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In brief

Sana'a**UAE supports Yemen with medical equipment**

June 3 — The general expanded vaccination project at the Ministry of Health received a batch of medical equipment and transportation with a total value of 272 thousand US dollars. The equipments were a donation from the UAE government and delivered through the Emirates embassy in Sana'a. It includes 220 refrigerators to store polio vaccinations, and six cars for the use of the project.

Aden**Photo exhibition of old Yemen**

June 2 — An exhibition displaying a hundred unique photos of Yemen during the thirties of last century is currently being held by the German Consulate in Aden until mid this month. The exhibition includes photos of Mukala, Sana'a, Aden among other cities taken by famous German artist Hans Helfritz who lived in Yemen early last century and has created a number of artistic and musical productions about Yemen.

Al-Baidha**A cigarette sets car in flames**

May 30 — Seven people suffered first and second degree burns after the car they were in was set in flames in Al-Samoa district in Al-Baidha. The fire was caused by one of the passengers who threw his cigarette bud without extinguishing it inside the car, which was reported to contain small amounts of gun powder.

Hadramout**Heavy stormy rains continue**

June 2 — The local weather authorities in southern areas warned of continuous stormy rains that might restrict movement and cause road accidents. Areas including Shabwa, Aden, Almahara, and Soqatra will also be covered by the rainy season.

Dhamar**Dhamar University launches veterinarian campaign**

June 3 — Agriculture and Veterinarian colleges of Dhamar University have launched a campaign to provide veterinary services and vaccinations for the animals in two districts in the governorate. The campaign includes awareness sessions for the locals regarding how to raise their livestock.

Taiz**Four new wells to be connected to main water network**

June 3 — Four new wells created in the Northern area of Taiz, which used to suffer from severe water shortage, will be connected to the main water network soon as per the governor's instructions. The project, which is supervised by the water and sewage authorities in Taiz, has been stalled, and thus, required intervention from the governor to speed up the connection process.

Al-Mahara**Traditional fishing sector to be systemized**

June 3 — A three day round table discussion ends today in Al-Mahara Local Council whereby a project to systemize and organize the fishing sector in the governorate is discussed. The sector which depends on traditional means in fishing and storing fish is an important source of income for the locals. The project includes field visits and interviews with the stakeholders in order to identify the best means for organizing this sector.

Ibb**19 new broadcasting programs in Ibb radio**

June 3 — The radio broadcast administration of Ibb local station has come up with a new strategy to enhance the quality of the station's programs. The administration has created 19 new programs covering culture, tourism, and local issues, as well as history, agriculture, education, religion, and sports.

Explosions disrupt peace in Sana'a, no casualties reported

SANA'A, June 3 — A number of explosions, took place Thursday afternoon, caused public panic in Mount Nuqum area in Sana'a. Flames and smoke were seen high in the sky until fire brigades rushed to the location after a while.

According to the Ministry of Defense, the explosions, which took place at one of the military weapons storage location in the mountain, east of Sana'a, are attributed to the improper storing methodology of the weapons.

Initial investigations indicated that the weapons were obsolete and were stored for a long time inside small cavities in the mountain. The ministry stated that the weapons date back to the Othman and Imamic times and the ammunition was stored in unprofessional random manner where explosives were stored along with mines, ammunition, and different weapons.

In a statement through the 26th of September official website, the ministry went on further details about the explosion story saying that negligence, long duration of storing the weapons, lack of maintenance, constant rains and floods coming from the overlooking mountain Nuqum since a very long time, and falling of rocks due to the rains are the main causes of the acci-



Grey smoke was visible in some places of the mountain, which meant that the explosions took place deep in the mountain where weapons were covered by layers of dirt.

dental explosion.

However, the statements didn't report any casualties but it called for reviewing and reorganizing the storing policy for these out of date weapons in a way to avoid such catastrophe. It called for a serious strategy to get ride of these out of use old weapons.

It is worth mentioning that this is not the first accident to happen in a military

store as a similar explosion took place in Aden last September in Jabal Hadid Area, which led to the killing of two women and injuring another one. The accident which caused public panic and fear among citizens around the military facility forced the ministry of defense to undertake urgent measures to enforce a plan to get rid of the remaining weapons in Jabal Hadid.

Most wanted terrorist won't be sent off

AP- June 3, Yemeni Embassy in Washington reconfirmed that Yemen will not extradite wanted terrorism suspect Jaber Elbaneh to the United States.

"Jaber Elbaneh is a Yemeni Citizen and the constitution bars the extraditions of Yemeni Citizens to face foreign courts," Mohammed Albasha, spokesman for Yemen's embassy in Washington, wrote in an e-mail to the Buffalo (N.Y.) News.

The FBI believed that Elbaneh, a former resident of Lackawanna, led five other young men from Lackawanna to an Al Qaeda terrorist training camp in 2001. He is charged with providing material support to Al-Qaeda by attending Osama Bin Laden's Al-Farooq training camp in Afghanistan months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Following those attacks, Yemen joined the U.S.-led "War on Terrorism," launching a cam-

paign against Islamic militants.

Elbaneh who was arrested in Yemen in 2002, was among the 23 suspected Al-Qaeda militants who escaped from the Sana'a-based Political Security detention in February 2006. He surrendered to Yemeni security authorities last month after months of negotiations between tribal mediators and security authorities.

The U.S. State Department calls him one of the world's most-wanted terrorism suspects and has posted a reward of up to \$5 million for his capture.

Albasha said Elbaneh would not be sent off to the U.S. because Yemen does not have an extradition treaty with the United States. In an other message from the embassy to ABC News, Albasha pinpointed that Elbaneh will face prosecution in Yemen.

"Elbaneh is in our custody and makes no mistakes. Justice will pre-



Jaber Elbaneh

vail," Albasha told ABC. "He faces multiple convictions for committing terrorist and criminal violent activities and he will be trialed accordingly. The U.S. authorities will have access to his trial. So will the media."

FBI spokesman Paul M. Moskal said the e-mail, to his knowledge, is the first public statement Yemen's government has made on whether Elbaneh will be turned over to the United States or not.

AMIDEAST Students visit the Yemen Times Premises

By: Mohialdeen Alotumi

Sana'a, May 31 — The Yemen Times received a number of AMIDEAST EFL students in Sana'a branch. The students came along with their teacher Mr. Mohialdeen A-Iotumi so as to explore the news paper premises and media working environment and learn about how newspapers work.

Raidan Al-Saqqaf, of the Yemen Times staff, welcomed the students and presented a brief lecture in which he explained the concept of democracy development in Yemen, mentioning the different stages the country went through. Further, he has drawn students' attention to the fact that democracy in Yemen wasn't born in one day but it is a continuous struggle

Additionally, he elaborated on the history of Yemen Times, which is the first English newspaper in the country and the only independent English-language newspaper in the country, highlighting the stages the paper goes through so as to reach the reader. "Publishing a news paper is not an easy task. On the contrary, it requires continuous hard work within difficult circumstances," He added.

Focusing on the current affairs of the country, the managing editor, asserted, to AMIDEAST students, that the Yemen Times is the only impartial and unbiased paper in the country, hinting that the most other papers which reach the Yemeni audience, whether opposition or governmental, receive funds



from the concerned bodies while the Yemen Times' main support is its readers and the ads it publishes. After the presentation, Alsaqqaf toured the students in the premises to familiarize them with what's going inside the paper main building.

The tour started with the editorial section, where news items are written, translated, and edited. Then, students were toured to the design and layout section, where paper's graphical designs and layouts are put together. Finally, Alsaqqaf guided them to the Printing section, where the 15 thousand copies of the newspaper are printed on paper.

Within the presentation and the tour, students have great chance to openly ask Raidan any questions about how to

use the paper to improve their English, about the current Yemeni politics, and about the stance of the paper regarding the current affairs.

Reflecting their impressions, students expressed their delight and happiness that they had given this chance to tour the paper which they often read so as to improve their English as well as their knowledge about every day happenings.

They expressed their gratefulness to the Mr. Al-Saqqaf, who cordially welcomed them, to the Amideast represented by their teacher Mohialdeen Alotumi, AMIDEAST EFL instructor, and Ms. Elham, the academic coordinator in Amideast, who supported the idea by providing good guide and feedback.

Mujawar: Yemen-Saudi cooperation foiled many terrorist plots

SANA'A, June 3 — In an interview with Saudi Okadh newspaper, issued on Sunday, Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mujawar assured that there is a joint security cooperation between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, especially over the last few years. Such cooperation relates to fighting terrorism, smuggling activities, and information exchange between the Interior Ministries in both countries, indicating that it helped disclose many terrorist plans directed towards the two countries.

Mujawar also pointed out that his government has taken a daring resolution as to banning the spread of arms in Yemen. "The government has taken a daring solution represented in enumerating and closing arms shops, as well as demanding Interior and Defense Ministries to collect all medium-sized and heavy weapons together with fire-crackers as this will help society's tranquility, stability, and positively influences the investment," clarified Mujawar.

As for the involvement of Iran and Libya in Sa'ada crisis, Mujawar hinted that the Iranian support is acted in the accommodation of rebellions as well as promoting their terrorist acts through their official media, something that goes counter to the Iranian official assurance which claims its stance with Yemen's unity and stability.

Meanwhile, he welcomed the Libyan attitude which denounces the revolt in Sa'ada and asked Libya to exploit money given to Yemeni personalities under different names for the sake of development in Yemen as this will help the common interests of the two countries.

He also assured that Yemeni armed forces and security personnel have seized all areas in which rebels position themselves, adding that the rebels' groups are falling one after another. Additionally, he indicated that field operations are to end soon. Meanwhile, he maintained that the military operations are now suspended in response to President Saleh's declaration, which provided the terrorist elements, Al-Houthis, a chance to lay down their arms and surrender to government forces.

Regarding the challenges ahead of his government, Mujawar asserted that poverty and unemployment are the most important challenges before his government, suggesting that the unemployment and leisure are exploited by terrorists to draw youth to their groups turning them [youth] into games in their hands.

Beside providing jobs and encouraging investments, Mujawar pinpointed that his government works on a national enlightening strategy to abolish the extremist thinking as an efficient means for fighting terrorism.

Price-related complaint? Call 147

SANA'A, June 2 — Minister of industry and trade Yahia Al-motawakel has announced the number 174 as free number to receive people's complaints and messages about prices conflicts. He further indicated that the role of the ministry is to settle the prices not to identify them.

The minister referred in his meeting with journalists last Thursday to the difficulty of gaining information that was then became the title of that meeting. The minister gave recommendations to the official newspapers to set a list of food staff's price.

The minister also announced that the ministry has specified a fax number to receive questions of journalists to be answered by the ministry. In his speech with journalists the minister criticized what he named as "a hesitated governmental policy" which, he said, causes more negative impacts in most cases.

The minister also talked a bout a planned policy for the ministry towards giving standards to bakeries and shops

which, he says, two thirds of them lack identified standards.

The prices hiking, the Minister believes, is a result of Economy Circle and other outer reasons, referring to the previous governmental decisions as "lacking for legitimacy." Meanwhile, he called journalists not to deal with economical situation as a current crisis but to work together in order to solve such phenomena.

The Yemeni Economy as described by Almotawakel is a "small economy" exposed to many internal and external dangers for it is mainly attached to oil as a basic source.

The minister who has a good relation with journalists did not call them to decrease pressure on his ministry. Therefore, he criticized what he called the misresponsibility of journalists toward the economy issue "the economy processing should be a national issue and not a field for political clashes" the Minister said.

Yemeni lawyers demand adherence to human rights

SANA'A, June 2 — A seminar was held discussing the legal framework and legal measures in place in the policing and justice system in Yemen on the 30th and 31st of May 2007. The seminar was organized by the Yemeni lawyers syndicate and included the discussion of very important topics, related mainly to the violations in human rights which take place in Yemeni police stations, courts, and prisons.

The seminar has concluded with a number of recommendations for policy makers, including an appeal to the President and the prime minister in order to oblige officials in the ministry of interior and other security agencies to respect and apply the legal articles related to personal liberties and human rights, and never use aggression or battery whether during arresting, imprisonment, inspecting, or wiretapping.

The syndicate also called for sending any suspects who are in prison to court within 24 hours from being arrested. The Seminar has also appealed to the

chairman of the supreme judicial council and the Attorney-General to oblige the judges and chairmen of the general prosecution to respect convicts' rights by proving their acquittal of charges including their right to bring defendants.

