' average of 24.3%. In 2001, France's gross national income per capita overtook that of Germany, and is now 4% higher. And yet recent growth figures seem to have reversed this trend for the time being.

French employment data has been



By: Hans-Werner Sinn

worrisome for even longer. In 2006, France's unemployment rate was 9.4%, a full percentage point higher than Germany's. By 2008, the French rate can be expected to decline only to 8.2%, while German unemployment is anticipated to fall to 6.3%.

A similar pattern holds for public debt. While Germany has resolved its debt problem insofar as it no longer violates the European Union's Stability and Growth Pact and can be expected to have a balanced budget in 2008, the forecasts for France imply deficits of 2.6% and 2.3% of GDP for this year and 2008. If the boom in the world economy falters, France will again violate the Stability and Growth Pact, as it did in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Why are France and Germany behaving so differently during this global boom? Among the potential explanations, the dissimilar specializations of each country stand out. While France has specialized in consumer goods such as food and pharmaceutical products, Germany is a leading exporter of investment goods. As the current boom in the world economy is largely fueled by investment demand

rather consumption demand, only Germany profits from it to full measure.

Germany is the tool-shop of the world, with 450 world market leaders in niche products and another 500 companies in the top-three category. Fifteen of the world's 20 biggest trade fairs (measured by indoor exhibition space) are held in Germany, and the country tops the list in world commodity exports. Small wonder, then, that Germany's economy rockets when the world's demand for capital goods soars.

True, Germany has its share of problems. The country is gradually turning into an industrial bazaar that is relocating its workbench to low-wage ex-communist countries. This is one of the reasons why the boom of 2006 was incapable of creating additional jobs in German manufacturing; why Germany still has the OECD's highest unemployment among low-skilled workers; and why aggregate full-time employment has not yet returned to its level in 2000.

The French economy could be slightly more stable in the medium term insofar as it seems to have more solid internal sectors. But Germany definitely is partaking more of the current boom than France does.

Perhaps one French mistake was to neglect its small and medium-size firms and specialize too much on state-controlled mega-companies. Airbus, Renault, Crédit Lyonnais, and Alstom are well-known examples of a mistaken industrial policy that has wasted French taxpayers' money – and that is partly connected with the name Sarkozy.

The true problem for France is the huge chunk of state-owned companies that go through the motions without being particularly successful in the market. In France, 25% of dependent employees work in the government sector, compared with 19% in the old EU and 12% in Germany. The French government share in GDP is 54%, while Germany's is only 47%.

In France, more than 7% of voters cast their ballots for Trotskyite and Communist candidates in the first round of the presidential election, while the Socialists, who received 27% of the votes, are much more left-leaning than Germany's Social Democrats. Dirigiste attitudes are more popular in France than in most other European countries. To the extent that these attitudes may have led to a political system in which small and medium-size firms find it difficult to flourish, they may have contributed to France's problems.

It remains to be seen whether the new French president will be able to embark on a more promising course. The odds are not good. Royal will do nothing to increase the flexibility of the French labor market so as to facilitate structural change and enable new firms to be created, while Sarkozy is likely to continue to support France's lumbering giants, as he has done so frequently in the past. Sound policy aimed at reviving the economy seems beyond the grasp of both candidates.

Hans-Werner Sinn is Professor of Economics and Finance, University of Munich, and President of the Ifo Institute. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.

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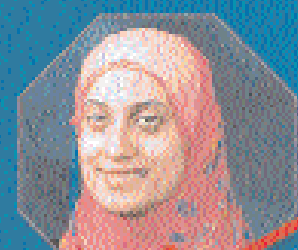
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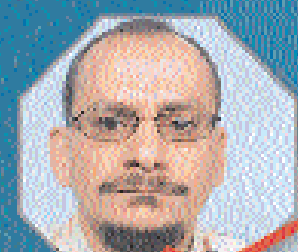
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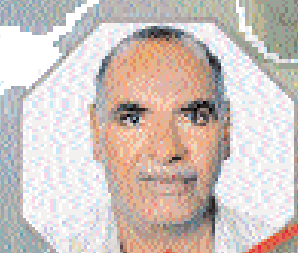
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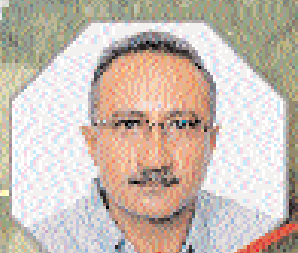
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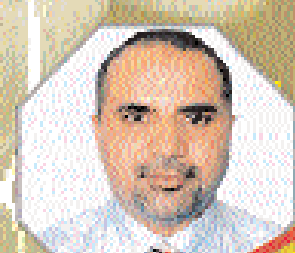
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While workers face a harsh reality of unemployment VP Hadi: Our Labor is Yemen's largest asset

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Vice President AbduRabuh Mansour Hadi inaugurated a special event held on the 1st of May on the Occasion of International Labor Day. Hadi stated that Yemen was built on the shoulders of its Labor and workforce, adding that on this day the country can celebrate their hard work and commitment to Yemen's Development.

On the same occasion, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Labor Union Mr. Yahya Al-Na'ami has stated that although the government speaks highly of the role labor play in national development, the government continues to ignore improving the situation of the workforce. He also referred to the delay in reforming the Health Insurance Act which will give coverage to workers in the event of illness.

Several workers stated that they celebrate this day as unemployed people; having worked for less than 200 days per year, it has become hard to survive given the economic hardship and large

number of unemployed workers who daily scope the market looking for jobs.

With unemployment standing at 40 percent of the workforce, it is hard to see recognition, said painter Mohammed Noman; "we work to survive... if we can't find work we basically stop surviving". AbdulRahman, a butcher, said "I slaughter chickens in order to make a living, my university qualification proved to be worth nothing, I've been enlisted for a government job for over four years, but so far I have not got a thing."

Vice President Hadi said that the government is very keen on improving the situation of the workforce, adding that the laws are being reformed in order to protect the rights of the workers, and regulate the employee-employer relationship.

However, the vast majority of workers find themselves away from what constitutes a regular job, they work on daily wages, using whatever skills they have; offer their services to whoever is in need, most of them are constructions workers, painters, carpenters and plumber, and none of them are able to see, or reap, as the benefits described

by the Union's administration or the political leadership are none-existent in the world of your average daily-wage Yemeni worker

Yemeni Workers: A Story of Suffering

Finding themselves trapped in very difficult living circumstances, Yemeni young men and women rush to the job market in search of a job or a working opportunity, only to find thousands of such job seekers flooding the job market.

Those who make the choice to working as manual labors have to agree to do a lot of hard work for a very low pay, and sometimes even they accept such work, there are days when manual labor working opportunities are scare.

These workers include literate and educated people, and even some with university qualifications, those with privileged knowledge do sometimes have slightly better working opportunities such as waiters in restaurants and guards working with security companies, but in many cases, they have to resort to their own creativity on how to find work.

AbdulSallam is a high school graduate who was unemployed for two years, after a lengthy and unsuccessful job hunt he decided to borrow some cash and buy a cart to sell bananas, he said that one day while going home he looked at the side of the road, where he saw an opportunity, to sell bananas. He says everything worked well for him for the first couple of days until the municipality came about the confiscated his cart and put him in Jail for two days.

"Damn this government, he says, they don't give you work and they don't allow you to work... how shall we make a living?" he commented.

The story of struggle continues, the number of new job openings are always far lower than the number of job seekers, the government is calling upon investors to come to Yemen and offer job opportunities it is also administrating some programs to develop small-scale enterprises and offer loans, but then again, isn't this the same government which confiscated AbdulSallam's bananas, how could AbdulSallam celebrate labor day while being deprived of a job?

Business in Brief

Saleh Marketing for Investment Opportunities in Yemen

President Saleh has stated upon his arrival to the United States on an official visit that his agenda includes marketing for Yemen as a destination for Investments, calling on American Businessmen to invest in Yemen, as Yemen enjoys many attractive opportunities for foreign investors.

Yemeni Islands tempt investors

Director of the General Authority for Island Development Dr. Al-Kaynai'e has indicated that Yemen's 183 Islands have a total of 4,600 potential investment opportunities, adding that geological surveys have pointed out the presence of valuable minerals such as Gold in some of these islands, which motivated several investors to correspond with the Authority to invest in them.

Hayel Saeed Group to establish a sugar refinery in Hodieda

The Hayel Saeed Group has stated that the group will invest US\$ 150 million in the construction of a new Sugar refining plant in Hodieda, to produce an initial of 660 thousand tones expandable to 1.32 million tones of refined sugar per year. This is the second sugar refining plant affiliated to the group, following the Aden refining plant established last year in Aden.

EU increases aid to Yemen

The European Union will increase its aid to Yemen to 78 millions Euros, during the years 2007-2010. The aid will focus on Economic Development and improving food secu-

rity in Yemen, as well as funding several other economic, political, and social development projects in Yemen.

Ministry of Trade sets price-monitoring mechanism

Sources in the Ministry of Trade have indicated that the Ministry has finalized a mechanism which will monitor prices of consumer goods in the local market. The mechanism will be presented to the cabinet next week for approval and implementation thereafter.

Saudi Company to invest US\$ 100 million in a fish farm

The Saudi Company for Fisheries is currently holding talks with the Ministry of Fisheries in order to invest up to US\$ 200 million in fish farms in Yemen, including a farm for prawns and shrimps.

2nd Cement Factory in Batais to be constructed

Al-Esaey group of companies has signed with China's CNBM Corporation an agreement worth US\$ 220 million in order to construct a cement factory in Batais, with an annual production capacity of 1 million tones per year.

Yemen & Kuwait bank profits reach 435 million Riyals in 2006

Yemen & Kuwait bank has achieved a record increase in profits of 2006, reaching 435 million Riyals compared to 231 million Riyals in 2005. The bank also increased its paid-up capital to 2.2 billion Riyals from 1.8 billion Riyals in 2005.

Winning over globalization's losers

By: Etienne Wasmer
and Jakob von Weizsäcker

On both sides of the Atlantic, many view economic globalization as a threat to below-average earners. According to a recent poll by the German Marshall Fund, majorities in France, Germany, and the United States favor maintaining existing trade barriers, even if doing so hampers economic growth. Clearly, the large net gains from global economic integration are not enough to convince those who have lost their jobs and the many others who feel at risk.

The recently established European

Globalization Adjustment Fund (EGF) is an EU-wide response to this challenge. The EGF can spend up to 500 million annually in EU member states on workers affected by trade-induced layoffs. But sharing the benefits of globalization with the losers is traditionally regarded as a national responsibility. For example, the inspiration for the EGF, America's Trade Adjustment Assistance, introduced by the Kennedy administration in 1962, is a purely national scheme. Is EU involvement really justified?

The economic case for a European globalization fund is that trade policy has been delegated to the European level, while Union members retain the ability to block decisions. Consider the

hypothetical example of full trade liberalization in textiles, which would have greatly asymmetric effects between, say, Sweden, with hardly any textile industry, and Portugal, with a substantial one. Sweden would be a clear beneficiary while Portugal would be hit hard, owing to the large number of displaced textile workers.

The negative impact of such redundancies is serious. OECD statistics show that 40% to 50% of displaced manufacturing workers in the EU15 remain without a job 24 months after becoming unemployed. Around 30% work in a job that pays less than the previous one. Only around one-quarter are re-employed with a wage at or above the previous level.

Through the EGF, part of the cost of helping displaced textile workers would be borne by all EU countries, thereby making wider trade liberalization a more likely prospect. Although Sweden, for example, would be a net contributor to the EGF, it might well be a net beneficiary of the arrangement as a whole. In principle, a web of bilateral transfer arrangements could achieve such an unblocking of trade. In practice, however, such transfers hardly ever take place, so the potential gains from opening trade may fail to materialize.

Nevertheless, the EGF's rules need to be tightened, lest the scheme comes to be regarded as a political gimmick. The current setup leaves too much room for discretion, as neither necessary nor sufficient conditions for aid are clearly spelled out. This will expose the EGF to wasteful political posturing and lobbying by countries and sectors. The EGF's rules should be amended to ensure that governments and trade-displaced workers receive transparent, visible, and reliable assistance, as well as to spread best practice in active labor market policy.

Displaced workers often face unemployment, a lower-paying job, or a new job far from home. Of these, the unemployed typically receive most public support. To address this distortion head on, and to provide clarity concerning the allocation of funds, the EGF should focus its limited funds on two simple active labor market programs: wage insurance and mobility allowance.

Wage insurance could offer workers whose pay was cut after displacement compensation for up to two years amounting to half the difference between the old and the new wage. The mobility allowance could offer those moving for a new job a lump-sum payment of two months' gross pay in the previous job, or four months' pay for cross-border moves. The very simplicity of this scheme will likely ensure high visibility and reasonable take-up rates.

The downside of such a focused approach is also clear: the margin of choice for EU members about how EGF funds are to be spent in their country would be minimal. In view of the likely advantages, this might be acceptable if member states could be assured that, if the schemes work, it will be expanded. This can be done as part of a reform of the European Social Fund, which has an annual budget of around 10 billion – ten times the current funding of the EGF.

If the EGF does not prove effective, the money can simply be given back to the EU budget or to member states. But if the EGF does work, the benefits would far outweigh the costs.

Etienne Wasmer is Professor of Economics at Sciences-Po and OFCE in Paris. Jakob von Weizsäcker is a research fellow at Bruegel, a Brussels-based think tank. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.

Regional Business in Brief

Japan & Saudi agree to enhance economic ties

Prime Minister of Japan and King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia have declared that their two countries will establish strategic economic alliances that strengthen Japan's connection with the region. Although most of the current economic ties are still Oil-based, the two countries are drawing plans in order to expand their economic ties to include a free trade agreement and mutual investments.

UAE is the world leader in promoting tourism

Report by the World Economic Forum ranked the United Arab Emirates to be the world leader in terms of promoting tourism to the country. UAE was also ranked to have the top rank in terms of the competitiveness of the tourism industry among Arab countries, followed by Tunis.

Experts: Islamic Financial Institutions in need of expertise

Regional Experts on Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions have indicated that these institutions are facing severe difficulties in getting the required Islamic expertise in order to justify and provide the technical assistance for their operations, adding that the banks are in now in a dilemma with regards to expanding their Islamic product range and investments portfolios.

Gulf Financing House profits reach 27 percent in the first quarter of 2007

Bahrain-based Gulf Financing House has achieved 27 percent net profits in the first quarter of 2007, reaching US\$ 72.2 million. Sources at the company indicated that the profit surge was sparked by an infrastructure-construction deal in a regional underdeveloped country.

Shamil Bank's profits increase 151 percent in the first quarter of 2007

Bahrain-based Shamil Bank has achieved a record profit of US\$ 28.39 million, compared to US\$ 11.32 million in the first quarter of 2006. The bank indicated that its investment decisions proved most lucrative resulting in the aforementioned profits.

Study: Arab women are more optimistic about career advancement

A recent study undertaken by bayet.com has indicated that Arab women involved within

the workforce are more optimistic about their career advancement opportunities within the Arabic business environment. The study also points out that Female Workers have an increased tendency to expand its span of operations and have a positive attitude to overcome whatever obstacles faced on the course of their job.

Family companies should not depend on short-term loans

Experts advise Family Businesses to avoid short-term bank loans, indicating that evidence supports the argument that short-term loans limit growth potential and increase risks for these companies, advising such companies to resort to Islamic Financing and stock exchanges to raise funds for long-term growth.

Muscat Bank profits increase by 43.8 percent in the first quarter of 2007

Quarterly profits of Muscat Bank increased by 43.8 percent in the first quarter of 2007, exceeding 19 million Omani Riyals, compared to 13.25 million Omani Riyals of the first quarter of 2006.

Al-Dar Profits skyrocket 79 percent in the first quarter of 2007

UAE-based Al-Dar constructions have achieved a record profit exceeding 450 million Dirhams, with a growth rate of 79 percent compared to the last quarter. The growth was sparked by capital gains, along with the boom in the constructions industry of the region.

90 Companies to participate in Qatar's International Real Estate Expo

Scheduled to be held on the 21st of May, 90 Major Real Estate, constructions, and other corporations have decided to participate in the Qatar International Real Estate and Investment Exhibition. The Exhibition will display many models of state-of-the-art buildings, and also models of massive construction projects to be located in several countries in the region.

Dubai Ports may be listed in London or New York

Dubai Ports International is likely to be listed at an International Stock Exchange, with speculation that it will be listed in London or New York, in order to raise over one billion Sterling Pounds to be reinvested in the company's operations and expansion plans in the region and beyond.



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JOB VACANCIES ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN

Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY – A British INGO) is announcing the following vacancies for National Professional Personnel based in Sana'a Governorate for Conflict Transformation & Peace Building Programme (CTPB):

1. Position: Programme Coordinator
Duration: 24 months

Responsibilities:

- Manage and monitor the implementation of the programme activities
- Oversee areas of responsibility including human resources management, financial/asset management, project cycle management, contract management
- Coordination and liaison with stakeholders, and, policy/program development
- Provide direction and support to project staff
- Establish linkages with GO, NGOs and other institutional donors
- Prepare narrative and financial reports
- Undertake any other task assigned by the Programme Manager

Requirements:

- Post-Graduate degree in conflict prevention, developments studies, international relations, political science or other relevant academic background
- Proven experience in conflict prevention /peace building / human rights work
- Ability to develop strong relationship and work closely with diverse individuals and organizations
- Clear effective communications skills
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages
- Proficiency in major computer software (Microsoft Word, Excel and Power point) database use, and advanced Internet search engine tools

2. Position: Programme Coordinator Assistant
Duration: 24 Months

Responsibilities:

- Assist and advise the project unit on overall programme activity
- Assist the project team with the development and implementation of project components, analyze data as required
- Implement policy and strategy guidelines
- Participate in various meetings, working groups, assessments as requested
- As part of the project team, assist prepare narrative and financial reports
- Assist to provide direction and support to project staff
- Undertake any other task assigned by the Project Coordinator

Requirements:

- Degree in social sciences or related field
- Experience in project planning/ implementing and monitoring management and working in rural areas
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages

- Experienced in using computers including word processing, excel and power point

3. Position: Admin and Accounts Assistant
Duration: 24 Months

Responsibilities:

- Accounting of all incoming and outgoing financial transactions
- Oversee purchasing inventory, transport, and procurement of project materials
- Recording transactions according to project guidelines
- Ensuring financial reports are transparent, accurate and representative
- Producing monthly reports, and assuring adequate cash on hand.
- Meeting arrangements and minute taking
- Maintaining the filing system
- Maintain smooth office operations including provision and operation of equipment.
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary

Requirements:

- University degree in accounts/finance
- Minimum of three years experience in finance and accounting field: proficiency in computerized accounting systems
- Good knowledge of internal accounting procedures and reporting systems
- Computer skills in both Arabic and English languages
- Clerical and administrative experience
- Good knowledge of Arabic and English languages

4. Position: Driver
Duration: 24 Months

Responsibilities:

- Drive a motor vehicle as requested, with due regard to time schedules, apply knowledge of driving regulation, safety requirements, traffic and conditions; take suitable precautions for the security of the vehicle and its contents when left unattended
- Ability to deal with various government authorities to process paperwork
- Make minor purchases and collect required goods from local supplier on demand
- Maintain legal status of vehicle, cleanliness and appearance
- Carry out clerical duties upon request including photocopying and logistical support

Requirements:

- Minimum of Primary education
- Drivers license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and possess skills in minor vehicle repair
- Five years work experience as a driver with safe driving record
- Minimum knowledge of English is a plus

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 05th May 2007.

Admin Department – Ref: CTPB/IPD/220407
Islamic Relief Yemen, P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: secretary@y.net.ye

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief
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President & General Manager
The management Team and all Staff of
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Present their congratulations to
H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
and the Yemeni people & laborers on the occasion of the
International Labor Day, May 1st
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Sabafon honors its employees

On the occasion of Sabafon Sixth Anniversary, the company organized a large celebration, by throwing a lunch banquet for all its employees in the Movenpick hotel. The celebration was largely attended by Sabafon employees and was also attended by the Chairman of the Board of Directors Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar and the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Tarik Al-Haidary.

Sheikh Hameed delivered a speech thanking all employees for the great efforts exerted by them, the result of which was the remarkable success achieved during the last six years. He also encouraged them to continue such efforts towards new horizons in all aspects. In his speech, he officially advised the employees of the New Agreement of Partnership signed with the Bahrain Telecommunication Company Batelco which clearly marks the status SabaFon has reached and its potential expansion and growth within the Yemen and the Region.

The Chairman has emphasized that SabaFon has always been keen to provide competitive prices, the high quality of services and the wider coverage which spreads over 90% of the Yemeni land through more than 530 sites across the Republic all these and more were built by a group of enthusiastic and highly



Mr. Mohammed Al-Nadish

qualified Yemeni Engineers. He added that SabaFon services are delivered through 50 franchise and around 2700 points of sales which participated in providing substantiated income to the national economy as well as



Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar



Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar and Mr. Tarik Al-Haidary

contributing in efforts aiming to support development and community services.

Fruitful years

In his speech Sheikh Hameed assured that the celebration emphasizes the regard SabaFon has for its employees being its most valuable assets and highly appreciates their efforts towards ensuring SabaFon leading position throughout the six elapsing years of its operation and has emphasized that he is confident that members of SabaFon Family will save no effort to ensure that SabaFon remains the First GSM Operator in Yemen and will maintain its position especially in the coming years in which competition is expected to be more severe.

Sheikh Hameed announced many organizational decisions aiming at improving employees' performance and loyalty which will also help them face the speedy changes and challenges in the telecommunication world.

Commitment and Devotion.

On behalf of Sabafon employees, Mr. Mohammed Allaw delivered a speech that declared employees' pride of being Sabafon affiliates and expressed their readiness to exert additional efforts for the sake of keeping the company the first company in the telecommunication market.



Honoring

The celebration was concluded by rewarding over 100 employees who excelled and delivered high performance rates in all aspects. Amidst strong applause and loud cheers, Shaikh Hameed Al-Ahmar distributed the Excellence trophies and cash rewards to those distinguished Employees from all departments in the Company.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Nadish was selected as the employee of the year and employees in Sa'ada were also honored in recognition for their high tolerance under the very difficult circumstances.

On behalf of all sabafon employees Human Resources Director Mrs. Shuhd Basahi delivered large trophy to Mr. Tarik Al-Haidary, Chief Executive Officer in recognition for the great effort he delivered during the year 2006.



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

For Yemen's sake

By: Salwa Yehya Al-Eryani

It is very strange and mysterious and not understood at all how we human beings accept to suffer a great deal for the sake of a person we love. Also, it is certainly very puzzling how much we sacrifice and how many burdens we are willingly ready to carry and how many obstacles we intend to overcome only to reach this person. All this patience and tolerance we pay with no disturbance what so ever simply to be close to that person we love. This person who is, in all cases, a human being who we can meet another much better than him or her. This is a fact even if some don't confess it. If you just open your eyes wide and open your ears to listen to different love stories in life you will discover that this is the (sunnah) or nature of life and not an invention of anyone.

We do that for the sake of a person, but we don't do that for the sake of our dear Yemen! How shameful! Yes, we do love Yemen. Although some don't. Yes, we are proud of being Yemenis. Although some are ashamed to be so called. Yes, we forbid any bad word about Yemen especially from strangers. Yet, some are the rich source of all nasty curses and critical jokes. I don't know how to say it but I guess it is clear that Yemen's primary handicap is its people.

The other day I received an e-mail from a friend. It was entitled Yemen In 2025. It contained pictures of different cities in the world imagining they were in Yemen. For example a picture of the buildings in New York and beneath it Althreer Sana'a 2025 was written. It was a magnificent dream. Another picture of bridges in England and beneath it Hodeidah was written. Then a picture of an industrial city with a factory probably in Japan and under it Ma'rib was marked. A picture of a very green mountain with circles of very neat roads around it like a bracelet and under it Taiz was marked. Then at the end of this e-mail there was a yellow teddy bear falling down of laughter and saying" Stop dreaming and go back to work!" This e-mail made my tears run unintentionally and this rarely happens.

Why don't some Yemeni officials care to achieve real development and progress in all branches for Yemen? Why do some Yemeni officials hate Yemen and worship their personal advantage? Why? Why do some of our officials fall in love with their own selves? Won't they like the shade under the umbrella of Yemen if we care to have it and to shade us all? Won't it protect us all from sunburn and flames of fire? Won't that be more just than the present condition? This number of Yemeni officials who hate Yemen hate it simply because it is a poor country and a dusty environment with a majority of uneducated people. That is what they say. It is so because of these officials themselves.