According to sources at the Syndicate, the authorities must also abide by the articles stipulated in the law regarding precautionary imprisonment and relevant legal measures. Judges should not have the authority to personally intervene in the proceeding of legal affairs, except for special circumstances as indicated in the law.

Additionally, the Syndicate called on the authorities to immediately release the prisoners restricted unlawfully. The seminar also recommended closing any prison illegally constructed and compelling the courts' judges to refrain from illegal practices and to hold cases to verify. Finally, the seminar participants recommended several amendments to avoid violating the human rights and freedoms guaranteed by constitution.

Apollo to launch Exhibition

SANA'A, June 3 — The Ministry of Trade and Industry is currently organizing the Third International Exhibition with the coordination of Apollo Company for international exhibitions in Sana'a.

Ikbal Bahader, Deputy of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said that Sana'a Third International Exhibition is a significant and economic activity because it gathers a number of Arab and foreign countries. He added that the Exhibition attempts to open new markets in Yemen as well as to develop commercial exchange between Yemeni businessmen and their counterparts in the participating countries.

Additionally, he indicated that the Ministry is trying to make this exhibition a success with long term objectives under the competition of international markets. Furthermore, he pointed out that the exhibition is going on while Yemen has enhanced it trade relationships with the outsider world.

Omar Al-Nahmi, the marketing man-

ager of the international exhibitions in Apollo Company, indicated that the exhibition is of great significance because it presents a number of international companies that show their products or look for agents in Yemen.

He added that the exhibition, which is considered as an annual economic activity, is being held for the third time in Sana'a. He also pinpointed that the exhibition comes as one of the most important fruits of continuous coordination and cooperation between the public and the private sectors, calling for Yemeni businessmen and manufacturers to visit the exhibition and meet their participating counterparts so as to investigate the potential of mutual utilization in order to back up the commercial exchange.

In fact, the exhibition comprises pavilions for the participating countries such as Kuwait, Egypt, Tunisia, India, Italy, Jordan, and Yemen as well as to divisions for banks and insurance companies.

Continued from page 1

Sa'ada war seems endless, more web sites blocked

Further, the MPs criticized the state's monopoly on television and radio, as well as preventing the private sector from establishing nonofficial channels, considering such a monopoly to be against the open market followed by the state in the economic field.

Sultan Al-Atwani, secretary-general of the Nasserite Unionist Party, demanded the government submit a report about the Sa'ada events on the grounds of the parliament's mandate to end the Sa'ada war, indicating that Parliament has no information about what's happening in Sa'ada.

Media sources report that European Union ambassadors have pledged to provide required military, medical and humanitarian aid to those displaced or injured in Sa'ada, assuring their stand with Yemeni government efforts aimed at strengthening security and stability in the governorate.

The sources add that Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi met with the European Union ambassadors to Yemen, informing them of the latest developments in the Houthi rebellion in Sa'ada, as well as the government's efforts to treat such sedition and avoid bloodshed.

The Yemeni armed forces-affiliated 26September.net quoted Al-Alimi as saying, "Our political leadership, represented in President Saleh, has spared no effort to treat the issue via peaceful means; however, [Houthis] insist on implementing their destructive plan, which targets the country and its stability."

He went on to say that the situation in Sa'ada is under control and the Yemeni armed forces are capable of settling the war in no time, but they are keen to preserve citizens' lives and bloodshed.

Yemeni or opposition member and former mediation committee member Abdullah Al-Hakimi, who now resides in Cairo, warned about the Sa'ada war's continuity, noting that it has become a national enigma threatening

Yemen's present and future. He added that such a war will cause more and more human and military losses and that the country no longer is capable of bearing its consequences.

"When the regime doesn't know what Houthis want, as its leaders have declared, Houthis in return don't know what the regime wants from this war. The worst type of war is one whose fighters don't know what they want; it's a blind war where nothing is seen except mortar shells, destruction, killing and bloodshed," Al-Hakimi declared.

As for Libya's involvement in the current Sa'ada crisis, Al-Hakimi clarified that "Libyan President Moammar Al-Qaddafi is working to establish Al-Beit (the Prophet Mohammed's descendants) International Association, a cultural and social project whose role has turned political. Libya's role has changed from being pro-government, which has affected the two countries' bilateral relations".

U.S. less critical of Yemen in report

Comparing with 2005, the report indicated a sharp decrease in 2006 in violations and assaults recorded against journalists who criticized the Yemeni government's performance. It also referred to the Press and Publications Law, with which journalists weren't happy.

Among reforms implemented in Yemen, the report highlighted several examples, such as President Saleh's ceding the presidency of the Supreme Judicial Council and naming and ordering a new government formation, as well as adopting a national strategy to fight corruption and expand the margins of freedom.

Observers believe the State Department's less critical attitude is attributed mainly to the close, joint cooperation between the U.S. and Yemen in matters related to the War on Terror and U.S. attempts to make Yemen extradite those Yemeni citizens the U.S. claims are involved in terror-

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General Secretariat

ist acts.

Free press advocates call for demonstration in Freedom Square tomorrow

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar met with representatives of the protestors yesterday and agreed to unblock the web sites, but banned all SMS services except Saba Mobile Services by the official Saba News Agency, Yemen's only and official news agency. This means even international mobile news services, such as Al-Jazeera and Reuters, now are banned in Yemen. Mujawar's decision both partially

solved the problem and aggravated it.

Reactions

Tawakul Karman, a prominent leader of press freedom demonstrations, commented that the Yemeni government is in a state of panic due to the popularity of SMS news media. Karman led many demonstrations due to the government's refusal to grant her organization, Women Journalists Without Chains, a license to publish a newspaper and banning the group's SMS news service.

"The majority of Yemenis are illiterate or have no access to newspapers, so the only source they have to receive news about local issues is official tele-

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vision and radio broadcasting.

With the availability of SMS news coming from an independent source, the state panicked, knowing that this is how Yemenis will become more educated about their local issues," she said.

Commenting that this is "a clear methodical violation of freedom of press," Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Secretary-General Sa'eed Thabet wondered, "Such services have been operating for two years, so why are they just now realizing that they're against the law?"

The Yemeni state defended its actions as a means of protecting media from abuse and adopting disciplinary

measures on new forms of media, "lest [they be] used irresponsibly by those wanting to harm Yemen's stability and cause a threat to national security," as official media reported.

Parliamentarians

Representatives of opposition parties in Parliament indicated their resentment at the situation. At a sit-in last Tuesday, Joint Meeting Parties spokesman Mohammed Al-Sabri urged members of Parliament to question the government about dangerous discrimination between state-run and party media. He also lashed out at the Yemeni government for violating press freedoms

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen)
Vacant Announcement

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Primary Function

- Responsible for all the Financial analysis
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- To follow up the implementation schedule and the budget of IT project.
- To prepare all procedures for operation and maintenance.
- To manage related Maintenance contracts.

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Education:

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- CISCO certified
- ORACLE certified

Experience:

- Telecommunications IT experience 4 to 5 years.
- Good knowledge of IT networking equipments (switches, routers, servers...).
- Management of a team

Disposition and attitude:

- Ability to communicate in both verbally and written.
- Ability to use own initiative, to plan and to prioritize activities.
- Ability to solve problems.
- Ability to report to hierarchy.
- Clear focus on operational issues and able to translate into plans and actions.
- Skilled in MS office (Excel, Power Point, Word)

Language:

- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Interested candidates may submit their application letter with detailed Curriculum Vitae ONLY to the following

Address no later than 15/6/2007. Please note that only candidates who fulfil above requirements will be considered.

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TOTAL

After 30 years as a woman, she asked: Who am I?

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

It has become quite normal to hear about those born with genitalia and/or secondary sex characteristics determined as neither exclusively male nor female or which combine features of both male and female sexes and then they have sexual reassignment surgeries.

However, it's unusual to hear about one who has lived more than 30 years as a woman, had children and then suddenly – of her own will – appealing for sexual reassignment surgery.

Arwa Al-Harazi was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1975. She and her family, consisting of her father and five siblings, returned Yemen after the second Gulf War. She married in 1997 after finishing high school and became pregnant immediately thereafter during her first month of marriage. But in her fifth month of pregnancy, she was divorced.

Despite being a divorced woman, Al-Harazi improved herself as a good mother, as well as a good employee at a tourism and travel office. She was the only supporter of her family.

Six years after her divorce, Arwa decided to visit her village in Haraz, located west of Sana'a, where she had an accident, falling down a mountain, which injured her greatly.



Al-Harazi's son Amer.



Al-Harazi undergoes sexual ambiguity.

"I was in a hospital in Sana'a for a month. I broke my legs, my pelvis and I had to carry out a hysterectomy. I had much medication to relieve my pain. Gradually, I noted that my body was changing. My period stopped, my voice became rough, hair began to grow on my chest and my breasts began to atrophy. I felt confused for long time, unable to understand what was going on with me."

Al-Harazi conducted other medical tests that revealed that she had male secondary sexual characteristics. "I couldn't believe it. Suddenly, I lost everything – my womanliness, my motherhood, my identity. I lived in denial for a long time. My family tried to support me, particularly when I tried to kill myself twice by cutting my slitting my wrists,

Medically, Al-Harazi is termed a "pseudohermaphrodite," but most use the term "intersex." Because such terms now are considered antiquated, misleading and stigmatizing, patient advocates call for these terms to be abandoned. There's currently a move by some activists to

eliminate the term intersex in medical usage, replacing it with sex development disorder or sexual ambiguity in order to avoid fusing anatomy with identity.

According to medical studies, the most common cause of sexual ambiguity is adrenal hyperplasia, an endocrine disorder where the adrenal glands produce abnormally high levels of masculinizing hormones. In females, this leads to an appearance that may be slightly masculine (having a large clitoris, for example) to quite masculine. Al-Harazi isn't the only one suffering such a medical problem in Yemen, according to urologist Dr. Hussein Al-Kaff, who confirms that he has treated many pseudohermaphrodites. "Such cases can be treated by sexual reassignment surgery; however, Al-Harazi's case is special and requires more medical attention. Due to the lack of facilities in Yemen, I recommended Al-Harazi seek treatment abroad," he stressed.

Recent testing shows that Al-Harazi has more male than female chromo-

somes, "which indicates that I'm tending more toward being a man than a woman," Al-Harazi explained, adding, "I don't care if I'll be a man or a woman, I just want to know what I am. I'll be satisfied with God's judgment. The only thing I want is an identity to keep on living"

However, Al-Harazi already has chosen the way. "Because of my inner struggle, my doctor advised me to accept my fate and my new life and told me to deal with people as a man. It was very difficult to do that in the beginning. I wore the veil, but at the same time, I was very scared, thinking that if anyone removed it, they would see the hair on my face. Besides that, I couldn't hide my rough voice, so I decided to stop wearing women's clothing and dress as a man."

In an attempt to adopt a new life Al-Harazi, now wearing men's dress, asked others to call her/him Elias Al-Harazi and his son calls him dad. "I even have two male friends who are close friends now because they accept me as I am. We chew qat, chat and hang out together."

Al-Harazi's transformation is incomplete, as he/she still needs hormonal assessment and surgery. "I still suffer pain due to the incomplete male genitalia that I have, so I need surgery to fix the problem. So I appeal to human rights organizations and medical organizations, either abroad or in Yemen, to consider my situation and help me go abroad for treatment and become an active social person again."

Although Al-Harazi isn't the only case in Yemen, he/she was brave enough to tell his/her dramatic story during this change. Al-Harazi lost the job that was the only live source for him/her and the family.

"My work asked me to provide my new official identity, which mentions whether I am a man or a woman, but I couldn't complete the form because I haven't received treatment yet, so I'm now unemployed. I've become a heavy burden to my family after being its only supporter. It's ironic that I supported my family when I was a woman, building a house for us to live in, but now..." Al-Harazi cried in a strangled voice, unable

to finish.

However, employment wasn't the only problem, as Al-Harazi was attacked many times by neighbors after they discovered his/her situation. "They accused me of acting as a woman in order to be with their sisters and wives. People in my neighborhood look down on me because it was my choice to change and some tried to drive me from the neighborhood."

Al-Harazi avoids leaving home during the daytime in an attempt not to meet others in his neighborhood. "I feel discarded

when I'm among them, so I go outside only at night when my neighbors are sleeping because that's the best time to contemplate my situation."

Al-Harazi's 8-year-old son Amer also encounters difficulties with his school classmates, who fight with him by calling him his mother's name, Arwa.

"Is it too much demand my right to have an identity? Is it too much to ask others to respect and consider my situation? Is it too much to ask that my son learn and grow up like other children?" Al-Harazi concluded.

Progressio is an international organisation working for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

بروجرسيو - منظمة دولية تعمل لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة ومحاربة الفقر.

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Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train law-enforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with re-training of prison wardens and personnel.

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

OUR
OPINION

Free Alan Johnston

This week marks the eighth anniversary of the death of my father and Yemen Times founder, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, in a June 2, 1999 car accident. I have strong reason to believe his death was a premeditated murder due to his daring opinions as an advocate for freedoms and human rights.

Like him, there are many free men and women who sacrifice their lives for the sake of human rights and freedoms. I spent last week at Beirut's An-Nahar newspaper, where photos of journalists Gibran Tueni and Samir Qasir were all over the place to remind us of those who gave their lives for the sake of press freedom.

The common understanding is that journalists are killed or harassed by oppressive regimes or influential parties that have something to hide. However, now there's a new trend whereby journalists are abducted and used as pawns in political struggle.

This is what's happening in Gaza with BBC correspondent Alan Johnston, who was kidnapped March 12 in Gaza City by Palestinian gunmen calling themselves the "Army of Islam." They are demanding the release of radical Muslims being held in British jails. If these gunmen claim to be the good guys, then they have no business abducting journalists.

Johnston was the only Western journalist still permanently based in Gaza City, but because of this, no other journalists will be encouraged to report about the happenings in that troubled part of the world.

As for radical Muslims in British jails, if Muslims decide to live in Britain, utilize its resources and enjoy its sovereignty, then they must respect its laws and maintain the country's stability.

Many Muslims who have migrated to the West have opted to do so in order to escape the oppression they faced in their own countries. Truly, they have found an environment that encourages freedoms, as long as they respect the laws of their host country. Many Muslims have been there generation after generation and, to a large extent, have integrated with the Western community.

With a few exceptions of instances where security authorities went too far and incriminated innocent people in the raging "War against Terrorism," most of those detained actually caused their own detention in one way or another. In both cases, there is the law, an international justice system, and numerous organizations that may be called upon in case of any human rights violation by authorities or the security system.

Too many people have died and too many journalists have met their fate while doing their duty. The Army of Islam must release Johnston before more people are killed. What will it take for these vicious crimes to stop? Was Bob Dylan right when he answered this question many years ago: the answer is "blowin' in the wind?"

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Skyrocketing prices or tradesmen's greediness

For the first time in our country, the opposition, those who are loyal with the regime and the government unanimously agree to suggest possible solutions to price hikes. Such an agreement or consensus is a good sign leading one to know about numerous joint sites operating in favor of the nation and citizens as well, and highlighting the necessity of objective difference aimed at spotting the points of error.

No wonder that prices have suddenly skyrocketed over the past few weeks following a cabinet's meeting to examine the factors behind price hikes. In addition, Prime Minister met with big tradesmen, who are expected to lose due to the fever proliferating the local markets with the dollar being stable, coupled with stable prices of foodstuffs worldwide. The prices of wheat, sugar, oil, and other foodstuffs in different parts of the world are remaining stable, and some prices of foodstuffs declined.

A friend of mine, who has just returned from Dubai told me that prices of some foodstuffs in Yemen



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

are higher than prices of the same commodities and products in Dubai city. He said he was shocked at the prices of yoghurt, oil, and milk, taking into consideration the big difference of quality between products sold in the local markets and the products of other world countries.

In Yemen, there is neither monitor nor control of foodstuffs' prices. Some people attribute the phenomenon to the cabinet reshuffle while others noted that the subsequent cabinet formations retained a neutral stance between tradesmen and consumers.

In fact, these cabinets don't try to interfere in the affairs of tradesmen

and consumers, particularly after the announcement of the democratic move and misunderstanding that made out of democracy a fastener for officials to hang their disability, as they are unable to protect their nation and citizens or stand in the face of dissidents who target the national security and stability.

In our country, there is a small social group that enjoys exceptional economic situations, and this class is blamed for the daily sufferings, pressures, and agonies endured by the majority of people, particularly the junior government employees.

It doesn't go to the advantage of such a small group as citizens' sufferings increase and people feel the wide gap between their present situation and the situation ten years ago when the state was concerned with providing the necessities of people and breaking the barrier of monopoly.

Additionally, it is not in favor of the statesmen to face the increasing public rage on behalf of exploiters and those who fuel crises in the local markets. Most of the statesmen came from poor families

that are unable to meet the basic necessities of the everyday life, and those occupying prestigious posts are suffering price hikes like other ordinary citizens.

In order for tradesmen to be convinced that socialism vanished and is impossible to return while the silent earth turned to speak only capitalism, they have to exercise business in conformity with the law of capitalism with all its economic and cultural dimensions.

Tradesmen have to bear in mind that the United States of America, the world's biggest capitalist country, is exercising continued efforts to create a state of balance between rich and poor citizens through introducing a social insurance system and stabilizing prices. This country maintains foodstuffs' prices stable in order to avoid any rioting and protect the social peace from collapse.

Where we are and how our country can benefit from what takes place in the capitalist world. How can Yemen succeed in creating a state of relative balance, as no state or citizen worldwide can accept to pay three times the global price for

50 kg of wheat?

In Yemen, there are two kinds of tradesmen, the first of whom is that of the stable condition whose wealth dates tens of years back and they don't care about making much money illegally. The other kind of tradesmen is that of those who joined the local market very recently and have a strong desire to reach the rank of millionaires within the minimum scope of time. The latter is responsible for the current crisis and the daily sufferings of people because of skyrocketing prices.

What raises concern in this regard is that the government's talk about price hikes and its meetings with tradesmen led to increasing prices of basic foodstuffs in unbelievable way. We don't know whether this is a temporary reaction to the government's talk or a behavior taunting the government and its policies.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies
Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

Contemplating on
Sheikh Al-Ahmar's letter

On May 10, the 26 September Weekly published a letter from Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar addressed to Sa'ada tribal leaders among them the sheikhs of Sahar, Juma'a, Khawlan Bani Amer, Munabeh, Razeh, Ghamr, Shada, and other tribes. The letter coincided with a time period having its own unique political impression when two stances contradicted each other. According to the issue No. 147 of Al-Wasat Weekly, Sheikh Al-Ahmar suggested that President Saleh contains the issue at the very beginning but the latter refused saying that he is capable enough to settle the issue (the Sa'ada fighting) within three days. Since then, Sheikh Al-Ahmar hasn't interfered in the issue until President Saleh asked him to do so over the past few days.

It is logical that Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar may have a say, an opinion and a viewpoint, be they positive or negative, about the Sa'ada crisis, but the wind doesn't usually blow along the direction of ships. The ruler tried his arrogance in escalating the crisis by devastating Sa'ada but he reaped nothing except for thorns. This is why he turned once again to seek the advice of Sheikh Al-Ahmar. For the reading of Sheikh Al-Ahmar's letter to be close-



By: Abdurrahim Muhsin

er to logic and more objective, some key points have to be taken into consideration as a background of the letter and its effect.

The first point is that Sheikh Al-Ahmar is the only traditional political personality that maintained his effective presence in the political arena, which has been monopolized by the military rulers since 1962. In many critical times caused by crises, Al-Ahmar plays the role of rescuer, as well as a mediator. The second of the points is that Sheikh Al-Ahmar hasn't been a traditional politician since 1994. He has become a businessman and this led to creating a new situation within the political process and the market's economy. For the first time, the aged sheikh faced an ugly campaign by some newspapers loyal with the ruling party, and these campaigns also targeted his sons, mainly the well-known businessman Hamid and the ruling party member Hussein.

The third point is that Sheikh Al-Ahmar has opened a political and intellectual forum in his residence. Organized once a week, the forum is attended by a constellation of politicians who belong to different generations. The forum was established to compensate for the pressure, which Al-Ahmar suffered at Parliament. The last point is associated with the irresponsible campaign launched against Al-Ahmar who remained sincere and loyal with the regime and this was evident in the most recent presidential elections at the expense of his political organization, which he chairs (the Islah Party).

The prominent sheikh left behind two gaps and these gaps enable the one who reads the article to have full understanding of the situation, one of which is that Al-Ahmar doesn't exploit his traditional reputation and role as a prominent sheikh. At the top of his letter, addressed to Sa'ada tribal leaders, he modestly wrote "Your

Brother Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar". Writing the letter, he doesn't refer to his post as Speaker of Parliament, nor did his signature implied his post as Chairman of the Islah Party, the strongest opposition party in Yemen as he doesn't want the party to be involved in what is happening in Sa'ada. The letter's text is merely a tribal call for Sa'ada sheikhs to mediate with the aim of ending the fighting. The second gap is that the Islah-Party-affiliated Al-Sahwa Weekly didn't refer to Al-Ahmar's letter nor did it publish a news story about it.

The content and form of the letter don't seem to be in line with the ruler's policy except for one ambiguous statement which blamed the Houthi followers for planning a coupe against the regime and dreaming of returning the rule of Imamate. The letter's content has no malicious intent to fuel military conflict between the republicans and those who are still fund of the Imamate. The conflict has disappeared since 1970, however, the regime engaged dozens of Hashid tribesmen in the confrontations between the republicans and the supporters of Imamate.

The letter's text implicitly indicated failure of the military campaign, which has been continuing for three years, leaving bad consequences, not only in Sa'ada but nationwide. The text didn't call for stopping the military operations and the harsh media campaigns. Instead, it urged Sa'ada tribal leaders to examine the situation and think of any possible solution to the persisting crisis.

The request made by President Saleh to Al-Ahmar to intervene in the crisis was aimed at involving the aged sheikh in the crisis and holding him responsible for any crimes committed by the government troops in the restive province. Fortunately, the text was keen enough to avoid any involvement of Sheikh Al-Ahmar in the issue since the first war broke out in June 2004. The letter cared for kindly inviting Sa'ada sheikhs to take part or have a hand in mitigating the conflict.

Abdurrahim Muhsin is a well-known Yemeni journalist and opposition activist. Established the anti-regime movement called "Irhalo" which means get out. He was a former media person of the presidency office.

SILVER LINING

When political
activity turns nonsense

I was truly shocked by the threats and abuses that Mohammed al-Sabri, spokesman of the opposition coalition has been receiving through the last two weeks. I personally saw some of the badmouthing sent through a mobile. It is really awful and disgusting to see such insulting messages. I felt completely sad about the future of this country. It is a substantial degradation of the political drive in the country.

After each statement the spokesman makes, he receives similar insulting messages from the same number. The messages show that the sender is angry with the press statements regarding several issues. He is not an ordinary man but someone who is politically motivated and is angered by such statements. Whom do you think? Can you sort out this puzzle?

It is really nonsense that political issues of disagreement turn to badmouthing and threats through mobile SMSs. Wow! This is shocking, isn't it?

Al-Sabri can do nothing but verbally express the views of his parties which are effective partners in the democratization process. We have seen the media barrage between the ruling GPC and the opposition coalition every now and then and this is better than any other ways of expressing themselves and voicing their views. I think it is logical that the affected parties should respond in the same way, without any need to such childish behavior of threatening or badmouthing which really demonstrates disbelief in democracy and that there is intent to silence vocal people even such ridiculous practices. How come that they claim to be democratic and shrug their shoulder in pride of that while they do not want to listen to verbal criticism from this opposition politician or newspaper? Political and democratic practices are meaningless and nonsense to those people standing behind or supporting such trivial behavior.

Again, we believe that the government is embroiled into another fight with the press and journalists over the mobile news service and some blocked websites. The government alleges that it has ordered the stop of this service provided by Nass mobile and Bilakyouid mobile because they have no license to do that.

As we understand there is no regulation governing this business just like running online newspapers. As long as the information ministry claims it can provide licenses, Nass and Bilakyouid mobile should challenge their allegations and apply for a license and if they are denied, then they should break hell loose and mount their protests against the government.

This mobile service has been going on for several months. Why does the government now ask for licensing?

These things are a bad manifestation of the deterioration of the democratization drive in the country. Putting more restrictions on politicians and media reflect the ill intent of the people in charge.