They ate all its material ability to pave roads or make any other civilized features appear except a few trees and flowers here and there. These officials are becoming fatter and wealthier and Yemen is starving to death and its ribs are showing? Then they hate it... definitely they do. It gives them this deep feeling of being guilty and sinful. It is like an eye doctor who hates his clinic because it is full of blind people. These

blind people depress him. He didn't cure them and therefore seeing them irritates him. Blind people falling on the stairs. Blind people bumping each other's noses in the reception room. Blind people touching the walls with their fingers to walk the way. Blind people striving to see the light. Off! Blind people every where. The artificial doctor was too busy with his personal life. He didn't take care of them, and gave them the wrong eye drop. This made their situation worse than it was. Is it believable that this doctor doesn't understand that he is a criminal? Is it possible that he doesn't realize that the blind patients are a normal result for his lack of knowledge and experience? Doesn't he know that he is a failure? This eye doctor is any Yemeni official who is sucking Yemen's blood from it's veins to his stomach.

Yemen is also like a child who is hated because he is an orphan, homeless, and a beggar. Who on earth wants to be an orphan or homeless or a beggar? This child simply can't help it. This child will wander around begging for a piece of bread. His bare feet will be muddy and his clothes smelly. At the same time, deep inside his heart, there is love and forgiveness as soon as we show him love and care.

Some Yemeni officials must admit that they are the reason, but ranges differ, for every hand stretched for beggary. They are the reason for every death due to the lack of money to buy medicine or make an operation. They are the reason every female selling her body to eat and feed her family. They are the reason for every man searching for food inside the garbage cans. They are the reason for every minute we live with the electricity cut. They are the reason for every paved road broken all over to fix some other thing. They are the reason for every young man sleeping joblessly at home during the morning and dreaming of earning money and getting married. They are the reason for every crazy man walking in the streets with long hair and baggy clothes. Yes, they are. Not to mention that these 2 in 1 officials- thieves are foolish ones. Their robbery is so obvious a donkey notices it. So, if they insist to practice this robbery professionally then I am afraid they need a few workshops entitled (How to Steal without Being Noticed.)

All what I have said is not what I wanted to say. What I want to say today is about that Thursday in which Sana'a lived a small war in the area, unfortunately, where my house is located. That day since the morning we were hearing continuous firing. We also heard explosions and bombs and bullets. We investigated about the reasons for those explosions and we learned that it is a battle between two groups. One tribe is saying that they own that land and the other group said the same, they will still take it by force because it is too nice to be anyone else's!! The head of that tribe, who was the original owner, lost his young son in the battle, and certainly the death and injuries were from both sides. I think it was like invading Palestine. I mean Palestine is for Palestinians but even though the Israelis want to put their hands on it and be the owners. The only difference between the Israelis and this side who wanted to take the land by force was that both groups were Yemenis and they were both losers. This group that

wanted to take the land by force was unknown to us. Who are they? What are their names? We didn't know. Yet the authority and power was clear. The tanks were all around the street. The police cars and men were scattered all over. The anti-aircraft was working. So...it was a war. Conquerers, all over the world have very similar features. We, who lived in that area, were terrified since the morning and about to break down nervously.

Unfortunately I had previously invited some friends to come over and enjoy the magnificent view from my Dewan's window on the third floor. It was a view of a green mountain and a village on it. It looked more like a card a tourist would buy from his hotel. That mountain was the spot where the war was taking place. I expected that none of my friends would show up as I imagined that they would avoid leaving their houses in a risky day like that day. The army was stopping any car coming towards my area and they were searching the cars to avoid any more complications. Therefore, I expected that even those who came towards my area will just turn around and go back home. At four o'clock my friends started showing up. I welcomed them with a surprised smile. They were laughing and giving me excuses that chewing qat was a strong enough motive to make them come in such a day. We went up. My guests sat down and started blaming me for inviting them in such a day, watching the beautiful view which they couldn't resist. They all sat down near the very large windows so they can observe and examine the war live. I sat my back to a pillar because I was afraid that a crazy bullet would cross the window glass and go through my back. In such cases, women remember that they are weak females and mothers who need to raise their children.

We sat trying to ignore the loud explosions and exchanged shooting. We all had yellow smiles on our lips and hidden fears inside our souls. How will this gathering end? Yet, I do confess that we were all brave, courageous and dare to be able to act normally in such a situation.

I had the feeling that I had two senses of hearing. One was focusing on the explosions outside awaiting like a wet pigeon in the wind for any explosion and the other trying to participate in the conversation inside the room. This double effort was exhausting me. I do admit that I had thanked Allah in that day more than ever for having pillars in houses and buildings and even in life. They were a shelter and a safe embrace.

Then there was this tremendous explosion and we saw smoke and dust arousing from the mountain. One of us we don't remember who yelled "lie prostrate". We all did. Then a second after, we put our heads up slowly like lifting up heads of hang people. One of the guests said if any one screams again, she will leave. The idea of leaving was very comfortable for all of us. I wished that day that my house was in some other place so I can leave too! Not to mention that neither any one screamed again nor left. We were just all the time leaning and bending to the front or sideways. Now that the day is a memory, I can't help laughing when I remember it. We all realized that we were living a historical and a very unusual evening.

A lady of my guests stood up and asked me to excuse her. She said that her nerves were too shaky to bear this any longer especially that we were discussing the possibility of not leaving our houses in the next period and what food doesn't need much gas. We decided that noodles were the quickest to get ready for eating. This lady said goodbye to us. Two of her best friends stood to hug her and asked her to call us as soon as she is home. I had the feeling either she will die on the way or we will all burst into bits and pieces but definitely that day won't be over safely. This lady took her keys for her car and left. After she left we started looking at each other. We had many questions and fears we wanted to put forward. Yet no one did. Even myself I continued acting that there was nothing to worry about! My heart was aching. It really was. My mouth was hurting me because I had to smile although I didn't feel like it. My friends these strong soldiers, decided to stay and enjoy and not be scared.

My guests who were observing the war from the window reported us that there were ambulance cars going up the mountain in a hurry. What does it mean? Has the war ended? Or has it become more serious and complicated? Our friend who left us called us and said that she is at home kissing her children. We felt good for her but when will we feel good for ourselves?

Suddenly four of our friends started these trilling cries of joy like those we hear in weddings when the bride arrives. I jumped away from the pillar asking them what had happened. The signs of relief and pleasure were clear on their faces. I left the pillar that I was stuck to like a painting on the wall and went to the window to see what had happened. We all saw a number of white flags of surrender waving in the sky. I couldn't help crying. I looked at my friends pressing their faces to the glass to see more closely the cars coming down the mountain just before sunset. They were extremely happy to see the movie end I mean the war end.

It was over. Yet this tribe lost their sheikh's son and a number of deaths and injuries and in addition to that a piece of land. Not only that but they were the ones who put up those white flags. Yes, it is over, but no, it is sad. My heart was aching. We all saw the ambulance cars rushing down and then we closed the curtains and put the lights on.

So, in a war like this we are all losers even us, who were only watching. They asked me why I seemed sad. I didn't know how to explain. Yes, I was happy it was over but the taste of oppression and plunder was bitter. My ears opened like they do when we land on land after a bad flight.

I stood up to spread sjadas on the floor and we started to get ready for sunset prayer. My guests were thanking Allah for ending this war without any of us losing her head. Yes, but people passed away today. How were their families weeping now? All are losers. We are all losers. Those who lost their dearests, those who lost the land. Those who put their hands on the land. We, as audience, the mountain, the sun, the drivers of the ambulance cars and even those white flags of surrender, we were all losers. Where is the love for Yemen in our hearts to stop what had happened for a piece of land? For the sake of Yemen, love Yemen.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

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



Marriage nowadays as an investment chance

Marriage, as a means of social integration, plays a great role in stabilizing the social relations among people. It is of immense significance for both sexes, male and female, and their families as well. Men are, however, usually looked at as the beneficiary-'winner'- part of marriage. Because of that a man is always obliged to hold the responsibility of everything related to marriage and its religious, traditional, and social burdens.

Hopefully, a man of a good educational and social status proposes to a lady's hand with a confidence that he would not be refused especially if he has a pre-love relation with his 'dreams' lady'. He may not be surprised when the father asks for a period of time to take the daughter's opinion. His love relation makes him feel comfortable about the daughter's reply, expecting no 'conditions' or demands.

It becomes a matter of fashion nowadays to welcome a man proposing a girl's hand with a list of conditions and demands. The list usually starts with the girl's rights to study or to work after marriage. Many other demands are required by the parents and sometimes other relatives. The girl in such circumstances hides behind the curtains with the pretext of shyness, or social restrictions, or parent's obedience.

Being involved in such a "trap", sorry matter, the man accepts the conditions with an attempt to convince himself that it is for 'love's sake'. He has only to accept; otherwise he would be accused of deceiving the girl who 'has sacrificed herself for him', as some people may claim.

Before talking about the dowry, the father insists on having a separate well-furnished home, "flat" locating in the surrounding area of the girls' parents' home. Other demands like the regular visits of the girl to her parents, unrestricted to go out whenever she likes, and other demands are settled at this stage.

Accepting the initial conditions, the man starts negotiating about the dowry. Narrating a lot of marriage stories and life circumstances, the father concludes with the dowry amount which is to be paid in cash in order to cover the marriage expenses. The mount shocks the 'would-be bridegroom', who realizes that the money he has collected has been already spent for 'presents' and Qat during the proposal.

As a matter of social customs, it is a shame on the man if he withdraws at this stage. It becomes obligatory on him to search for the money, work day and night so he can achieve his dream.

Proudly offering the money, he is asked for preparing or paying for the cost of the 'engagement party'. 'It is ok', the man says, thinking of any possible fast sources of money in order not to lose the girl because 'one of her relatives proposes her hand', as she says (claims). Borrowing is the only solution in such a crucial situation of money.

Being not used to borrow from others, he gets shy at the beginning. He may create 'tragic stories' to convince others to lend him with at least a written receipt of giving back the money in a certain period of time.

While preparing for the party, he is asked to bring 'the rings'. He may go to the same person to borrow more money for the rings.

Out of the engagement party, he

gets only a 'cup of juice' to drink only some of it as a matter of 'prestige'. The party finishes with love and affection that make him forget everything about all these.

Starting thinking about the final stage-'marriage', he is faced with a list if not 'lists' of demands which are essential according to his 'mother in law'. The list seems to include simple things like clothes, some gold, the wedding dress, ornament materials, etc. Here he decided to delay the marriage so that he can get a chance to collect money.

He works. This is the only option. But he must work double hours this time because the faster he collects money the earlier he will get married otherwise the dowry would increase due to the raise of the 'exchange rate of foreign currencies'.

Sometimes, the time period to collect the money is not enough. He thinks of faster means. Selling his father's 'piece of land' or his 'mother's gold' is a good idea to him. He must be learnt from the proposal and engagement to keep extra money for any other demand in the marriage process.

The wedding hall, musical band, the party sweets and drinks, the bride's gifts, the hotel rent and other things are essential, according to the parents.

To his surprise, a new demand of social importance is asked. It is the money of the bride's maternal and paternal uncles. Here the bridegroom wishes if such uncles had already 'died' or not born at all.

The wedding day finally comes. The party in the hall together with wedding tour around the city with hand-clippings, and singing makes him somehow forget the troubles he has passed through, thinking that no more demands and conditions are to be asked. The hotel is the last place of the tour. Getting into the room, he thinks there would be nothing more than love, of course, in words and deeds. But, the story of demands is still running with a very special demand that he can not escape for its religious significance.

Actually I can not go in details regarding this demand since I 'fortunately' have no experience. 'But it is said' that the bridegroom is 'stopped' to do anything unless he pays money for that under the term 'Sedaq' or 'Futasha' in the Yemeni term. No way to convince his 'lovely bride' at such a time since she convincingly thinks that this money is according to the Islamic Shariah.

It is in this stage, the Islamic instructions are to be followed. One just wonders where such Islamic instructions are when the lists of demands asked one after another. Do they forget our prophet's Hadieth that instructs parents to accept men of good morals with a dowry of a metal ring? Such things daily take place in our society and at the same time the society complain against the spinsterhood which do lead to many negative social and moral consequences.