By and large, democracy has been the main asset to Yemen which has been praised by the international community for nothing but the relatively open scope of freedom of journalism in particular. Democracy is not just restricted to elections where results are manipulated in different ways. The international community praised the September 2006 presidential elections because there has been genuine competition. But, this is not enough to tell the world you are democratic. Therefore, the latest report of the US-based Freedom House praised the presidential elections but described Yemen as a not free state because of the harassments that journalists are going through. Can these people at power understand that such reports will not be in favor of the country and its fragile economy which needs a lot of support?

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

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By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



AL-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party

Thursday, May 31

Main Headlines

- Authorities continue oppressing freedoms, protests escalate
- Government complex in Ghamr district bombed, mediation of scholars in Sa'ada conflicts fail
- Joint Meeting Parties condemns threats against its spokesman, denounces Interior Ministry's indifference
- Industry and Trade Minister admits monopoly of commodities, economists hold government accountable for the phenomenon
- Military court fines two army officers \$3.5 million over aircraft crash
- Claiming entitlements, pensioners stage peaceful protest in Aden
- Dhale' Court looks into the case of torturing citizens in a government's jail
- American lawyers urges Saleh to respond to Bush allegations regarding Yemenis detained in Guantanamo

Many American advocates and Yemeni rights activists and members of parliament urged President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his government to adopt a positive stance and exercise hard efforts to release the Yemeni citizens detained in Guantanamo Pay, the weekly paper reported on its front page. It added that the American lawyers expect the Yemeni leader to respond to the false fabrications invented by the U.S. President George W Bush and his administration alleging that Yemen rejects homecoming of its citizens detained in Guantanamo. At a news conference, some 15 American lawyers and 9 Yemeni MPs, as well as

human rights groups, including the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as Hood, claimed the Yemeni authorities to reveal the discussions, which they held with the U.S. Administration on the issues of Guantanamo detainees.

The American advocate Marta Renz and its Arab colleague Ramzi Qasem expressed their disappointment and concern over indifference of Yemen's Presidency, Interior Ministry and the national and political security organizations toward the issues of their citizens detained in Guantanamo.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, May 31

Main Headlines

- President Saleh receives letter from Qatari Emir
- Government appoints new 11 ambassadors to other countries
- Yemen sends team to assess damages in Lebanon's North Tower
- A Canadian parliamentary delegation to arrive in Sana'a this Thursday
- Yemen hosts Micro-Funding Fourth Conference
- Yemen hosts Preparatory Meeting for Establishing Arab Democracy Movement

The Yemeni Army organ said that Yemen is due to host on June 9 – 10 the Preparatory Meeting for Declaring the Arab Movement for Democracy and the Arab Democratic Pact. The event is scheduled to be held in the presence of NGOs representatives, who came from 15 Arab countries. It quoted Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Political Advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Chairman of Cultural Bridge Forum, who is due to be

in charge of organizing the event, as saying, "The meeting will be devoted to discussing an Arab project for establishing the Arab Movement for Democracy while the Arab Democratic Pact is planned to become a historic Arab document."

Al-Eryani confirmed that the most recent presidential elections and its transparency and credibility helped reflect Yemen's move toward building a promising future for democracy. He added that the Yemeni electoral experience was appreciated by all the brotherly and friendly countries.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Popular Unionist Organization (NPUO)
Tuesday, May 29

Main Headlines

- Joint Meeting Parties suspend dialogue with ruling party over press freedom violations
- Pressmen hold sit-in at cabinet's premises in protest against concealing news websites
- Senior journalist renders resignation from Yemeni Journalists Syndicate's membership
- Jailed Nasserite leader goes on hunger strike
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research appoints a new cultural attaché to India
- Tehran sent a delegate to Sana'a to clarify its stance toward Sa'ada fighting

Official sources confirmed on Monday that General Director of Gulf Affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry Jalal Farozonia arrived in Sana'a in an official visit to Yemen to explain to the Yemeni authorities his country's stance toward Sa'ada fighting between the

army and Al-Houthi-led rebels, NPUO-run newspaper said. Upon his arrival, the Iranian official told media that his current visit to Yemen is aimed at enhancing ties of mutual cooperation between both countries. He described the Yemeni-Iranian relations as excellent and distinctive in various areas, clarifying that he came to Yemen for talks with his brothers in Yemen on the means of improving mutual ties in all the economic, political, security and social areas.

The Iranian official didn't indicate that his country's relations with Yemen have become tense after Sana'a accused Tehran of backing Al-Houthi-led rebellion in the northern Yemeni governorate of Sa'ada. The weekly reported that the Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Mohammed Ali Hussein denounced statements by the Yemeni Interior Minister accusing the Islamic Republic of having connections with Sa'ada war. "Such statements are incorrect, baseless and contradict the reality of ties between both Islamic countries," Hussein noted.



Al-Shoura Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Popular Forces Union (YPFU)
Wednesday, May 30

Main headlines

- Joint Meeting Parties call for ceasing Sa'ada fighting, insist on national solutions to any sectarian issues
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate lashes out at Information Ministry for complicating procedures related with issuing licenses for new papers
- Woman Forum participates in course on enhancing citizenship's culture and democracy

- Jointing Meeting Parties demand reviewing electoral divisions
- Al-Dustroor Weekly and its chief editor accused of defamation and slander
- Warnings of government's policy to fuel conflict between Sa'ada tribesmen, fighting expands, Majaz under siege

The weekly reported on its front page that military fighter jets raided on Wednesday Al-Jarasha area, the center of Ghamer district, thereby demolishing several houses and government institutions in the area while tanks assaulted Katab area in Munabeh district. In the meantime, fierce fighting is taking place in the areas of Razeh, Ghamr and Qataber and the military forces are launching air strikes on the district centers because the government accuses inhabitants of these areas of being loyal with Houthis. The newspaper quoted media sources as saying that raids were intensified with the aim of restoring the areas of Ghamr, Baqem and Razeh, which have been controlled by Houthi followers for several days.

The Houthi supporters continued besieging Majaz district, which lies closer to the provincial capital since last Monday, according to the Shoura weekly, which added that the rebels have resumed control of other areas after the fighting expanded earlier this week to reach new districts.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress
Monday, May 28

Main headlines

- Prime Minister inaugurates meetings of Arab Group for Control and Audit Organizations
- Sa'ada governor: Terrorists don't

- abide by suspension of operations, security authorities foil attempt to traffic gas cylinders to rebels
- Yemen reaches agreements with donor countries to fund agreed upon projects
- Supreme Examination Commission warns high school students of forged schoolbooks
- Yemeni Consulate in Jeddah marks the 17th Anniversary of the National Unity
- Yemen reaches agreement with US Administration with regard to Gitmo inmates
- Foreign Minister: Yemen has fixed stance to follow up homecoming of Gitmo detainees

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi renewed confirmations that Yemen has an announced official stance since the very beginning to help its citizens detained in Guantanamo Pay, the ruling party-affiliated weekly reported on its front page. It said that the government is serious to pursue hard efforts for the immediate release and homecoming of Guantanamo inmates, adding Al-Qirbi denied that Yemen refused to receive its citizens detained in Guantanamo Pay. "Yemen remains adherent to its official stance toward its citizens jailed in the U.S bases or in other countries," the Yemeni Foreign Minister declared. He described his meeting with the American advocates who are visiting Yemen to defend Yemeni Guantanamo detainees as 'positive and excellent'.

According to Al-Qirbi, the American lawyers examined all the efforts expended by the Yemeni government, as well as its repeated attempts to release its Guantanamo inmates. The American advocates have corrected all the false information they received regarding the Yemeni government's official stance. "Yemen is one of the first countries that sent a security team to Guantanamo Jail to discuss security issues," Al-Qirbi went on to say.



Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen) Vacancy Announcement

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to call qualified candidates to apply for the following vacant posts Within it's main office in Sana'a.

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Job Requirement

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- An aptitude for problem solving, crisis management and tasks administration.
- Good command of English.

Interested candidates may submit their application letter with detailed Curriculum.

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CTPB/IPD/080507

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The main reasons for conducting a baseline survey and a conflict assessment are for better understanding of the conflicts and their dynamics in order to ensure more targeted interventions. The baseline survey will provide in depth view of potential conflict and the necessary background information that will enable Islamic Relief Yemen to integrate greater conflict sensitivity into its approach. The conflict baseline survey will provide the necessary baseline data against which future evaluations regarding impacts and effects will be measured.

Overall scope of the survey and the future use of the insights gained from the analysis can be defined as understanding and identifying the main areas of conflict in the country. This include a base for further activities directed at strengthening local capacities for conflict transformation in Yemen and monitor future developments and the impact of program activities on conflict dynamics.

Requirements:

- Postgraduate degree in conflict transformation analysis, sociology, political sciences or related field
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Ecotourism: Yemen's first steps toward a new industry

By: Alice Firebrace

Although a relatively new trend in travel, ecotourism is the fastest growing sector of the tourism industry – the world's largest service industry – with an average annual growth rate of 20 to 30 percent.

Ecotourism started to gather momentum in the 1980s with the rise in 'green' consumerism and the realization by a significant sector of the population that the world is a fragile and vulnerable place.

As far as tourism goes, if we overexploit natural areas attractive to tourists, we could find that we've exhausted the very thing people come to see in the first place. Additionally, abusing any product of the natural environment, for example fish stocks, could have a serious impact on other economic sectors, such as food production.

As renowned writer James Lovelock said, "We should remember that we are a part of the earth and it is indeed our home," and our tourism practices need to bear this in mind. Ecotourism involves travel to destinations where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible ecotourism involves programs that minimize traditional tourism's adverse effects on the natural environment while enhancing the cultural integrity of locals.

The Ministry of Water and Environment's Environmental Protection Agency is taking steps to establish conservation areas in Yemen. Selected areas have been or soon will be placed under "zone management," which splits areas into zones for particular uses, so some are for general human use, whereas some

prize a spectrum including "Resource Use Zones" and "Nature Sanctuaries." The latter are especially important on Socotra, where a third of its plant species are unique to the island.

Looking after areas of significant size, not just specific parcels, is of more help to the goal of species conservation due to the interconnected nature of ecosystems. In this way, the benefit will be much wider, including for example, economically profitable resources such as fish stocks.

There are now eight areas in Yemen where designated zone management has been put in place. Besides Socotra and its well-respected Socotra Conservation Program, conservation schemes have been declared (or are under preparation) for:

- The wetlands near Aden, which have a range of spectacular biodiversity, especially birdlife.
- Kamaran Island in the Red Sea, where the small, multi-colored tropical fish that have become popular in household fish tanks worldwide now are protected.
- Hawf, an area of 'fog forest' in eastern Yemen's Al-Mahrah governorate, where one might see large wild animals from the cat family that have wandered across the border from Oman where they were newly re-introduced.
- Jabal Bura'a and Otma, renowned for their flora and fauna and dramatic scenery.
- The Bir Ali coastline, which includes a saltwater volcanic crater fringed with mangroves amid the contrasting black and white mountains
- Sharma and Jethmoun beaches with their important populations of nesting sea turtles



Cool natural ponds.

ecologically important areas are given special protection.

Such a zone management plan was implemented across the whole of Socotra, an ecologically unique island off the south coast of Yemen. There, in the main towns such as Hadibo, restrictions are light because it is designated a "General Use Zone."

Other areas have other designations with stricter regulations in place to protect the environment accordingly. These com-

One idea behind such conservation zones is to introduce ecotourism in these areas. The aim is to provide an economic input that doesn't degrade the environment, that can replace any destructive economic activity and that avoids the negative aspects of general tourism.

For example, many of the pristine sands of the Greek islands have been taken over by resorts in order to accommodate those tourists who are content with a stretch of sunny beach for their



Dragon's blood trees, unique to Socotra.

vacation. However, though the move to develop many of Greece's beaches has reeled in millions of dollars, it has come at a tough price to wildlife and the environment.

Sea turtles used to come and nest on these beaches, but now they are fought off by landowners, who view them as competition for a more profitable trade. The turtles are distracted by the lights, they choke on the litter left by the thousands of tourists and their nesting places are replaced with sun chairs and umbrellas.

According to the May 6 issue of the New York Times, "Local authorities have found it impossible to hire night guards on some beaches because they fear attack by their neighbors if they defend nature rather than real estate interests."

If such practices were allowed to occur on Socotra, the island as it is now simply couldn't survive. Ecotourism, such as is beginning on Socotra, seeks to build an industry that isn't centered on these near-sighted and detrimental practices. The aim is to preserve nature while also profiting from it.

For example, tourists on Socotra can go up into the Homhil Mountains where they can stay in shelters in a designated campsite so that any damage to the environment is limited to a controlled area. There, they're served food by locals, who also can organize hiking tours with camels, if desired.

Activities are mostly nature-orientated, including swimming in cool natural ponds, hiking, camel riding, snorkeling and diving in the coral reefs or visiting the botanical gardens/endemic plant nursery near Hadibo. While won't attract the "sun and sea" market, it celebrates the surroundings much more while educating visitors about the ways of these unique locations.

The Socotrans I met were rightfully proud of their homeland and displayed an infinite respect for their surroundings; for example, they knew the names and uses of local plants (including medicinal properties) and were keen to take care of their island's resources. If tourism profit is directed to locals, inhabitants will gain confidence and understanding that their island is unique and a valuable tourist asset from which many could derive a sustainable income.

Tourism can be one way to channel funds from richer nations to poorer ones. International tour operators are beginning

to cash in on Socotra, leaving some to speculate that if the island opens up too much, there's the danger that the majority of financial benefit will end up with companies from the Yemeni mainland, Egypt, Europe and the United States.

Tony Milroy of the Socotra Conservation Fund says, "Socotrans know better than anyone the precious value of their island and how to protect it, but will they have time to develop their local capacity for tourism to reflect these values before the big international sharks eat the small local fish?"

In those areas where caring for the environment isn't so strong, ecotourism provides incentives for increased preservation and encourages individual conservation efforts. In order to establish an ecotourism base, facilities must be installed; for example, huts that don't intrude on the surroundings, toilets and discreet parking places.

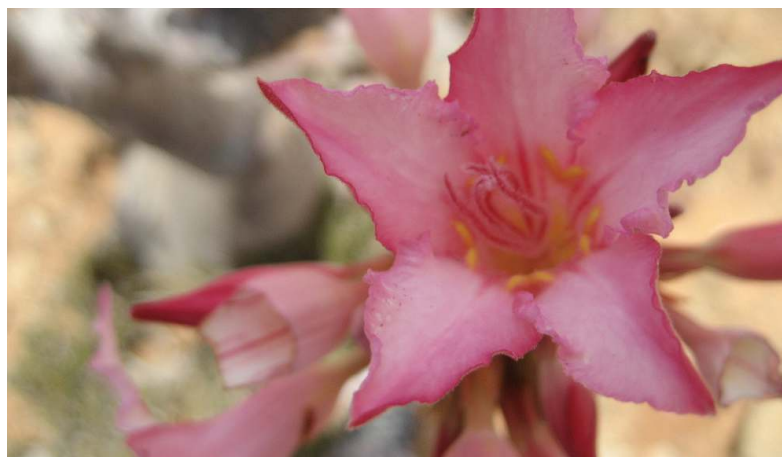
Many countries, such as those in South America, have gone a few steps further to ensure that such settlements do as little damage to the wider environment as possible by installing solar panels and using only green products and locally sourced foods.

To observe wildlife, telescopes can be installed, as well as bird watching towers. Experts on the specific environment also can be hired so that the necessary expertise is present. However, it's equally important to train locals, as these are who should get the bulk of jobs so that much of the revenue goes straight back into the local economy.

As with conventional tourism, there are other impacts associated with visitors coming into an area. For example, there's usually an increase in infrastructure, which can benefit other industries like transport (airlines and buses) and local agriculture (assuming the food is grown in country), thus spreading the wealth to other sectors.

Additionally, locals can rent out their boats and sell handicrafts for further income. Building roads enables greater mobility for tourists wanting to pack as much as they can into their vacation, but it also makes transport easier for locals.

But not all tourism impacts are positive, by any means. Separating tourists from meaningful contact with locals generally results in less mutual understanding, which can cause problems. Also, if badly designed, settlements can be a



Very rare species of flowers can be only found in Socotra.

source of light pollution, litter and traffic congestion.

Additionally, tourist travel to and from distant areas usually is via airplane; however, a 10,000-kilometer journey consumes approximately 700 liters of fuel per person. This leads to depletion of natural resources and global warming, thereby indirectly affecting the very environment the community is trying to protect and display. In some popular areas, there's huge visitor overload, which must be curtailed if environmental damage is to be avoided.

Economically, tourism of all types causes a location to be reliant upon the

international market, not only for customers, but often for money to start up such schemes. Lastly, tourists easily may be scared away from a country by even the smallest safety issues or political hiccups, thereby affecting the stability of local incomes.

Yemen is a country with huge and exciting potential for an ecotourism industry to allow both international visitors and Yemenis themselves to explore this beautiful country and its rich heritage; however, developing this emerging industry must be managed with great sensitivity and learning from the mistakes made elsewhere.

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In Memory of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Seven years have passed since Yemen Times founder Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was killed. At a time when Yemen's democratic development was at a crossroads, the nation was shocked to lose one of its prominent freedom fighters and human rights defenders.

The loss of Al-Saqqaf affected not only his family at home and at the Yemen Times, but also the media industry, which lost one of its prime mentors, as well as one of the loudest defenders of human rights and one of the most vocal advocates for transparency and good governance at all levels of government.

His mission for the Yemen Times was to "make Yemen a good world citizen," considering the role the newspaper was destined to play as essential not only for the nation's cultural, social, economic and political development, but also playing an indispensable watchdog role for the establishment of transparency and accountability in the nation's governance. "This is how to make Yemen a better world citizen," he used to say.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf strove hard to make the Yemen Times an independent, impartial and unbiased medium, enduring a series of beatings, torture, intimidation and threats, as well as several attempts to bankrupt the newspaper and discourage advertisers from advertising in it. However, the newspaper's work has continued to be recognized, both in Yemen and overseas, and enjoys a large audience in Yemen, with circulation exceeding its competition by six-fold.

My late father mentored myself and many fellow YemenTimes journalists to become a journalist, always telling



The late Al-Saqqaf and President Saleh had had a special relationship, president Saleh assigned Al-Saqqaf to head the Consultative Council's Human Rights Committee, a role Al-Saqqaf utilized to free over 2,000 prisoners, including political prisoners within months of assignment.

me that journalists are the historians of their countries. Thus, what we do at the Yemen Times is record our beloved country's history, which we must do factually and accurately, no matter how hard oppression becomes, because we have the responsibility to record the facts genuinely and impartially, putting the interests of the nation ahead, not the regime's interests or personal gains we might be offered. It's been seven years since his death, but the same struggle continues daily.

The Yemen Times received international recognition three times last year, winning the Middle East Publishing Conference's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Gibran Tueni Freedom Award and the world's most presti-

gious media freedom award, the Free Media Pioneer Award by the International Press Institute, the world's first media organization founded in New York shortly after the United Nations.

The Yemen Times has become a fundamental institution and an important pillar for Yemen's democratic development, what we do and the news stories and reports we author and publish do have an impact; and the feedback we receive as a consequences a motivation which drives us toward further excellence. Still working according to the same guidelines established by our founder, I sincerely believe we are making Yemen a better world citizen, just like late Dr. Al-Saqqaf said.

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Edu cation

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Improve Your English: 304

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (96): Friend

A friend lends charm to life. A true friend is a partner for life who sincerely sustains and unselfishly nurtures a friend through the thick and thin of life's grim battle.

- You make an excellent friend because you're willing to lend a helping hand, because you listen carefully and try to understand, because I know you'll be there when I need you by my side, because you're someone I can trust and in whom I can confide, because you try to make me smile when I'm feeling blue, and because you share and care and give very freely, too.
- True friends are like your own shadow, always by your side, to watch your every step, every stride, unlike a smile that comes for a while, only to leave a dry impression on the face; unlike a dream that comes with a lovely sleep, only to be broken with the first light; unlike a mark that imprints on the sand, only to be erased with a fresh tide, unlike others, who sometimes are never by your side. Friends always stay beside, in all seasons of life.
- Friends share their dreams with one another. We have clicked our fingers together, breaking into melodies; unveiled each other's hopes and dreams, smiled and wondered, when they had come true... Time performs its ritual and changes a lot; but our friendship is the same, even better, where the foundation is strong and as lovely as ever.
- A note of thanks for a very special you! What is an honest friend? Somebody loving, someone we count on when we can't be there to safely look after the ones whom we love with warmth and concern and the finest of care. You're somebody special to look after others. With all of the love and concern that you show, you're warm and dependable, caring and kind and you're treasured far more than you'll ever know. Thank you very much.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- 'How are you?' 'I'm very fine, thanks.'
- The agitation was mainly concerned about working conditions.
- I felt confident to pass the exam.
- He was not sufficiently aware enough to understand the situation
- I haven't got enough cash on me for paying the bill.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- They asked me to go swimming with them, but I didn't want to.
- The boy was sorry and he apologized to the teacher.
- She asked the **man** opposite the time.
- You are asking me to do a **completely** (or **quite**) impossible job.
- Bill Gates is **hugely** (or **very**) rich.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Apparatus for holding back solid substances in an impure liquid passed through it.
- Closing scene of an opera
- Gay and elegant dress or appearance
- Artful or delicate way of dealing with a situation
- Not yielding when pressed

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Moods or weather often changing: **fickle**(adj)
- Slender wire in an electric bulb: **filament** (n)
- Of a son or daughter: **filial** (adj)
- Member of a legislature who tries to prevent passage of a bill making long speeches: **filibuster**(n)
- Ornamental lace-like work of gold, silver, or copper ware: **filigree**(n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following

- naturism, naturalism
- wife, waif
- vacation, vocation
- exceptional, exceptionable
- ceremony, function

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- present** (n) (gift): I gave a birthday present to my friend.
presentation (n) (the act or action of presenting something): There are two presentations of the musical concert each evening.
- contrast** (n) (comparing one thing with another so that differences are made clear): The contrast between the two sisters is striking.
contradiction (n) (absence of agreement): There is

- a marked contradiction in the witness' statement.
- cloth** (n) (material made by weaving cotton, wool, silk, linen, etc.): I bought 3 meters of table cloth.
clothing (n) (collective clothes): We bought some articles of clothing ahead of the festival.
- put** (vt) (move so as to be in a certain place or position): He put his mobile phone in his pocket.
keep (vt) (have in one's possession and not give away; not lose; preserve): Please keep this in safe custody while I'm away.
- ability** (n) (power to perform acts, physical or mental): No one doubts your ability to accomplish the task.
capacity (n) (the amount that something can hold or produce): He has a mind of great capacity.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

i. Synonyms

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

- insinuate**
a. pierce
c. suggest
b. sinful
d. low
- leonine**
a. lotion
c. lion-like
b. lying
d. submissive
- model**
a. parade
c. paradigm
b. procession
d. idle
- nightmare**
a. story
c. frightening dream
b. journey
d. owl
- stable**
a. uniform
c. permanent
b. fluctuating
d. unvarying

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. frisk | gambol |
| 2. genre | style |
| 3. histrionic | theatrical |
| 4. ingenuous | artless |
| 5. ideograph | symbol |

ii. Antonyms

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

- marine**
a. naval
c. bird
b. land
d. none of these
- modesty**
a. coyness
c. relegation
b. ostentation
d. peering
- nervous**
a. agitated
c. shaky
b. fearless
d. timorous
- overt**
a. secret
c. coy
b. open
d. divert
- obese**
a. fat
c. explode
b. thin
d. obedient

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. legendary | ahistorical |
| 2. lament | rejoice |
| 3. loyalty | perfidy |
| 4. misgiving | assurance |
| 5. momentous | frivolous |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. abdomen
c. abdomein
d. abdomeen
b. aberration
- a. aboration
c. aberation
d. aberration
b. abbeeyence
- a. abbeyance
c. abeyance
d. abhur
b. abhor
- a. abhur
c. abhur
d. abhor
b. ablotion
- a. ablution
c. ablaution
d. abletion

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- woolen
- carry
- abandon
- abbey
- abbreviate

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentences

- run (something up the flagpole)
- play for time
- over the top
- be rushed off one's feet
- that's flat

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- as thin as a rake (very thin): You should take

- balanced diet and exercise; you're as thin as a rake.
- make the grade** (to do as well as required): You must make the grade in your new station.
- see the last of** (someone/something) (to see someone or something for the last time, not to see the person or the thing again): She broke down when she saw the last of the house she lived in for many years.
- lock the stable door after the horse has bolted** (to take action which is too late): The police began patrolling after the clash but it was useless as it was a case of locking the stable door after the horse has bolted.
- a wild goose chase** (an attempt to do something that has no chance of success): The police tried to rescue the hostage from the hands of the kidnappers, but it ended in a wild goose chase.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A. Grammar

Fill the blanks in the sentences with one of the following words connected with law

- fined, prosecution, court, jury, lawyer, cross-examined, witnesses, evidence, accused, defence, trial, verdict, guilty, sentenced, judge*
- The — of Mr. Malik opened at the High Court today.
- Mr. Malik has been — of stealing large sums of money from his company.
- At the beginning of the trial, the twelve members of the — came into the — and sat down.
- Everyone stood up when the — who was wearing a white wig, came in.
- After a few minutes, the lawyer for the — said that he would prove that Mr. Malik had stolen the money.
- He questioned a number of — who had heard Mr. Malik talking about stealing the money.
- Then the — for the — got up and said that he would show that Mr. Malik had done nothing wrong.
- He — the witnesses, and tried to show that the — that they had given was not true.
- At the end, the jury went out of the court to make their —.
- They decided that Mr. Malik was — and that he had stolen the money.
- The judge — him to two years in prison.
- He also — him \$5,000

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- I remembered to post the letter: I didn't forget to post the letter.
- I remembered posting the letter: I recall that I posted the letter.
- I reminded you to post the letter: I told you to post the letter.
- I remembered you posting the letter: I recall that you posted the letter.
- I forgot to post the letter: I didn't post the letter.
- I've forgotten posting the letter. I posted the letter, but I don't recall it.

B. Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

122. HE WHO HESITATES IS LOST

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

121. LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

One should leave alone things which may cause trouble. One should not invite trouble by invoking the bitter memory of the past, and leave things as they are. One should be tactful in avoiding a past controversial or contentious issue because, if one digs the past, then that might lead to unpleasant situation. It is likely to rub the sore which might have healed to some extent and, eventually, lead to an explosive situation that is not good for any one. So rather than fomenting trouble, one should let bygone be bygone, bury the past and avoid to raise a storm over a fruitless past event. Let's not sentimentalize the past and without bothering for the probable consequences, and without carefully considering the pros and cons, thoughtlessly remind others about an unsavory occurrence in the recent or remote past. In the ultimate analysis, we should exercise utmost discretion in our dealings and carefully decide about the acts of our omissions and commissions.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"And this is a Book which We have revealed as a blessing: so follow it and be righteous, that ye may receive mercy" —S6:A155

VI. Food for Thought

Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eye.

—H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Dr. Kundu's response to (SIG) request: How to help low-proficient learners of English?



Dr. Manmath Kundu
Associate Professor,
Department of English
Faculty of Education
Hudeidah University

On behalf of the SIG (Special Interest Group) in ELT in Yemen we requested Dr. Kundu for some tips in helping our low-proficient learners of English. We state below what he wrote to us for the benefit of the teachers of English in Yemen.

Dear Abduh and all the members of your SIG group

First, I congratulate all of you for forming this group to help yourselves professionally. Especially, I thank you for taking the initiative to form this group. You are right — our problems of education, more particularly the problems of teaching English are unique and special arising out of our socio-economic and cultural make-up. We cannot, therefore, expect the western ELT experts to solve our typical problems primarily due to the fact that they teach English in very comfortable circumstances but we, on the other hand, teach English in very very difficult circumstances. The problems can only be solved through our insightful understanding of the root causes of these problems and putting in more than average effort to solve them at our individual level through mutual help and support.

You, on behalf of your SIG, have asked

me how to solve the problem of abysmally low English proficiency of our English learners. While talking about this problem which is a pan third world phenomenon (not merely confined to English but to all subjects of study). I would like to talk about the problems of mixed abilities classes also because they are closely linked. While talking about these two typical problems in our countries I will have to talk a little about the problem of large classes because the twin problems of low proficiency and mixed abilities are primarily the product of large classes.

The current explosive state of the problems

Let me first state how aggravated are these two problems at present and their serious, harmful consequences. To start with, may be four or five decades back, these problems were there but were not that serious. With the great increase in the number of students, the classes became larger and the quantity negatively affected the quality. To make the matter worse, there has been deterioration in our work culture. Teachers in the past were not highly educated nor professionally trained but the school and their students were uppermost in their minds. Our minds, in the present time, by contrast seem to be more preoccupied with a lot of other things not related to our profession. Our minds have little space for our school and our learners.

To start with, the low proficient learners were always there but their number was negligible. But their number kept on increasing with years and currently in most of the classes their number is about 80% to 90%, more so in English classes. With the increase of years the classes have become more mixed in the sense that the range of abilities across individual learners in a class has increased gradually.

Continued on page 2

Computer animation: An overview



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United States, Canada, Japan, France, Britain and Germany. In Japan, several successful computer games have crossed over and have become animated series like *Power Rangers*, *Monster Farm*, *Power Stone* and *Detective Conan*.

In movies series, hundreds of movies have been created by computer animation such as *Shreck*, *Final Fantasy*, *The Ants*, *Finding Nemo* etc. Animation is being increasingly used in video games, and movies are also increasingly reliant on animation and computer graphic special effects.

Computer animation technology

There are different ways to make computer animation. One is 3D animation where the user has to create objects and then render them. This method produces perfect three dimensional looking animation. But using this technology, the user has to spend more money on hardware and software. Another way to create computer animation is to use standard computer painting tools and to paint single frames and compose them. Even though this process will take more time and man power to complete, yet the effects will be smooth and the animator can easily track and change them at any time.

Continued on page 2

ELT Panorama

Continued from page 1

How to help low-proficient learners of English?

Let me give an example:

Suppose I am currently engaging class XII and the number of students in the class is 100. About 90% of them, so far as the English language skills are concerned, are below the class level. Only the 10% of the students have the English language skills of class XII. And those 90% who are below the level of their class (class XII) are not at the same level so far as their English skills are concerned. They are at different levels. May be 15% are in class VI, 20% in class XI, 10% are in class VII. 12% are in class VII, 10% are in class IX and the like so far as their English language skills are concerned. There are also two or three students whose level of English is very good, above their level. Thus, although I am teaching class XII yet in reality I am taking a class VII to class XIV. Is it possible to do justice to such a class in which 90% of the students are below their level (low proficient) and their levels range from class VII to class XIV? What kind of material, method and test will suit them?

Currently this basic fact makes teaching totally deficit and teaching has failed to achieve any learning dividend in our learners. But our expert educationists fail to notice this problem and plug wrong holes. Some of them seem to be aware of this problem, but probably they do not have any solutions to offer as far as this problem is concerned and, therefore, pretend not to talk about it. Our seminars, meetings and conferences do not adequately address themselves to this problem. Our teacher-training, both pre- and in-service, are silent about this problem. Two or three decades back one international conference on Third World Education at Jamitan was devoted to the problem of low proficiency in the third world countries and the conference yielded the concept of MLL (Minimal Level of Learning). The view that emerged stipulated the third world countries to see that when their students pass from one class to another the stress should be given on achieving the minimum level of learning the specific curriculum. But nothing happened in reality. The number of low proficient learners increased by leaps and bounds. Things have reached a point of no

return. It has really reached an explosive state.

Some harmful consequences

The harmful effects of low proficient learners and mixed ability classes are all pervasive. I will mention here only three very important effects arising out of this.

1- Effects on Teaching/Learning System.

It has already been stated that these problems make the teaching/learning dysfunctional. (The four important aspects of any teaching/learning system are the objectives of a course, the materials and methods used to achieve these objectives and the evaluation or test to testify whether the objectives set are achieved or not at the end of the course). All these are prepared keeping in view the level of the class but when 90% of the learners are found to be much below this level, all of these become dysfunctional - the materials do not work, the methods used do not produce any result and the tests are done as ritual (as we are forced to be too liberal to allow the majority of the testees get through even though their performance is disappointing). Thus all these means of producing learning become futile exercise and we have been engaged in this kind of futile exercise in the third world without ever introspecting ourselves.

2-Effects on the teacher

First, the teacher fails to handle such classes and develops a negative attitude to his/her own capabilities as a teacher. This s/he does not disclose to others and adopts some survival strategies. S/He pretends to know a lot or do a lot while, in fact, doing very little. S/He picks up some rules of grammar, for example, and shows off his/her knowledge of English while his/her English language competence is very low. The gap between what s/he says and what s/he actually does increases making them psychotic. Other survival strategies include making oneself part of several syndromes. For example, s/he falls a prey to the making-it-difficult-and-then-making-it-easy syndrome. S/He selects a difficult topic and then explains in English or in the mother tongue of the

learners to make it easy. S/He sets difficult questions in examinations and then passes students through 'grace marks'. S/He also falls a prey to the syndrome of passing-the-buck. When the students of the college are found to be very low proficient, the college teachers pass the buck or responsibility to the secondary school teachers, the secondary school teachers to the preparatory school teacher and the preparatory school teachers to the primary and so on. No one takes the responsibility. Besides, the teachers develop a negative attitude to their learners and when learning does not take place, all blames are heaped on the learners-they are not writing, not motivated, not willing to put in effort to learn etc. Currently, of course, the teachers' negative attitude to students is the greater obstacle to learning in the third world countries.

3-Effects on the learners

The worst victims of low proficiency are, obviously, the learners. The low proficient learners know that they are low proficient, that they do not belong to the class so far as their proficiency is concerned. This very fact negatively affects their self-concept. Some of them become totally dependent on their classmates. Some of them drop out of the school because staying in a class with the feeling that one does not belong to the class is really difficult. Some just hang on without participating in the activities of the class. They are the ones who maybe termed 'in-school drop outs.'

The long-term effect of this is all pervasive. The education system does not have any provision to take care of these low proficient learners. The teachers fail to take care of them. If the parents are rich and educated they take care of their low proficient wards themselves or send them to private tutors or coaching classes. But poor and uneducated parents fail to help their wards. This adds to the already existing divide between the rich and the poor in the third world countries.

Major causes

Some of the major causes of the low proficient learners and mixed ability classes in the third world countries can be

grouped under the following heads:

a) Social factors

Poverty and overpopulation, as stated before, cause large class and large class in turn, produces low proficiency and mixed abilities. Mixed abilities is also often a reflection of the social stratification based on class or caste.

b) Defective system of education

The best-planned and organized system of education can turn out to be the worst if it does not take into account its learners, particularly their level of proficiency. Our syllabus, materials, methods of teaching and evaluation are planned and designed taking into account the level of the best of our learners who constitute only 5-10% of our student population. Thus 80-90% of learners actually fail to get any benefit out of this system.

c) Principles of no detention

Currently the world trend in education is not to detain or fail anyone. Failure is wastage. In western countries, although, they pass everyone, they ensure that those who pass have achieved the minimum level of competency. But in third world countries we pass everyone, even those who have not achieved this level. This aggravates the problem of low proficiency and mixed ability.

d) No remedial measures

These are our indigenous problems and we should find some solutions to these problems. But none of us seems to bother about them. We pretend as if these problems do not exist. The German system of education has a built-in system of remediation for low proficient learners. In every two years the low proficient learners are spotted and put to special classes to make up the loss. The causes of their low proficiency are identified and suitable remediation provided. In other countries the teachers do so through informal evaluation and class remediation.

What is unique about these problems in Yemen ?

My knowledge in this regard is confined to teaching/learning of English. The number of low proficient learners in a class is the highest in Yemen and the exam most liberal. The main causes are wrong strategies of learning, learning English through grammar (for exams) and through memorization of rules. The current textbooks in school (The crescent package) are also greatly responsible. The expectations of the textbooks are very high and the achievement nil. This increases the gap between expectation and real achievement every year. In colleges the courses of English are tough. The students, as a result, take resort to memorization. The whole exercise seems to be an exercise in futility. This might be the case with other subjects as well. More than 80% of the students pass out secondary school after six years of study of English without

achieving the skills expected from them at the end of the first year of English (class VII). They do also pass their graduation without learning to put full stop at the end of a sentence or begin a sentence with a capital letter. How they pass that itself is a miracle. Only 5-10% of the students achieve the skills and the rest go through the course as a ritual. They have the typical problems of spelling malapropism (spelling the word 'two' as 'tow', 'oxygen' as 'oxygen') and making one word two ('useful' as 'use ful') and two words one ('a teacher' as 'ateacher'). They are very good in spotting errors from writing but equally good in committing these errors in their own writing.