Marriage has become as an investment chance and, I hope, it was included in the investment conference, which was held by the government several days ago. It must be taken through the mind's eye either according to the Islamic norms, or as a new chance for investment.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

Ahmed and his uneducated parents

By: Abdullah Al-Nahdi
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In the past there was a small village, it was located in the middle of a big valley. That village was repressed from most necessary needs, electricity, communications, and so on. There was a small bower contained three people Ahmed and his uneducated parents. Their life was so simple. The father was working in his farm and the mother too. The farm was their only living source. Ahmed was loved too much by his parents, and their most care was just to offer him whatever he needed. They have just lonely dream which is seeing their alone son as educated man in the future. The days passed and Ahmed had been grown. He finished his elementary school, but he didn't stop in that educational stage as his friends. The elementary school was the highest educational stage to be reached there. All guys there did not

even think about secondary school except one.

Ahmed was the one who was supported by his parents to reach it. The secondary school wasn't far from the village, but for his parents it was so difficult to allow their son go out from the village even to that little far school. Nevertheless, they had to do it, no other choice.

Ahmed carried his bag in his first day, and then he left home with his mother's prayers. All people were saying good bye to Ahmed as he was traveling abroad. At school Ahmed adjusted very well with every thing around him. While he was coming back home, he stopped on a hill looking to his village and he was wondering "who can I discuss with about my new subjects when ever I want, who can help me whenever I have math problem, how I can study in the evening with out electricity" at that moment he remembered those two persons who work the whole day under

the hot sun rays and pain at night to offer this chance to him. He moved his head up to the sky while the wafts were razing his tears from his cheeks and thanked his god for giving him these kind parents.

Ahmed hadn't finishrd his high school, but it was his last year. In that very quite night where the moon was chaining, since it was the only light source in that vallige, Ahmed was lying in his room looking to the moon through the window. He was meditating ,but some thing else intrupted him. It was a crying sound . He tried to find out where the sound was coming from. He looked out through the widow ,but it was coming from the opposite side from inside the house. Ahmd opened his room's door and followed the sound which was getting high while his legs were getting heavy.

He went downstairs. Suddenly, he saw someone setting in the stairs. It was his mother, she was covering her

Petra: A world wonder...but not for the reasons one would think

By: Craig Anderson

The Taj Mahal? The Great Wall of China? The Pyramids? Human innovations of quite exceptional beauty they unquestionably are, but are they deserving of my vote? Or perhaps more importantly, are they deserving of YOUR vote?

In my case, I'm afraid they're not, for it's the ancient ruins of Petra in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that win my unequivocal vote in the forthcom-

ing competition to decide upon the seven 'new' wonders of the world (www.new7wonders.com).

The colors of this "Rose red city, half as old as time" indeed exceed all superlatives when the afternoon sun pours light upon its innumerable facades. The sense of history hangs heavy in the air as you trace Nabatean, Roman and even Indiana Jones' steps along the Siq (the narrow canyon-esque entrance to the city), anticipating your first glimpse of the famed Treasury building of many a tourist brochure. However, it wasn't this, nor the natural drama of its location, the sheer extent of the city or the incredible level of preservation of its monuments that clinched my vote for Petra. No, my vote was won by its Bedouins.

Now, I'm not entirely sure whether the touts, guides and ticket-sellers of a place constitute the normal criteria for judging its merits, but the Bedouins of Petra are such a resourceful bunch that their role in anyone's visit to Petra can't be underestimated.

"One dinar, mister! Cheap as

chips!" she bellowed at the slightly too large tourist straddling the slightly too small donkey up the more than slightly precarious gorge. The mention of dinars ought to have been an instant giveaway, but unlike the decidedly uninterested, even pained, expression on this visitor's face, for a moment I had to wonder where I was – a London market or the 2,000-year-old ruins of Petra.

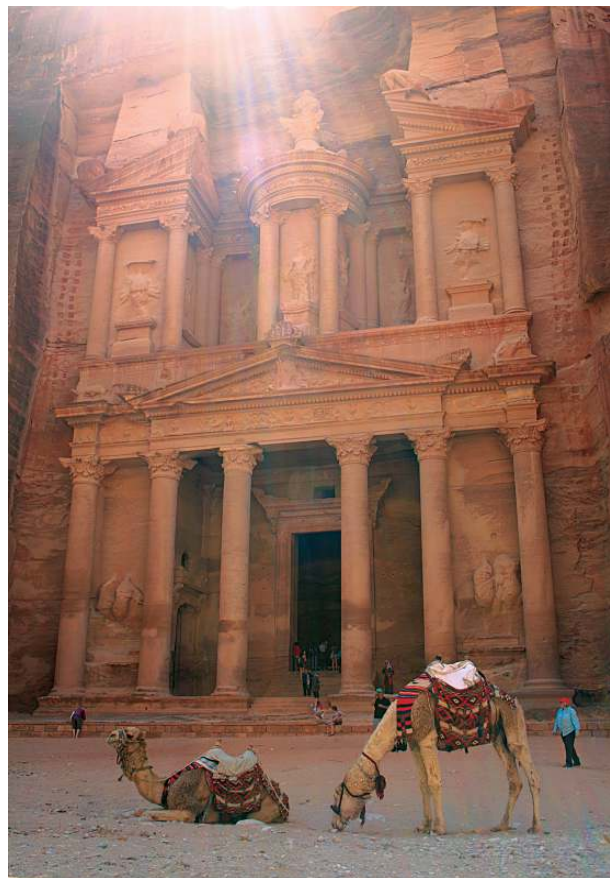
A subsequent cry of "Air-conditioned taxi, sir?!" further confused my bearings as a young boy proudly advertised his donkey's taxiing services, keen for it to haul one shawarma-filled tourist after another along various rocky precipices.

And then there were the girls beckoning from some distant peak with cries of "Tea?! You want tea?!" – offers which, even if you were dying for a cuppa, would leave you quite literally dying once you'd scaled the peak from which they were calling and, more importantly, the tea would be cold.

Despite having been exiled from their cave dwellings to a decidedly less appealing village location some 30 years ago, the Bedouins of Petra, extracted largely from the Bdoul tribe, nevertheless remain a resolutely enterprising race of men and women.

From the camel owners able to spot a pair of weary foreign legs from a mile off, to the children selling Nabatean artifacts – whether they be 2,000 years old or circa 2005 – you'll find yourself unable to separate your memories of the imposing Petra Monastery or the view from the Nabatean High Place of Sacrifice from whichever Bedouin it was who was with you at the time.

Their often comical and enterprising ways unquestionably are a wonder, but are they and their rock-hewn home a wonder of the world? I know I certainly think so.



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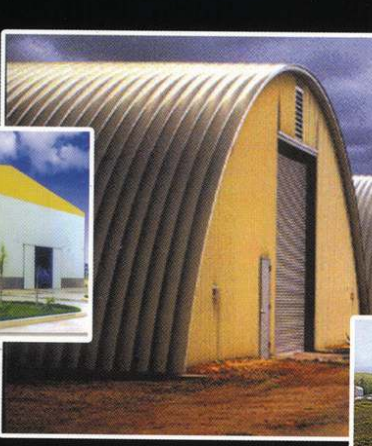


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Education

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No. 15

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Improve Your English: 303

I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (95) Thank you, teacher! (III)

Teacher is an embodiment of love, a symbol of compassion, and an unfailing treasure house of qualities of head and heart that the learners love to emulate.

- Thoughtful, esteemable, admirable, caring, humble, encouraging, respectable... Some of the qualities which set you apart, dear teacher!
- For you, dear teacher, a warm note of thanks for all the lessons you've taught... for making us differentiate between the right and the wrong, for teaching us how to gain, in wisdom and in grace, for being a source of inspiration in every walk of life, for standing beside and for offering unconditional support and guidance. It's a perfect opportunity to bring together all the big and small favors that you've done and to be truly thankful for your presence in life, as it really means a lot.
- For a teacher who's a guide and a constant source of inspiration to everyone. You make each moment of the time spent with you a new learning experience, with the way you've of making us understand.
- For all the times you've listened with understanding, guided with patience and wisdom, and given so much of yourself, this comes with a world of love and thanks to you, dear teacher!
- Dear teacher! Your way of making things look better than what they actually are, is what makes you the best teacher ever...

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- They asked me to go swimming with them, but I didn't want.
- The sorry boy apologized to his teacher.
- She asked the opposite man the time.
- You are asking me to do a very impossible job.
- Bill Gates is absolutely rich.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- There are a number of reasons I don't like him, but his meanness is the main **one**.
- The car's in good condition. They told **me** so at the garage (or They told me at the garage.) (We can use *tell + so* after an object ('me') referring to a person.)
- Nobody **else** seemed to enjoy Abdullah's singing – but I did.
- Amal was late, as I predicted she might **be**.
- 'Will you see Marwa when you're in Moscow?' 'Yes, I hope to' ('Yes, I hope so.' Is also possible.)

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Moods or weather often changing
- Slender thread of wire in an electric bulb
- Of a son or daughter
- Member of a legislature who tries to prevent passage of a bill making long speeches.
- Ornamental lace-like work of gold, silver, or copper ware

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Person who has committed a serious crime: **felon**(n)
- Movement for recognition of claims of women's rights: **feminism** (n)
- Place where there is a boat or aircraft that carries people or goods across a river, channel, etc: **ferry** (n)
- Man (woman) to whom one is engaged to be married: **fiancé** (n)
- Complete failure, breakdown, in something attempted: **fiasco** (n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following

- present, presentation
- contrast, contradiction
- cloth, clothing
- put, keep
- ability, capacity

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- last** (adj) (coming after all others in time or order): December is the last month of the year.
latest (n) (the most recent news, fashion, or example): What is the latest about the election results?
- spatial** (adj) (in relation to space): The university is considering the spatial aspect of its expansion proposal.
special (adj) (not common, usual, or general): The President will grace the function as a special guest.

- smile** (n) (happy expression on the face): She greeted me with a smile.
laugh (v) (make sounds, and movements of the face, showing joy): The jokes made everyone in the class laugh.
- warrantee** (n) (person to whom a warranty is made): The warrantee can claim his money back if there is a manufacturing defect.
warranty (n) (authority or guarantee): The dealer gave warranty of quality in respect of the article.
- voter** (n) (person who votes): The candidate tries to influence voters in his favor.
votary (n) (person who devotes his time and energy to religious work and service): He is a votary of peace.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

i. Synonyms

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

- frisk**
a) fry b) fly
c) gamble d) gambol
- genre**
a) giant b) birth
c) style d) gear
- histrionic**
a) past b) events
c) patriotic d) theatrical
- ingenuous**
a) skillful b) intelligent
c) artless d) genus
- ideograph**
a. symbol b. data
c. opinion d. imagination

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. dissipate | to dispel |
| 2. ecstasy | exalted feeling |
| 3. effeminate | womanish |
| 4. expedite | to hasten |
| 5. fictitious | unreal |

ii) Antonyms

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

- legendary**
a) ahistorical b) mythical
c) practical d) none of these
- lament**
a) rejoice b) deplore
c) cry d) complain
- loyalty**
a) consultancy b) perfidy
c) allegiance d) dishonesty
- misgiving**
a) assurance b) presence
c) doubt d) understanding
- momentous**
a) heavy b) short-lived
c) frivolous d) timely

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. imply | declare |
| 2. impulsive | heedful |
| 3. infringement | compliance |
| 4. kernel | husk |
| 5. keen | dull |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a) woolen b) wollen
c) wolen d) woollen
- a) carry b) cary
c) carie d) cury
- a) abandon b) abandone
c) abandon d) abaendon
- a) abbie b) abey
c) abbey d) abbie
- a) abriviate b) abbreviate
c) abbreviat d) abbreviate

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- unforgettable
- utilize
- vacuum
- violent

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following in sentences

- as thin as a rake
- make the grade
- see the last of
- lock the stable door after the horse has bolted
- a wild goose chase

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- go off at half-cock** (to be unsuccessful as a result of a lack of preparation): Our aim of winning the final match went off at half-cock due to the coach's wrong planning.
- the fat is in the fire** (trouble can be expected): The fat is in the fire now that his secret plan is made known.
- put off the evil hour** (to postpone something unpleasant): We should inform him about the bad news – there's no use in putting off the evil hour any longer.
- scratch the surface** (to deal with only a very small part of a problem): The father temporarily settled the issue but his advice barely scratched the surface of the long-standing disputes among the brothers.
- put a good face on it** (to pretend to be happy when it is not really true): I'm putting a good face on it, but in reality I can't stand the sight of him.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Match the sentences below with the meanings they express

- I remembered to post the letter
- I remembered posting the letter
- I reminded you to post the letter
- I remember you posting the letter
- I forgot to post the letter
- I've forgotten posting the letter

Meanings

- I didn't post the letter
- I told you to post the letter
- I recall that you posted the letter
- I recall that I posted the letter
- I didn't forget to post the letter
- I posted the letter, but I don't recall it

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions among/between

- Most of the runners finished **between** 10.00 and 10.30.
- The pickpocket was walking around **among** the people in the theatre.
- The hunter shot the crocodile right **between** the eyes.

false / artificial

- The police made a number of **false** accusations against him.
- Not long ago many people had **artificial** teeth by the time they were forty.
- This jam is made of purely natural products and there are no **artificial** ingredients.

make/do

- Could you **do** me a favor, please?
- Please don't **make** a fuss about food.
- Why haven't you **done** your homework?

B. Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
121: LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions 120 BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP

Beauty is a concept defined as 'qualities that give pleasure to the senses (especially the eye and ear) or to the moral sense or the intellect and lift up the mind or spirit.' Physical beauty, charm or gracefulness like a blossom is merely an external manifestation, and in that sense skin deep or shallow. It is a purely subjective or personal impression and as Lew Wallace says is "altogether in the eye of the beholder." One may appear charming to one person and may not be so to another. Physical beauty is ephemeral or transitory like the charm of a beautiful flower which fades away soon. But beauty, in the real sense of the term, is the radiance of truth, the fragrance of goodness. It refers to moral beauty and strength. Sappho rightly says "What is beautiful is good, and who is good will soon also be beautiful." The Romantic poet John Keats echoes this idea in his famous lines: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty..." So, while physical beauty has the depth of our skin, beauty coupled with bounty is sustainable.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Whatever ye speak, speak justly, even if a near relative is concerned; and fulfil the covenant of Allah. Thus doth He command you, that ye may remember: S6:A152

VI. Food for Thought

"We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are."

The Talmud

Language features: Implications for teaching and learning



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Human language is a system meant, mainly, for communication. With the passage of time, human needs develop and change. As a result, human system of communication develops and changes. This evolution of human communication system (language) is characterized by several features. While discussing language features, Jean Aitchison¹ made it clear that acquiring language by human children is the same across the world irrespective of where it is spoken or to which language family it belongs. It is also said that "... all languages express the same meanings, but with differing structural realizations"². Knowledge of the process of language acquisition is necessary for all teachers of foreign languages in order to make teaching and learning the target language as natural as the acquisition of the learner's mother tongue. This article will discuss some language features and their implications to the classroom. It will also provide examples to make it possible for the teacher of English to apply some of these features in their English classes.

1. Naming Insight: It is said that human beings started their language by naming people, animals, objects and things. This supports the idea that language began

with nouns which are considered to be primary in the evolution of language. That is why our children start their language by naming things related to their basic needs, e.g. milk, mum, doll, etc. Based on this feature, many English text books are designed for children or beginners.

In the classroom, the teacher can start by naming things to children. Later, the teacher can use nouns as a communicative device for his/her beginner learners. For example, a grocery or shopping list can be used to develop communicative interactions in the classroom context. At a later stage, the teacher can shift into introducing nouns which can be used as verbs.

Examples:

- can [n.] – John canned the tuna .
- bag [n.] _Ali bagged the clothes.
- bug [n.] _ Jim bugged the microphones.

2. Doing or describing actions and events: This is a second step after the naming stage that human babies go through. Obviously, verbs are of great importance; they coexist with nouns to express percepts, events and actions which involve change in the surrounding environment. Any sentence in any language should have at least one verb. In the process of language acquisition children start attaching verbs to nouns in the two-word utterances stage.

Examples:

- 'mummy go'
- 'doll sleep'
- 'I drink'

This gradation in child language development can be transferred to the formal context of learning a second or foreign language where we can start with simple and easy forms, especially with beginners.

Continued on page 2

The importance of teaching translation in the Yemeni Universities



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Literature, linguistics and ELT are major branches in teaching languages. Translation is a branch of linguistics, so the Yemeni universities teach English-Arabic translation as courses in the colleges of Arts or Education and as separate departments in some universities especially in M.A. program.

It is no denying the fact that translation has become a social phenomenon. We need translation to understand others and be understood as well. Most of the companies, banks, firms, factories, associations, organizations, etc. need translation to fulfill their transactions when they deal with foreigners. Because of these reasons and such others, the need for skillful translators is increasingly felt.

As a researcher in this field, I am convinced that it is not easy to find the required number of competent translators in the Yemeni market. If we want to

ensure a team of skillful English-Arabic translators and interpreters, the university programs must run up teaching different courses on translation, focusing on the important branches that serve the people and are congruent with the needs of different sectors of the society such as mass media translation, educational translation, scientific translation, literary translation, legal translation, etc.

No nation can develop scientifically and intellectually without translation. We need to translate the works of the foreign scientists, authors, novelists, poets, etc. in order to enrich ourselves by them. Nowadays, some Yemeni university students find it difficult to read and understand references in English. Sometimes they give these references to English specialists to be translated. Most of these translators try to escape translating such scientific terms. Some of them translate literally with the result that are misleading.

Translation is both theory and practice, so what the translator needs is a good theoretical background on translation and good practice. Students of translation must take texts from different fields and be trained to translate with their supervisors and well-experienced translators. Teaching in this regard must focus on the practical sides in so far as translation is an art and craft at the same time. Moreover, if we want to teach someone how to swim, it is better to take him to the sea directly and put him into water rather than give him a book to read about swimming.

ELT Panorama

Book Review

Richard Wright as a Protest Writer: A Re-evaluation

“I did not embrace insurgency through open choice.”



Reviewed by
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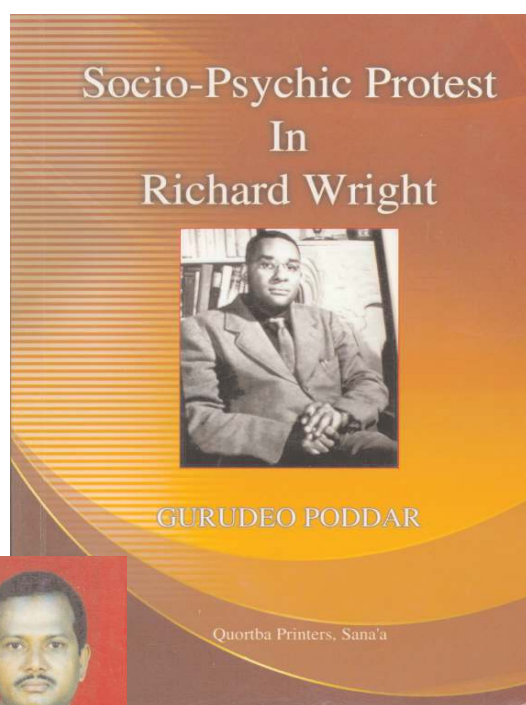
A Guggenheim Fellowship in 1939 enabled Richard Nathaniel Wright (1908-1960) to complete his novel *Native Son* which is considered a monumental achievement in the world of fiction. The novel earned Wright the “reputation as a protest writer who dared to expose the stresses and pathologies of the urban ghettos” and in addition to that “both critical acclaim and commercial success simultaneously.” A masterpiece, his *Black Boy*, published in 1945, prompted Ralph Ellison to greet Wright as a “black boy singing lustily as he probes his own grievous wounds” and predicted that the book would “do much to redefine the problem of the Negro and American Democracy” (Gates Jr., Henry Louis & Nellie Y. McKay Eds., 1997: 1377-79).

Dr Poddar's book *Socio-Psychic Protest in Richard Wright* is also an attempt at redefinition of the problems of the Negro in American Democracy in terms of different nuances of the protest through Wright's quest for vision. In the 'Foreword' to the book it has been rightly remarked by Professor D.Thakur of Richard Wright's “unalloyed vision which projects” itself in his literary works “in terms of dynamic togetherness of truth, goodness and beauty.” Commenting on the “measure of creativity” in Richard Wright's novels he further states, “One feels that the novelist is putting his characters through such vicarious experiences of life – high and low, simple and complex – that they, at last, have to withdraw into themselves to find out the way best suited to them and to their Protest” (iv). The book deals with, as Dr Poddar acknowledges in the ‘Preface’, “the profundity and seriousness of the protest” and the different aspects of this protest have been presented before the reader after having analyzed “the subterranean world which [Wright] creates in each of his fictional works” (xiii-iv).

The first chapter, “The Voice of Protest”, begins with the famous lines from Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*

(“It was the best of times....”) commenting on the contradictions which were there during the time the “black race found itself segregated as a new class of black minority” (1). This chapter outlines the “artistic protest[s]” (9) which were shaped by the works of African American writers beginning with Jupiter Hammon. The list of “protest writers –major and minor” (23) provided in this chapter is very exhaustive and draws from the writings of the famous African American authors up to Countee Cullen. It quotes generously and appositely from the representative works. For example, Claude McKay's famous sonnet “If We Must Die” has been quoted in full and Langston Hughes's “I, Too” is quoted along with extracts from his essay. Summarizing the literature of slavery and freedom, literature of the Reconstruction to the New Negro Renaissance, and the Harlem Renaissance it surveys the “bumpy, crusty road that Richard Wright was bound to move” (24).

Quoting from the creative and critical writings of Wordsworth and Coleridge and showing the influence of Sherwood Anderson, Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, George Moore, Mark Twain, Baudelaire, Stendhal, Turgenev, and T. S. Eliot on Wright, Dr Poddar demonstrates in the second chapter: “The Quest for Vision”, that Wright's quest for vision was linked with “his search for the right expression” (37). Undeniably, his short stories, as Dr Poddar comments “can be said to be the first artistic creation which gave a mature and concrete shape to his vision” (43). It is worthy to mention here that in his short story “The Man Who Lived Underground” (1945) Wright created a discourse of “invisibility” of the blacks in American society and this inspired Ralph Allison to continue this further in his famous novel *Invisible Man* (1952). The following lines from Allison's novel will clarify the point: “I am invisible... simply because people refuse to see me”....I am neither dead nor in a state of suspended animation. Call me Jack-the Bear, for I am in a state of hiberna-



Gurudeo Poddar

tion.” (quoted in Gates Jr., Henry Louis & Nellie Y. McKay Eds., 1997: 1518-1519). We find the echo of this in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* (1977) when Tayo, the protagonist feels invisible, “The new doctor asked him if he had ever been visible, and Tayo spoke to him softly and said that he was sorry but nobody was allowed to speak to an invisible one.”“The sun was dissolving the fog and one day Tayo heard a voice answering the doctor. The voice was saying, ‘He can't talk to you. He is invisible. His words are formed with an invisible tongue, they have no sound.’” (15) The memories of the life he spent as an American soldier in the Philippines at the time of the World War II haunt him, “They sent me to this place after the war. It was white. Everything in that place was white. Except for me. I was invisible.” (123) (Emphasis added). One can also read the counter-discourse on this “narrative of hibernation” in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* (1977) when Milkman, Morrison's protagonist defines his own identity unlike the invisible protagonists of Wright and Ellison whose identity is shaped by how other people define them (Prasad: 2005).

The third chapter is a detailed analysis of Wright's fictional world - *Lawd Today: A paradigm of introverted protest, Native Son: A psychosomatic protest, The Outsider: An existential protest, and Long Dream: Dream of protest* – forming the basis of Dr Poddar's conclusion of the total signif-

icance (the final chapter) of Wright as a crusader fighting against poverty, racial discrimination, and the oppressive monolithic discursive practices of his time. Wright was the first African American writer to explore profoundly the problems of identity of his community “by rejecting the ‘decadent aestheticism’ of Harlem renaissance writers and by turning to the ‘nourishing’ formula of Marxism and social protest”. In so doing he established “for African American writing “a center of gravity” (Gates Jr., Henry Louis & Nellie Y. McKay Eds., 1997: 1321). His influence can be seen on James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Malcolm X, Toni Morrison and Maya Angelou, and even on Leslie Marmon Silko, a famous Native American author. Significantly, Dr Poddar's book is a re-evaluation of the different tones and shades of the Protest delineated in the novels of Wright, hitherto only referred to as “perhaps the highest form of ‘social protest’” (Ibid).