Some possible solutions

The current problem of low proficiency and mixed ability has reached an explosive state, because of our not taking measures to set them right for long. With such an explosive state, easy solutions seem impossible. The rich, powerful and the educated people have found a way out by creating their own private and expensive educational institutions. But the poor who constitute 80% of our population, whose children attend government institutions suffer. Many of them have stopped sending their children to schools and some send with little hope.

A remedial measures should be implemented from the very first year of learning, introducing bridge courses in all the levels of the schools (the first month of the academic year) and providing special treatment to the final year of schooling. And all these should be done on a war footing.

My area of specialization is teaching low proficient learners. My heart is with them. Here are a few strategies I have very successfully adopted in leveling up the level of the low proficient learners, helping them improve their self-concept and learn from each other converting some of their disadvantages into real advantages.

1- Change your attitude to low proficient learners

High academic achievement and high marks/grades do not always go with high intelligence and greatness. More than 80% of the great men of the world are not academic achievers. Many of them either have not gone to schools or were school drop-outs. I have written a book (in my mother tongue) the English translation of the title is "Wise Tips From Low Proficient Learners". Most of our high proficient learners are selfish. They look to their own interest only. But the low proficient learners, in contrast, are gregarious, sociable, helping by nature. But unfortunately, we teachers, are always full of praise for the best students of the class and are negatively prejudiced against the low-achievers.

2- Manage well the large class

We know large classes are products of

societal factors as poverty and overpopulation over which we as teachers have very little control. But we can manage large classes well. Stated below are some tips.

- Make your voice clear and audible even to the last benches. Speak slow, plan your teaching well (mentally) and manage your blackboard work skillfully.
- Make large classes appear small making horizontal and vertical roads in between students where possible. So the class is divided into small subsections. And you can come near almost all the students.
- Don't always stick to the teacher's place. Move around and teach. Don't always lecture and talk. At times give them tasks to do and you move around and help them individually to do the task.
- Take the help of your students to manage the class. Take them into confidence. Tell them how it is difficult to help everyone in a large class and they have to cooperate to get benefit from this difficult situation.

3- Let your focus be on the majority of the learners of the class (70%-80%)

These learners are often the low proficient learners. In such classes you have to adopt your textbook to their level and then slowly take them to a higher level. You may have to, at times, prepare your own materials if their level is very low. But unfortunately we focus on the best learners whose proficiency level suits the class level. These best learners who only constitute 5%-10% can be helped outside the class through special help. Inside the class they can be asked to help their low proficient brothers and sisters through peer help and peer-corrections.

4- Adopt the process approach (not product approach)

Process approach lays stress on the steps of processes to reach the product helping the learners at every step to reach the final product. But the product approach only wants the finished product, not the process. For example, a teacher following a product approach gives a task (writing an essay for example) and expects them to come up with the finished product. But the teacher following a process approach, on the other hand, helps learners step by step to reach the product. S/He helps the learners to generate ideas through brain storming, collect necessary vocabulary and structures and helps them to write paragraphs, and finally order these paragraphs to write an essay. Even tests can be based on the process approach where the mixed range ability groups have something to do at their level and get reward for their work.

All these tips are in fact one. Each one is related to the other. If all of us do something in this regard in our classes (Insha Allah) the change will come and our low-proficient learners will be benefited from our teaching.

Computer animation: An overview

These can later be either saved as a movie file or output to video. One last method of making computer animation is to use transitions and other special effects like morphing to modify existing images and video.

Computer animation can be done on a variety of computer specification and software. The complexity of the setup depends on the budgets and planning. Simple cell animation requires nothing more than a computer system capable of simple graphics with proper animation software. Unfortunately, most of the computer animation that you see on television and in other areas is done on extremely sophisticated workstations such as Silicon Graphics and Mainframe.

Computer animation can be created with animation software such as Maya, Poser, Ray Dream Studio, TrueSpace, Lightwave, 3D Studio Max and SoftImage XSI. Some impressive animation can be achieved even with basic programs; however, the rendering can take a lot of time on an ordinary home computer. Because of this, video game animators tend to use low resolution, low polygon count renders, such that the graphics can be rendered in real time on a home computer. Professional animators of movies, television, and video sequences on computer games make photorealistic animation with high detail. This is important because to broadcast the sequence on air requires a very high detail of the animation. This level of quality for movie animation would take a very long time to create on a home computer. Many powerful workstation computers are used instead, such as the use of two to four processors, and thus are a lot more powerful than a home computer.

Computer animation in education

People are always looking for new ways to enhance and educate their knowledge and children. If they are having fun, they will learn better. Computer animation can be used to make very exciting and fun videos into which education can easily be incorporated. It is much more interesting to learn medicine, for example, when the parts inside human body

can be seen in all details. Other subjects such as Engineering, Multimedia, Geography, Music, can also be taught by using computer animation.

Lecturers at university can also use computer animation to demonstrate things visually exactly as they want since they can show perfect examples by controlling every aspect of the simulation. It can be used to show how things come together and work together. In science for example, computer animation might be used to show how our solar system works, and in maths, a computer animation might show a student how one can algebraically manipulate an equation. The computer graphics students can create 3D animation for the video sequential almost beyond their imaginations.

In distance learning, computer animation has been used widely especially in Medical Program and Graphics, where students who cannot attend the class can post and view online their works to lecturers. Web conferences between universities around the world also use computer animation to discuss and present their ideas.

Benefits in education

Students from schools, college or universities can get the following benefits from the advancement of computer animation technology.

a. Skill and ability improvement

The interactive environment of animation would help the students learn faster and without the complexities in traditional school lectures.

b. Hands on

With the advance of computer hardware and software, students can become more competent and skillful than ever before.

c. Interactivity

In traditional school lectures, there is a low chance for a shy student to be able to participate in class discussions. If this were the case, the student may learn less from what he/she could in animation.

d. Engagement

Animation, with all the things that make it interesting, would definitely hook its learner because of the stuff that makes it challenging and worthy of a person's time. Since a learner may go back again and again to that program, his/her daily performance is improved.

e. Flexibility and safety

Animation provides a hazard-free environment, especially in chemistry experiments that one can redo without injury. And it is flexible enough for a person to learn through discovery.

f. Boost to motivation

Since this type of education is fun; learners are motivated to learn more and more each day, thus improving the skills they acquire.

g. Elimination of frustration

Learning through computer animation helps in the maturity of decision-making of the students. The program adapts to the user's choices and reacts in different ways. In a traditional classroom, students look at teachers as the centre of knowledge. They follow wherever the teacher leads them.

h. Practicality

It presents true-to-life situations where adults learn better because they are said to be "practical learners".

i. Immediate feedback

The animation system already provides the feedback for the learner, thus giving information where the learner should improve.

j. Attracting and holding attention

It is said that movement and colors attract attention. This standard is important in animation for a learner or student to be able to learn much better.

k. Showing prototype designs

Computer Animation is a dynamic tool for designing objects that do not yet exist in reality such as how the ideas of architects or engineers come to life.

Script your success story (3)

Tips for effective writing



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“Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man”, opined Francis Bacon in his famous essay entitled “Of Studies”. In the skills hierarchy writing occupies a very important position. In fact, your writing skills speak a lot about you. Writing appears to be rather boring and difficult to many because unlike speaking or listening, it is not an innate or natural skill. It needs to be very scrupulously cultivated and carefully nurtured. Despite all distractions of the electronic media, knowing how

to write, and how to write well is one of the highest priorities.

The mechanics of writing begin with the alphabet and proceed through vocabulary, syntax and semantic organization till we finally reach the structuring of our message in to communicable units that begin with a paragraph, and end with a coherent and cohesive discourse.

Writing is a secondary skill unlike speaking and listening. For example, a person may be illiterate but can communicate very efficiently in the local language. But when it comes to writing he may not know an alphabet of the language. Unlike speaking, writing is not temporary. Spoken words disappear as soon as the words are articulated, whereas the written mode of communication is ever lasting.

Basically, good written communication requires a unity of effect. We can achieve it if our writing has a clear progression of the beginning- middle-end variety. The following are the few tips for effective writing:-

- Be direct and explicit. Remember, nobody has the time to unravel the relevance and significance of your material.
- Do not waste too many lines in

introduction.

- Stick to the structure and topic of your writing
- Deal with the issues one by one. Don't put many ideas together
- Don't provide too many appendices and footnotes
- Your presentation should be effective. The page should present a neat, clean, legible look.
- Write several versions, if necessary, of your material. Revision helps
- Copy- edit your writing to avoid spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes.

Use every draft as a stage in the process of writing, and not as the final, finished product. It indeed helps to determine in advance the length of your written communication because you can arrange and organize and explain your points accordingly.

Good, effective communication through writing pre- supposes clear thinking. Only if you have thought through an issue to its last details, you can write effectively. Next, good written communication requires thorough research into the data and lastly planning the actual document, its lay out and giving the draft a final shape.

How to write a news release



Terry O'Brien
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Writing a copy

What someone writes down and hands to the editor of a paper is called copy. The writing itself much less important than the gathering of *facts*. News means what actually happened; what people did or said-not what they might have done.

Finding the facts

A few experiences will impress any reporter with the importance of *accuracy* and *completeness*: get people identified and names spelled correctly. Putting the facts in order: the Lead

Sentence

In arranging the facts you have gathered, there is one simple rule *about news stories*. The opening sentence, called the *lead* (pronounced led) should carry the most important part of the news story.

From it the rest of the story tapers down in importance like an inverted pyramid. The lead sentence or paragraph should cover briefly who did what, when, where, how and why? The paragraph that follows can fill in the details, in descending order of importance. God news copy therefore, is so written that the editor can cut away everything except the lead and yet have a brief but complete news statement.

Thus the story is told three times: telegraphically in the headlines, summarily but precisely in the lead, and as elaborately as importance and space allow in the following paragraphs. Your information should contain in itself enough drama to hold the reader's attention. If it doesn't, it probably isn't news. Remember the inverted pyramid!

A Novel of Middling Merit

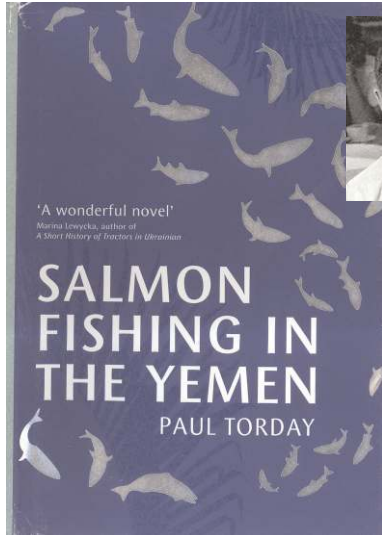


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Paul Torday's debut novel is unusually interesting in that it has an essentially unique subject accompanied by clever plot dynamics. The story unfolds in a collage of emails, interviews, letters, media clippings and diary entries as well as transcripts of question hour at the House of Commons. This inventively unconventional device propels the tale from Whitehall to the highlands of Scotland to those of Yemen. Here is an epistolary novel leavened by postmodern flavour. However, the ingenious narration has both its real strengths and glaring weaknesses. But more on that later.

The novel opens with a letter from Ms Harriet Chetwode-Talbot of the National Centre for Fisheries Excellence, Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, Smith Squire, London, on behalf of a cash rich Yemeni client who wishes to sponsor a well-funded flagship project to "introduce salmon, and the sport of salmon fishing," in Yemen. The reply to this letter from Ms Silly Thomas, assistant to Dr Alfred Jones, is discouraging "on a number of fundamental grounds". Contrary to these objections, recommendations in support of the project pour in from various quarters.

The project, described as "risible" and "insane", relates to salmon breeding in the wadis (valleys) of Hadramaut. The enterprise will generate angling tourism and will also segue into Anglo-Yemeni co-operation with "wider implications for perceptions of UK involvement in the Middle East". Peter Maxwell, director of communications in the British Prime Minister's office, writes to a Blair-like Prime Minister, Jay Vent, about the brownie points the venture promises, such as photo opportunities for salmon-fishing in Yemen to deflect the public outcry against military intervention in the region, as well as other domestic and diplomatic dividends. The Yemeni client is an "Anglophone" and a key potential ally in Yemeni councils. The Prime Minister knows nothing about fishing but likes the idea of a photograph of himself landing a salmon in the Middle East. He appreciates



Salmon Fishing in the Yemen. Paul Torday. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2007, £ 12.99, pp.321.

the political dimension to the project and gives it a go-ahead.