Besides, the book reflects the comparative vision of its author, Dr Poddar, the way he has compared and contrasted Wright's intellectual outlook and his literary, social and artistic consciousness with those of some of the most significant writers of World Literature like Shakespeare, Swift, Jane Austen Dostoyevsky, Emile Bronte, Dickens, D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, Sartre, and Camus. While discussing the existential protest of Cross, the protagonist of Wright's *The Outsider*, he brings out similarities with those of Mersault, the central character in Camus's *The Stranger*. In the same way, he traces the influence of Shakespeare's *King Lear* on Wright's *Native Son* by cogently comparing the psychological states of King Lear and “Wright's heroes” whose protest “does not have the same intensity as those of King Lear yet the unconscious parallelism adds to Wright's protest a new dimension” (67).

The book is a commendable step on the part of Dr Poddar as he has “served the academic and literary world well” (‘Foreword’, v). The publisher deserves to be thanked for an impressive lay out of the book, and also for bringing out the book with only a few typographical mistakes (on pages 5, 9, 14, 17, & 25). Dr Poddar has successfully dealt with the theme of protest in the novels of Richard Wright whose life resembled a typical American success myth – “from his impoverished and educationally barren early years to his achievement as a favored literary touchstone.”

Gurudeo Poddar, *Socio-Psychic Protest in Richard Wright*, Sana'a: Quortaba Printers, 2005, Paperback, Pp 158

A letter to the learners of English: 4
Where to learn English?

Prof. M.N.K. Bose
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Dear learner friends,

Doesn't the question look silly? The answer is obvious. In the classroom, I asked this question to a set of students and their answer was the same. Then I asked them ‘where else do you learn English?’ They started thinking. In fact this is my question I would ask and try to answer in this letter. Is classroom the only place for learning English? What about those who learn on their own, for example, through the distance mode or in the open learning system? I suppose you are aware of these alternative systems of learning. Though they are not popular in Yemen, some institutions are attempting to offer education through these alternative systems. You can learn very many things sitting at home on your own. Such systems are very helpful to women especially in Yemen who wouldn't like to go out to learn and we will talk about them later. Even if you are not a student of distance education, you don't learn only in your classroom.

In fact, learning begins at the cradle and ends at the grave. May be you wonder if there are places in Yemen outside the classroom for learning English. Yes, there are. What about the school or college campus outside the

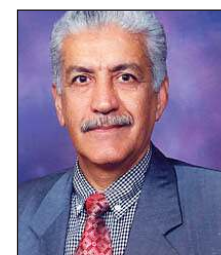
classroom? Don't you see anything in English in the school campus? I have seen in several schools charts in English on the walls of the school. You read them when you pass by them, don't you? Students in colleges do hear a lot of English in the Departments. of English. I was pleased to see on the door of the Departments of English in one of the Faculties in Taiz a notice carrying “Speak only in English here”. Even otherwise many students in my Faculty, boys and girls, speak to the teachers, Indian and Yemeni, in English. An attempt to learn English, isn't it? The more you use English, the better and faster you learn English.

Come out of the school and college. You see a lot of shops displaying their names in English, of course the names are Arabic too. Some of them have mistakes, sometimes funny ones! I once saw in Ibb a board with the name ‘Beast Restaurant’; what is meant is ‘Best Restaurant’, but the mistake makes sense, doesn't it, as it serves meat. You can notice these mistakes and learn from them too, correcting them yourselves and telling to correct, if possible. A ‘pharmacy’ is spelt as ‘farmacy’, the way we pronounce the word.

And there are other resources such as newspapers and TV channels. The ‘Yemen Times’, with a view to helping you, offers a page, called Youth/Fun page every Thursday for you to contribute and benefit from; read and write to the page. Listen to English broadcast on the Yemen TV everyday and you will see your English improving. Good luck!

Be glad to share with
others what you've learnt.
Yours affectionately,
Dr M N K Bose

Case study in research method



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Research case study is an empirical inquiry which investigates a contemporary phenomenon in-depth within real life contexts. Social scientists have made use of this qualitative research method to provide the foundations for application of ideas and extension of methods.

The researcher focuses on the study by forming questions about the situation or situations or problem or problems to determine a purpose for its study. The research area in a case study is a program, a person, a group of people, a community which requires a study or consideration from the social, political, economic, historical point of view. In this case, it requires wide ranging possibilities for questions.

Case study research answers one or more questions that start with “Why” or “How” that target a limited number of conditions or events taking into considerations their inter-relations. The researcher investigates indepth the case study employing a variety of data gathering methods to produce evidence leading to understanding of the case and answering the case study questions.

Researchers use case study methods with success in carefully planned and crafted studies of real life situations, issues and problems. In the case study researches one should focus on the following steps:

- Determine and specify the research questions
- Select the cases and determine data gathering and analysis techniques.
- Prepare to collect the data.
- Collect data in the field.
- Evaluate and analyze the data.
- Prepare the report.

Literature review is very essential to

study the questions of the problem put for discussion and study. It is significant for the researcher to determine the approaches to be used in his selection of single or multiple real-life cases to examine the problem. In using multiple cases, each case is to be treated as a single case. The outcomes can be used as information to the whole study. The study should cover a variety of geographic regions, a variety of parameters and a variety of communities. Data gatherings must be qualitative and quantitative to answer the research questions. A number of instruments could be employed in gathering of data such as interviews, observations, surveys.

The variations in places, people and procedures help to reach the findings easily. The investigator training program covers the basic concepts of the study, terminology, processes and methods, it also teaches the investigators how to properly apply the techniques used in the study. In addition, the program trains investigators to understand how the gathering of data using multiple techniques strengthens the study by providing opportunities for triangulation during the analysis phase of the study. It is important for the investigators to be good listeners to those who they interview. The investigators should be smart in asking their questions and interpret answers. They should review the documents carefully looking for facts. They should be flexible in real life situations. They must be open to contrary findings and be aware that they are going into the world of real human beings who may be threatened or unsure of what the case study will bring.

In case study, researchers must get sufficient training to select a pilot site and conduct a pilot test using each data to study the problematic area. They need to anticipate key problems, identify key people and establish rules for accountability.

The object of the case study is to identify the casual factors relevant to the observed phenomenon. Field notes are important because they record feelings, pose questions and document the work in progress. They record testimonies, stories, and illustrations which are useful in writing the report. The researcher should use a database which could be handy in his documentation and classification. The whole process is analysis and evaluation in which the researcher remains open to new opportunities and insights.

Continued from page 1

Language features: Implications for teaching and learning

3. Interchangeability: This feature means that all humans have a natural ability of sending and receiving messages. Therefore, language teachers should enable and help the learners to practise their natural ability to send messages. In other words, language learners need to be given the chance to speak most of the class time, notwithstanding the mistakes they may make.

4. Flexibility: This feature is evident in the availability of adpositions (words used before or after nouns) in language. In other words, some languages have prepositions (e.g. English and Arabic), while some other have postpositions (e.g. Hindi). Flexibility in human language lies in the fact that many different ideas can be expressed by a limited number of prepositions.

Examples:
at 3 o'clock in the city
at home in trouble
at a glance in progress
at a stretch in touch with
etc. etc.

Being aware of this feature, the teacher may help his/her students utilize whatever they know to express other new ideas without requiring more efforts.

4. Generativity: It means that language is a rule-governed system. By a set of finite rules, humans can generate and produce countless number of sentences. They can also generate and recognize any sentence which they have never uttered or seen before. This feature is said to be related to the generative nature of human cognition. An awareness of this feature is necessary for the teacher when dealing with the learners of the target language. S/he should know that generativity is not a result of a mere repetition or imitation of certain structures. Rather, it results from appropriate and enough exposure to language; it develops from enough data available in the teaching /learning context. In other words, generativity can develop from learning experiences where language chunks are in use, so that language learners familiarize themselves with the target language. Consequently, language learners will start to apply their innate ability to generate and develop hierarchical structures.

Examples:
My long red new pen is expensive
My red new pen
My new pen
My pen

In the fitness of things, the classroom should provide a conducive environment for the learner to acquire the target language at ease. Language tasks should be contextualized and relevant to the learners' level and needs.

5. Meaning extension: This feature distinguishes human language from other communication systems.

Examples:
'head' is used in these senses:
head of the body
head of the tribe
head of the department

Language teachers can make use of the known to get the unknown. In other words, they can help the learner (particularly adult intermediate learners), expand and develop their language by using the language chunks they have already acquired.

6. Language structures: These are not dealt with in isolation; meaning should be taken into account while interpreting language structures.

Examples:
- For no money would Jack wash the car. (he wouldn't)
- For no money Jack would wash the

car. (he would)

In these two examples, structures seem similar, but meaning is different. This underscores the need that language teaching should be meaning-driven, i.e. contextualized and communicative tasks should be encouraged and developed; isolated and mechanical language exercises should be discouraged and avoided.

Conclusion:
To conclude, awareness of language features is necessary for the teacher in order to help his/her students learn and acquire the target language easily and efficiently. Language tasks and exercises can be designed and developed along the lines of these features. A language teacher can, therefore, be in a better position to introduce conducive learning experiences in the classroom as well as to overcome language learning difficulties.

- 1 Aitchison, J. 1996. The Seeds of Speech. London: Cambridge University Press.
- 2 White, R. V. 1988. The ELT Curriculum. Oxford: Blackwell

Arundhati Roy, most important 'in India' writer since Tagore?



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Among today's clutch of Indian writers in English, Arundhati Roy is not only unusually famous but famously unusual. She is an international best-seller, yet she lives in India and is not liable to the charges of inauthenticity frequently levelled at diasporic writers. She is seen as a regional novelist of Kerala, yet was born in 1961, not there but in Shillong (then in Assam, now in Meghalaya), to a Hindu Bengali father and Kerala Christian mother. She has written only one novel, the Booker-winning *The God of Small Things*, yet is considered a leading novelist by the critical establishment even though the rest of her work consists of two screenplays and a large body of non-fiction of a campaigning and journalistic nature.

As a scholar of Indian Writing in English (IWE) myself, I responded in the *Yemen Times* earlier this year (Issue 1021, Vol. 14, 1 February 2007) to Dr Prasanth K. Sinha's review of another book edited by Dr Prasad, *Vikram Seth's 'A Suitable Boy': An Anthology of Recent Criticism*. I am now pleased to be able to respond similarly to Dr Sharma's review of the volume *Arundhati Roy: Critical Perspectives* (which I did not contribute to as such, but did participate in as one of the peer-readers). It consists of a brief foreword by postcolonial guru Bill Ashcroft, a long introduction by Dr Prasad, nine essays on Roy (including one by the editor), an interview with Roy from 2001 (reprinted from *Frontline*), and an extensive bibliography. One of the contributors, Antonia Navarro-Tejero, of Córdoba (Spain), is also the author of a full-length study of Roy and Githa Hariharan. Like Dr Sharma, I applaud the quality and utility of this volume for those studying, teaching or simply interested in Arundhati Roy. I would, however, like in this brief piece to qualify aspects of his assertions and to raise some additional points.

Dr Sharma correctly notes that 'a proper estimation of Roy's activism is still awaited', but this book certainly makes a start in that direction. There have been various critical anthologies and studies dedicated to *The God of Small Things*, but to the best of my knowledge this is the first to attempt a comprehensive coverage of both that novel and her non-fiction - notably in Murari Prasad's own essay, which ambitiously straddles the fiction / non-fiction divide. What, though, no-one in this volume attempts is a detailed comparison of Roy's non-fictional practice to that of other IWE authors. Joel Kuoritti, in an article of 2004, did compare Roy's and Rushdie's political non-fiction; but, for instance, Amitav Ghosh has produced substantial amounts of non-fiction, some of it as politically engaged as the anti-nuclear

Response to Dr. R.S. Sharma, 'The Mistress of English Prose' (Issue 1023, Vol. 14, 8-12 Feb 07 - review of Murari Prasad, ed., Arundhati Roy: Critical Perspectives, Delhi: Pencraft, 2006)

Countdown. Vikram Seth's *Two Lives* is also historically engaged non-fiction. Surely, more than Roy is involved here.

Dr Sharma claims that one weakness of the book is a certain narrowness, in that 'most of the essays operate within the single parameter of postcolonialism'. This is not entirely fair. As Dr Sharma does actually note himself, the more strictly political dimension is discussed, as is the feminist aspect. Aijaz Ahmad takes head-on the vexed issue of Roy's unsympathetic portrayal of Kerala communism in her novel; Antonia Navarro-Tejero's dissection of the exploitative character Chacko critiques Kerala Marxism, thus strongly diverging from Ahmad, while also offering a feminist reading with stress on subalternhood. The volume has sufficient balance.

The complex and multi-stranded content of Roy's novel is, in fact, sufficiently dealt with in the volume: what it does lack is a really substantial dis-

Alex Tickell ('these [linguistic] experiments occur in close proximity to ... Malayalam' - p. 67). There is a potential controversy here that seems worth taking up, and it would be interesting for a neutral scholar to look at Roy's stylistics closely and compare her English in detail with Malayalam usage (such a study would, though, need to be accessible to the non-Malayali reader).

Also not taken up by either book or review is the massive international popularity of Roy's novel - it is said to have sold over 4 million in over two dozen language versions - and the related issue of translation. How has *The God of Small Things* been received in, say, France, a country where much of her non-fiction has also been translated? Has the Spanish translation of her novel been received differently in Spain's European and Latin America's third-world contexts? What difficulties have Roy's translators experienced in



Arundhati Roy

cussion of its *language*. Murari Prasad himself, in 2004, did publish a paper going into that vital aspect in detail, and a similar piece would have usefully enriched this collection. As it is, Aijaz rather polemically claims in his essay that Roy is 'the first Indian writer in English where a marvellous stylistic resource becomes available for provincial, vernacular culture ... without the book reading as a translation'. He even contrasts her novel with Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*, whose English is famously pervaded by Kannada, arguing that in that book Rao 'wrote in English what could easily have been written in another Indian language' (pp. 40-41). This clashes with the widely-held view that *The God of Small Things* is comparably pervaded by Malayalam inflections, as represented in this volume by

rendering her very particular brand of English, and what strategies have they used to get its flavour across?

There, a whole slew of issues remain to be resolved. Meantime, the contributor Amitava Kumar reminds us that Arundhati Roy has become 'perhaps the most important writer in India familiar to the West since Rabindranath Tagore' (p. 31). She remains an 'in India' writer though so many have chosen diasporic hybridity. The very special status of her writing is vindicated by both Dr Prasad's excellent compilation and Dr Sharma's very judicious review. And yet, in response to the questions her work raises, perhaps the best the critic can do is recall the finale of *The God of Small Things*, and echo Roy's own moving one word of closure, 'Tomorrow'.

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The debate continues, the mystery persists Who wrote Shakespeare?



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Since the publication of "a strongly pro-Oxfordian piece" in the *New York Times* (February 10, 2002), the claim for the 17th Earl of Oxford as the likely author of Shakespeare's works has got a substantial boost and considerable endorsement. While the Stratfordians (supporters of William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon) have dismissed the Oxfordians' (supporters of the 17th Earl of Oxford) contention as "the unsupported fringe belief", the latter have argued their point with immense vehemence and circumstantial evidence. In this context, an article published in *Yemen Times* ("William Shakespeare and his Challengers", 25 April 2005) has evoked a measure of response. It is an opportune moment to tie up these responses with William Shakespeare's date of birth (also the date on which he passed away, 23 April 1564-23 April 1616)).

Here is Willard Ron Hess, the author of a significant book in support of the 17th Earl of Oxford, the latest candidate for the Shakespearean works:

Dear Dr. Murari Prasad:

I read your very interesting pro-Oxfordian article in the *Yemen Times* (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SOS4Ever/message/41>) after a friend forwarded it to our Oxfordian community. Welcome to you as an Oxfordian, in intellectual honesty if not in dues-paying membership. I've written several books in a series, "The Dark Side of Shakespeare," which can be read for free online via instructions on my webpage (this needs a bit of updating, particularly about my forthcoming Volumes IIIA, IIIB, & IIIC). I'd appreciate getting some feedback from you and your students after you've read through my webpage.

You'll likely find most interesting my arguments that the 17th Oxford's trips to Belgium, France, and Italy from 1574 to 76 were part of a larger mission to encounter, beguile, befuddle, and then destroy Europe's most dangerous war-man, Don Juan of Austria, the "Victor of Lepanto," who in 1573 had been ordered in a Papal Bull to take his fleet from Naples to invade England, free Mary Queen of Scots from her English imprisonment.

The authorship question regarding the works attributed to William Shakespeare is far from settled.



Edward de Vere (right), the 17th Earl of Oxford, is the strongest contender to the authorship of Shakespeare's works, after the Bard of Avon (left).



put Mary on the throne of England, marry her, and thus make himself King of England. Then I show that Don Juan as inspiration for characters and situations appears to have been inserted into each and every Shakespeare play. And that would have been strange indeed for plays first emerging in 1594 to 1623, since Don Juan died (or was poisoned) in October 1578 just as he was preparing to invade England from Belgium, and later bogeymen, like his nephew the Duke of Parma, took his place in the English topicality. I argue that only someone like Oxford, who'd encountered and abused Don Juan, visited places like Milan and Sicily that were in Don Juan's governorship, could have had such a fascination with the quickly forgotten war-man.

**Sincerely yours,
W. Ron Hess**

<http://home.earthlink.net/~beorn-shall/index.html>
BeornsHall@earthlink.net

Another Shakespearean scholar 'intrigued' by the YT article is Richard M Waugaman. He writes:

Dear Prof. Prasad

I was intrigued to read in your 2005 article on Shakespeare and his Challengers in the *Yemen Times* that there is a "US-Aussie grant of \$170,000 to develop computer software capable of analyzing" authorship questions. I have not been able to find other references to that grant. Do you happen to know what has become of it?

**Thank you
Richard M. Waugaman, M.D.
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Reader, Folger Shakespeare Library
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Further, seminars and conferences have been organized by the Shakespeare Authorship Research Centre at Concordia University to probe and resolve the issue. In response to my question pertaining to Ben Jonson's celebrated remarks on Shakespeare, "Sweet Swan of Avon", the Oxfordians have said that this evidence could apply to Oxford by asserting that Oxford owned an estate on the Avon river. While it's true that one of

the many estates Oxford inherited from his father was at Bilton on the Avon river, the Stratfordians trash the plea by saying that the Earl sold this estate in 1580 (43 years before Jonson's poem), and there is no evidence that he was ever physically present there.

Recently, Prof David Crystal has come out with a scrap of argument, though far from joining this controversy, in support of Shakespeare's school education:

"I have actually recently discovered a fragment of a school report about Shakespeare, written by his teacher in 1571, when the lad was seven:

"Some small improvement this term. Needs to work on his handwriting. Still talking in class a lot. Frivolous attitude. Seems to have an unhealthy interest in ghosts, witches, and daggers."

A forgery, do I hear you say?" ("Shakespeare and ELT")

A performance lecture originally given, with the assistance of Ben Crystal and Hilary Crystal, at IATEFL 2003, Brighton")

It remains to be seen how the Oxfordians respond to Crystal's plea once it is published. Ron Hess, in a recent email to me, hints at the upcoming intellectual sparring: "As to Prof. Crystal, let him publish his 'scrap of evidence,' since no scrap of evidence exists that Mr. Shakspeare [Shakespeare] ever attended any educational institution. Indeed, if you read the Cox and Detobelarticles on my webpage (articles #3 & #4), you'll see that best evidence is he didn't even know how to write. And in a town overwhelmingly illiterate, in a family where everyone (parents, wife, children) 'signed with their mark,' nobody should be given the presumption of literacy, should they?"

So far the Oxfordians' contention has been derided as "factual distortion" fabulously concocted and William Niederkorn's article in the *Times*, allegedly in support of their claim, as "anti-intellectual drivel". *Yemen Times* is yet to hear back from the Stratfordians. Meanwhile, for the mainstream Shakespeareans, in the absence of decisive evidence and lack of consensus amidst the swelling tide of cantankerous spats, the Bard of Avon remains as potent as his pentameters.

ANY GUESSES?

1. What is implied by the term 'egghead'?
2. What is 'piping hot'?
3. What is 'Quin quennial'?
4. What is 'Nullipara'?
5. 'What does the expression 'between Scylla and Charybdis' mean?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. The phrase 'A fly in the ointment' refers to something that spoils an otherwise satisfactory situation! The idiom has its origin in the Bible. Its use: 'Our department colleagues are nice and cooperative. But Dr. Joohi is the only fly in the ointment.'
2. When one 'plunks oneself down', it means 'one sits or falls down hard.' for example, 'Hussein plunked down on Muhsin's lap.'
3. 'Panegyric' means 'a speech or piece of writing praising something or somebody.'
4. 'glitzy' means extravagant but superficial display of something. The word is from German 'glitzerig', which means 'glittering.'
5. The phrase 'white elephant' means a very costly possession that is worthless to its owner and only a cause of trouble. A 'white elephant' is something that the owner wants to get rid of but cannot. One wants to get rid of the object because maintaining it is very expensive.

POETRY IN TRANSLATION



Translated by: Sameer
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I find no kinship with anything;
The world is alien, the times estranged-
As if I came in an age too soon or too late.
Or perhaps in an interim.

The seasons have lost their appointed hours,
The eyes of the sun and stars their keenness;
Those who swim with the tide have come,
Sowing their words upon the waters.

Oh time with no identity,

End of death By Abdullah Al-Baraduni

When the murderer's trade is one with the physician's;
Distinctions of contraries are blotted out,
And truth's arrow forgets to hit the target.

Its own fragrance is the death of the flower;
Even the innocent dew is suspect.
The juice of the grape has lost its fervor;
Sheer terror is the sole delight.

But what now can strike terror in us?
There is nothing at all that can put us in fear;
Murder is a lust and an opiate,
Only security is held in contempt.

Killing plays the part of its own assassin:
Today it comes in a novel guise-
A mark that displays the grace of beauty.
Who now will Azad [I] give her poison to?
No one is left, she must drain her own



cup.

Earth's slumber holds the shoots of burgeoning,
The end of death is the beginning of awakening.
Here the dead become the seeds of new life.
Rain then, clouds, on whatever spot you will!

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. An instrument for measuring the intensity of electromagnetic radiation is
☐ Radiometer
☐ Actinometer
☐ Potometer
☐ Galvanometer

2. All magnetic substances lose their magnetism when
☐ subjected to heat
☐ subjected to light pressure
☐ placed in water
☐ brought near a magnetic field

3. A yellow green secretion produced by liver is called
☐ mucus
☐ pus
☐ bile
☐ bile-salts

4. Antibiotics cure diseases by
☐ competitive inhibition
☐ fighting with the disease-causing organism
☐ turning the pathogen out of the

body
☐ removing pain

5. Organic evolution through large discontinuous variation was propounded by
☐ Lamarck
☐ Darwin
☐ Hugo de Vries
☐ Mendel

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. In some of the flowers, the stamens and pistils mature at different times to ensure cross pollination. This phenomenon is known as **Dichogamy**.
2. The sweat glands in mammals are primarily concerned with **regulation of body temperature**.
3. Wildlife conservation has not only an aesthetic sense but it is also practiced for keeping **balance of nature**.
4. **Camel** is the only animal that cannot swim.
5. The total energy of an electron in an atom is always **-ve**.

EDUCATION ABOUT WORK PLACE ETHICS

Make your work place a better place

Awareness about work-place ethics, especially on the part of executives, plays a vital role in promoting a healthy work culture. The following tips would help you to enrich your work place ecology and make you a vibrant professional.

- Don't discriminate against any prospective employees, associates, consultants and clients whatever their race, color, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origins, mental or physical condition, age or marital status.
- All employees, associates and consultants should treat all clients and members of the public equally



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and will not discriminate against them on any of the above grounds.

- No reports written or verbal or any documentation issued or drafted by any of your employees, associates or consultants should contain

implied or explicit discrimination due to any of these factors.

- Establish and maintain a working environment in which recruitment and promotion within the company is based on merit.
- Provide terms and conditions, training, promotion and an objective appraisal irrespective of their personal attributes or social affiliations.
- No applicant for employment should be treated less favorably than another on any of the grounds (except where there are legal limitations, e.g. persons aged over 65 and under 18 in certain jobs).
- Ensure that selection decisions are made on ability only using objective job related criteria.
- Maintain a workforce that broadly

reflects the local community in which we operate. Monitor and analyze information from job applicants to include data relating to their racial or ethnic group, gender, marital status and disability status.

- Any acts of discrimination including harassment should be grounds for disciplinary action and any complaints raised should be handled through grievance procedure.
- Don't entertain any employee to make groups or gangs within the company of any kind whatsoever.

If the above criteria are scrupulously observed the work place will provide an ideal environment conducive to mental and professional growth of the employees.

Script your success story (2)
The art of public speaking for English language learners

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Unless you invest time and effort in improving your English, you can't make significant progress in the art of communication as communication is a skill much like swimming. If you don't get into the water and actually start swimming, your swimming skill will not improve.

Let's now consider some vital components which play a decisive role in oral communication.

Intonation is perhaps the chief means by which the speaker conveys his attitudes and emotions in oral communication. The import of an utterance does not reveal itself in any noticeable way without appropriate intonational pattern. It is not made clear to the hearer whether the speaker's attitude is one of politeness, assertiveness, concern or incredibility.

Intonation makes distinctions of attitudinal nuances to which grammar most often gives no structural clues.

The following pairs of sentences show how intonation signals the speaker's attitudes and emotions:-

- He is very good. (plain statement)
- He is very good (reservation on the part of the speaker)
- When can you come? (neither polite nor impolite)
- When can you come? (expresses politeness)
- Thank you (genuine gratitude)
- Thank you (casual)
- He'll fall (uninterested)
- He'll fall (concern)

Ability in expressing your needs, wants, opinions, feelings and beliefs in apologetic, indifferent or self-effacing ways

will help you to think creatively in English, improve your fluency and reduce your anxiety about speaking English. By rehearsing the conversations and explanations of the classroom, focusing on the professor's intonation and organization markers in your class, you might further enhance your speaking skills.

The tactics of improvement in communication and speaking skills highly depend upon your acquisition of:

- The techniques of self-enhancement
- The skills of describing yourself in positive terms
- Appropriate emotional cues
- An adequate knowledge base

In the realm of public speaking, the ultimate goal of the speaker is to elicit the expected response from the listener. Therefore, the first step to be taken care of before you plan a research or organize a presentation is to determine the precise objective of the presentation. You must have a very clear and focused objective before you begin. The following are a few tips for successful public speaking:-

1. **Know your audience:** You must have a fair idea of the intellectual level of the audience and accordingly structure out the presentation.
2. **Know your subject:** Have a command on your material. Practice and revise your speech. There should be a careful and deliberate sequential and hierarchical arrangement of thoughts.
3. **Know your goal:** You must be aware of the goal that outlines the purpose of the presentation. Focus is the key to a successful presentation.
4. **Turn nervousness into enthusiasm:** Turn your nervousness, confusion and disorder into positive energy.
5. **Gain experience:** Try to learn from your mistakes as experience builds confidence, which is the key to effective public speaking.

Public speaking is all about communicating or sharing information or streamlined expression of thoughts with a group or an individual. Thus expression of your thoughts, ideas and concerns clearly and in a lively manner will go a long way to instill and sustain the interest of your audiences.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Let's Build Up Our Vocabulary

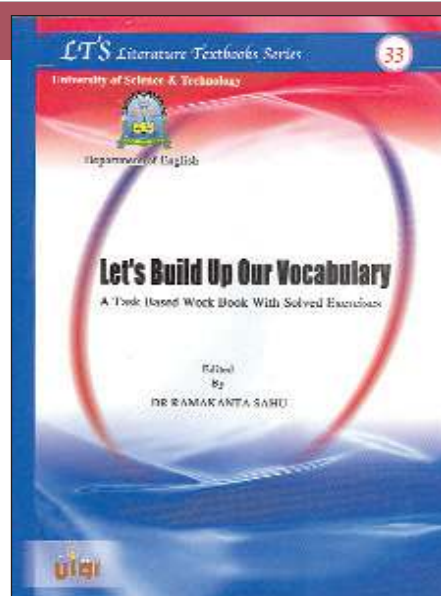
The single biggest component of any language course is vocabulary. No matter how well you learn grammar, no matter how successfully the sounds of English are mastered, without words to express a wide range of meanings, you cannot communicate in English in any meaningful way. Keeping this in view, *Let's Build Up Our Vocabulary* attempts to expose the learners to words in a number of areas which they are

expected to come across and use in their personal life and academic career. It is for students who wish to increase the range of their vocabulary and idiom in English. Some of the areas dealt with in this book are as follows:

Dictionary and its use
Words we use everyday
Conversation building
expressions
Social interactions
Time expressions
Everyday verbs
Phrasal verbs
Word groups
Right word in the right place
Specialized terms
Words often confused

Word formation
Synonyms and antonyms
Oddman out
Matching
Multiple choice questions
Collocations
Fixed expressions
Binomials
Nation and nationalities
Rules and forms of government
Animal world
Manias and phobias
Discourse devices
Formal English
American English

Three hundreds useful adjectives and 1200 useful nouns and verbs are appended to the book.

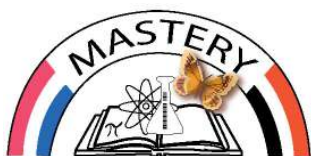


Ramakanta Sahu, *Let's Build Up Our Vocabulary*. Publishers: Awan, Sana'a, 2007. Paper back, Pp 289.

Writers may send a copy of their new publication for review in this column,

Yemeni universities' bid to reform mathematics and science teacher education

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The MASTERY project (*Mathematics and Science Teacher Education Reform in Yemen*) is the first of its type in Yemen. It held a workshop from 20-22 February 2007 at the Population Center, Sana'a University on 'Course development' to reform science education in Al-Hodeidah University, Thamar University, and Sana'a University.

This is a project like the other Dutch projects: Business Administration and General Administration at the Faculty of Commerce, Sana'a University, a recent project at the Faculty of Engineering, Taiz University, a project for vocational courses at community colleges as well as others in public Education. These projects come as a result of an agreement between Yemen and NUFFIC (a Dutch agency for developing overseas programs in the Netherlands) as well as the *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam* in the case of MASTERY to reform Science Teacher Education at the Faculties of Education in aforementioned universities. The project aims at bridging the gap between the curriculums of the ministry of education in Yemen and the Yemeni universities, in addition to other major issues, e.g. teaching practice, teaching methods, evaluation, gender balance, using labs, as well as relation between institutions. After revising the international academic standards, the MASTERY project team specified the academic standards for the new programs, taking into account the local specificity and the content matters. The

project now works on mapping of standards that lead to finalizing the number of credit hours and courses descriptions.

More than 40 participants came from the participating universities and from other educational bodies in Yemen such as the Educational Research and Development Centre, and the Education Development Centre of Sana'a University.

The Dutch experts outlined some new concepts that lead to active learning. The participants discussed the format and content of a template that includes learning objectives, learning outcomes, and realistic estimate of available time. Suggestions were made to consider topics, activities and assessment 'horizontally' in the teaching and learning plan, in a 'landscape layout'. After producing sample plans, the Dutch experts led a discussion on the follow-up work needed and submitted a blueprint to implement the new programs.

This was followed by a meeting (12 April 2007) for the three teams from the participating universities to compare the mapping of standards to the courses. There was an agreement on the standards and the number of credit hours for the programs of mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, and educational courses. This work will eventually be followed by writing the course description for level one with its implementation beginning in the coming academic year.

The number of credit hours in content for each major ranges from 72 to 78, with about 8 to 12 hours for supporting courses.



Experts at work as Dr. Sharyan looks on.

es. Since the total load varies between 126 and 132, the rest is devoted for faculty and university requirements. There will be some variation between universities, but about 90 percent agreement is expected. This work will set the stage for course profiles or descriptions that include aims, teaching methods, content, assessment methods, intended learning outcomes and references, etc.

This is to be followed by a workshop on 24-26 April 2007 at the Department of Geology, Sana'a University to check the result of the work of the teams. This working meeting also focuses on producing low cost equipment to train a large number of teachers on the use and production of low cost equipment. A number of Dutch and local experts will participate in this workshop.

The project plans to keep up its efforts

in holding many activities during this year; such as

- needs analysis in-service education (April)
- Low-cost equipment workshop (late April)
- Workshop on course manuals (May)
- Workshop on school-based practice (with the Ministry of Education) (June)
- Possible working visit of science educators outside the country to prepare for first year courses (July)
- Technicians training.

These activities are part of the program of *curriculum review and reform, staff training, and design and piloting of new teacher education courses*. Through these processes, the project hopes to improve the quality, relevance and effectiveness of the training of science and mathematics teachers. The project is designed to implement new science teacher education programs that will give student teachers the knowledge and skills to teach the secondary school pupils according to the new secondary school science curriculum. It tries to increase the service capability of the Faculties of Science at the participating universities through curriculum development, technician training and provide equipment for updated laboratories. The final stage of the project will produce a plan to extend the project to other Yemeni universities.



Deliberations in progress.



The audience in rapt attention.



Fear of happiness

When you left, I became alone
Like a star in the sky
That can show the sun and the moon
And everything around him well,
But inside him an empty space,
Yet the star is nice and beautiful.
He makes us happy but not himself,
The empty large space makes him, not.

When I lose you, I can't be happy
With all my deep feelings lost.
Sometimes we are in fear of
Losing all the days of happiness
Not because we're in fear of
Losing the feeling that made us happy.
In fact, we're in fear of this loss
Of the moment that someone

Loves, but can't be happy
Or can't enjoy this beautiful feeling.
Because he feels this loss.
In fact, Love makes me afraid.
A man of peace I want
To love all the people in the world
To hate others, I want not
Love can make things elegant
Love is good and hate is bad
But we are in fear of love.
So the star wants to be in the milky way
With others, and love others
But he is in fear of
Being loved and loving.

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Almahra, Alghaida City

Mother's day

Whenever and wherever I
See, or hear a mother sigh,
Naturally I remember those little past days
That have passed in different ways.
That is the time when life had no meaning
When I was a child, I could not realize
What was happening around me
Just needed a mother to look after me.
It was only she who was too worried
And observed me constantly
Through the holes of doors or windows
Even though she was asleep if I cry
With love she embraced me to feed
Or if naked to get me covered.
As winter came fast
It changed life past
From green to white
So my mother decked me
With wool and more cloth

To protect me from the
onslaught.
Patiently she stayed up
late
For days or weeks that
others hate
May be for months' during
my fever
Or just when shivering cold to be a server.
Nowadays I hear "MOTHER'S DAY"
That is the time, when everyone is gay
To give his mother what he/she may
To me this day is better than all days.
Hope those past days that have rolled by
Looking after me and spending without
haste would
Expand to be years in which I
Sacrifice my all to serve her heart and soul.
Nashwan Ahmed Al-Khwilani, Level III
English Dept., Faculty of Arts
Ibb University

Master of Lies

Oh listen to me
These words are addressed to you,
Springing from the silence
Staring in the hollows of darkness
When the night is dead;
But your spirit remains awake
Grappling with the hopes,
Sinking in the hollows of drops.
Are they the drops of tiredness,
Sweating, repenting, dying?

I rummage,
I disinter my bygone memories
Using my hands to explore
From the unfathomed depth,

unseen, unknown, quite oblivious.
To brush down the dust of the time.
O frozen man in the time of boiling.
O stifled man.
Listen to me
These words are addressed to you;
You live in a world without frontiers:
You are the regiment of the fog;
Your prayers are offered in the temple,
Full of shame, bundle of lies,
Designed to bluff us; but do you know?
You are living in a hope of mirage,
Your existence is at stake;
You are nowhere;
Nothing is useful of you.

Radhieh Amer, Level 4, Education
UST, SANA'A

Let's feed the world

When hope is awaited
Hunger hits the ground
When no food is there
How can hope be found?
The voice of a million mothers
Trying to seem stronger
"Don't cry, my baby"
In this world of hunger
A shadow knocks the door
A ray of light shines
To fade the sound of poverty

And make the hunger die
If you're not hungry
There are many in pain
While you have a home
In the streets many are laid
Let's feed the world
No poverty let's say
Let's be the shadow
And let hope lead the way.

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