The central figure in the novel is Dr Alfred (Fred) Jones, who works at the National Centre for Fisheries Excellence and has the proper qualifications to assess the technical feasibility of the undertaking. At first glance, he declares the project "absurd" and "scientifically nonsensical", but eventually he gives in to political pressure. Dragoned into the job by the threat of his sack, Fred gets down to the nitty gritty of the Sheikh's dream mission. He is won over by the persuasive powers of the elegant Harriet, and by the influence of Sheikh Muhammad ibn Zaidi bani Tilhama. As Fred is caught up in the details of introducing salmon to the deserts of Yemen, his professional and domestic life is disrupted. The moving parts of Torday's novel are the relationship issues between Fred and Mary and between Harriet and her fiancé, Captain Robert Matthews, who is part of the British Marines out in Basra, and winds up on a covert mission in Iran. Fred and Harriet begin to eye each other and their quiet romance is another thread of the *Salmon* story.

Yanked out of his modest domestic life, Fred falls in his mid-life crisis as his banker wife is increasingly drawn to a lucrative location away from the UK. He begins to re-evaluate his life in the light of the Sheikh's devoutness, faith, humility and goodness. The latter's quasi-religious mission casts a spell on Fred and he begins to believe in the impossible with stirrings of new faith. He is the only character in the novel who grows from his nondescript days as a fisheries expert to the moment when he is whisked off by the project's point-woman, Harriet, to the

Yemeni Sheikh's Scottish sporting centre to his days in Yemen, where he is trying to overcome one difficulty after another to make the project plausible even in the middle of his marital crisis. Harriet's emotional rupture is another human side of the *Salmon* story.

The dream project fails as the fabulously rich Yemeni sponsor and Prime Minister Vent are felled by a religious fanatic while launching the Yemen salmon project. An al-Qa'eda assassin had been disarmed in his first attempt at the Sheikh by the latter's smart ghillie, but at this time no dumb luck comes along. The prime minister's spin doctor, Peter Maxwell, is horrified. In his testimony of events Fred recounts what has happened: "When the waters receded and most of the security people and the Sheikh's bodyguard had headed off downstream to see if they could find the bodies, I stood by the mouth of the channel feeding salmon into the wadi. I watched fish after fish enter the flow, turn as it smelt the water, and head upstream. I stood there without moving for a long time, and my heart was too full to speak. At first a few journalists and TV people came down and tried to get me to comment on what had just happened, but they weren't interested in my salmon. They only wanted to talk about the accident and the prime minister. They weren't interested either in what had happened to ... the Sheikh... After a while they went away, and an hour or two later I heard one of the Chinooks lift off, taking them all back to Sana'a to file their stories" (p.305).

Torday's narrative has its moments but the novel's denouement is pretty tame. There are many perspectives on the major episodes threading through the plot but without any controlling narrator's point of view. Artifice dominates art, and points of view don't hang together. The author has deftly interwoven pastiches of political spin, exploited their potential for satire but the cataclysm is lacking in dramatic effect. Dramatic suspense is not adequately built in the plot; and there is no emotional depth either. In addition, there are copy-editing slips in the novel. All in all, Torday's talent as a novelist reaches the halfway mark in this debut offering. However, given his potential gifts, he may fish out a better work next time.

Paul Torday was recently in the Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University, to read out excerpts from his novel. I am grateful to Prof. A. K. Sharma, Chairman, English Department for lending me a copy of *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*

A survey by Taiz University students of English Do Yemenis need English?

Professor MNK Bose, Faculty of Education, Taiz.

Motivated by the survey of Dr Nadhim Saeed of Sana'a University in 2006, six of our Level 2 Students, five in a group and the other one alone met some Yemenis in Taiz recently (March 2007) with a question "Do you think English is important for Yemenis?"; the group met 50 people from different walks of life such as surgeons, lawyers, teachers, business persons, engineers, students and housewives and the other one met a few women who discontinued their studies. This, they did on their own prompted by the discussion in the Curriculum class about the needs of Yemenis for English and encouraged by Dr Modhish, Head of the Dept. of English. The group consisted of Sara Al Zageruri, Shefa Al Ozabi, Amani Al Odieni, Sahar Al Dobai and Sameera Al Odieni and the loner is Lina Abdullah. Miss Wafa, one of the Demonstrators in the Dept of English assisted them. Here are the results of their surveys:

34 out 50 have agreed that English is important for Yemenis and the others have said 'no'. Those who have disagreed have several reasons, some of them have cultural overtone and some others reflect 'personal' attitudes. Look at their objections:

- English is the language of our enemies and we don't need it
- We are villagers; why do we need English?
- I'm not going to travel outside Yemen and I don't need English
- Our mother tongue is the most beautiful language; we don't need any other language

- English is a difficult language and we don't want it
- Ours is the language of the Holy Quran; we should learn it first
- We should be proud of our language; if foreigners want to communicate with us, let them learn our language
- While learning English Yemenis learn other things which make their life difficult
- Who says one needs English for going abroad? I went to India and came back just with my language
- If we give more importance to another language, we'll forget our language
- We don't need English a lot
- It's better Yemenis learn their language than any other language

One can see that all the observations, except a few based on very serious cultural fervour, are debatable and those that make them can be convinced about the need for English. For example, one who says that he went to India and came back just with his language, if probed further, would agree that he used (at least listened to and understood) English at times in India; similarly, the one who thinks that if we learn another language, we'll forget our language can be convinced with facts against his argument. The response 'foreigners who want to communicate with us should learn our language' is tenable, provided we don't visit their countries. The observation 'we should learn our language first' is unchallengeable and everyone should learn their language first before learning any other language.

Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), I hear, has said that one who learns the language of others saves himself/herself from being deceived, thereby encouraging peo-

ple to learn other languages. Moreover, languages being tools for communication, one who knows more than one language is better equipped in life, which one realizes in a multilingual situation.

Those who have felt the needs for English, including a housewife, argue as follows:

- Yemenis need English for a better future
- We need to learn English in order to know our enemies better
- English is needed for better jobs
- We can communicate with foreigners like our teachers better
- We can deal with international law better
- We can work with the computers and internet better
- English is important for my business; all the correspondences related to the import are in English
- We learn about other cultures through English

Most of what has been said by the respondents confirms the results of earlier surveys in 1988 and 2006 that Yemen is in need of English for a better future for its citizens.

Lina's subjects, being women who discontinued their education for some reason or are students of preparatory schools, are enthusiastic to learn English.

Such surveys, if undertaken periodically by students of English in the Faculties of Education, can make the English teacher educators aware of the reality of the situation regarding the status of English in this society and give the policy makers a fair idea of how they have to proceed further in their planning of English studies in this country.

The students who undertook the survey on their own (they don't get any marks for it) deserve a lot of appreciation.

Some Homographs and their Proximity in Meaning

There are words in English which are homographs with some proximity in their meaning. That means these words have some similarity in their spelling, pronunciation as well as in their meaning. For instance, the following pairs of words are broadly synonymous. Some of these are also interchangeable.

1- award = reward

award: a prize that someone gets for something that they have achieved. Ex.: *Ali received an award.*
reward: something that is given to someone to thank them for doing something. Ex.: *She offered a £20 reward to anyone who could find her cat.*

2- bash = smash

bash: to hit something or someone hard. Ex.: *He bashed his head on the back of the seat.*
smash: to hit an object or surface violently. Ex.: *Murray smashed his fist against the wall.*

3- amend = emend

amend: to make small changes or improvements, especially to something that has been written. Ex.: *The law has been amended several times.*
emend: to make small changes. Ex.: *After correcting the examination papers, the teacher emended them.*

4- accumulate = cumulate

accumulate: to gradually get more and more money, possessions, knowledge etc over a period of time. Ex.: *It is unjust that a privileged few should continue to accumulate.*
cumulate: to increase gradually as more of something is added or happens. Ex.: *Good students cumulate their learning by their good study.*

5- adjudge=judge

adjudge: (formal) to make a judgment about something or someone. Ex.: *The reforms of 1979 were generally adjudged to have failed.*
judge: to form or give an opinion about someone or something after thinking carefully about all the information you know about them. Ex.: *You should never judge a person by their looks. Judge us on the improvements we make in the economy.*

6- admit=permit

admit: to allow someone to enter a public place to watch a game, performance etc. Ex.: *Only ticket-holders will be admitted into the stadium.*
permit: to allow something to happen, especially by an official decision, rule, or law. Ex.: *Smoking is only permitted in the public lounge.*

7- handle =tackle

tackle: to try to deal with a difficult problem. Ex.: *There is more than one way to tackle the problem.*
handle: to deal with a situation or problem by behaving in a particular way and making particular decisions. Ex.: *The headmaster handled the situation very well.*



T. Ahemd Ameen Almdhaji & T. AbdulKalk Obad
Sana'a Community College



8- hang=dangle

hang: to put something somewhere so that its top part is fixed but its bottom part is free to move, or to be in this position. Ex.: *He hung his coat on the back of the door.*
dangle: to hang or swing loosely, or to make something do this. Ex.: *The keys were dangling from his belt.*

9- Indict = convict

indict: to officially charge someone with a criminal offence. Ex.: *He was indicted for vehicular homicide in 1987.*
convict: to officially decide in a court of law that someone is guilty of a crime. Ex.: *She was convicted of shoplifting.*

10- assure=ensure= reassure

assure: to make something certain to happen or be successful. Ex.: *There is enough money to assure the success of the project.*
ensure: to make certain that something happens or is done. Ex.: *Ensure that the fire doors are kept clear.*
reassure: to make someone feel less worried about something. Ex.: *Police have reassured the public that the area is now perfectly safe.*

11- Interlace = interlock = interwist = intertwine = interweave = intermingle

interlaced: things that are interlaced are joined together, with parts of the one thing going over or around parts of the other. Ex.: *Patterns of interlaced squares.*
interlocked: if two or more things interlock, or if they are interlocked, they fit firmly together. Ex.: *Puzzle with 500 interlocking pieces.*
intertwined: if two things intertwine, or if they are intertwined, they are twisted together. Ex.: *The problems of Crime and unemployment are closely intertwined.*
intertwisted: if two things intertwist, or if they are intertwined, they are twisted together. Ex.: *A necklace of rubies intertwined with pearls.*
interweaven: if two things are interwoven, they are closely related or combined in a complicated way. Ex.: *The two themes are inextricably interwoven in the book.*

12- moan=groan

moan: to make a long low sound expressing pain, unhappiness, or sexual pleasure. Ex.: *She moaned and cried out in pain.*
groan: to make a long deep sound because you are in pain, upset, or disappointed, or because something is very enjoyable. Ex.: *The kids all groaned when I switched off the TV.*

POETRY CORNER

The best creature ever created



By Mohammed Al-Herdi
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In Quran one pearl initiated
The mention of the best creature created
And this pearl's by twenty eight stars decorated
With the best name ever generated
Quran was sent and integrated
Every thing that Allah innovated
Quran can't be faked
And one letter can't be deleted.
In Quran one chapter stated
The name of the best creature created



For all world Allah circulated
Mohammed precious gift He dedicated

Mohammed was perfectly selected
To be the best creature created
To be sent as mercy for this world
Mohammed is the best creature ever created

Truth



By R.S.Sharma
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Sana'a

Truth has been playing
Hide and seek with us,
And we, wielding
Our darknesses like
Clubs, strike
Each other dumb or dead.

Our darks clash and clatter and
Mighty clouds of dust arise
With smoke and metallic stench –

Sometimes there's a spark, a flash
To light the height where truth may lie.

CAMPUS CAUSERIE

Remapping the Territory: Syllabus revision and development

Dr Murari Prasad

A workshop on Syllabi Revision and Development was held in the Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University from May 8 - 10, 2007. Given the space constraint, let me extract some salient points instead of a cursory summary of individual submissions.

The faculty members of any forward-looking institution need to step back at regular intervals to ask themselves the fundamental question of what they are doing and how since the lie of the land charted in the past demands a new vision in an emerging future. Obviously such disciplinary enterprises as English studies can't stay in a static present. At the very least, a need-based curriculum is a necessary desideratum for framing future directions. It is this idea, as Prof A.K. Sharma, Head of the English department, observed, that informed the scintillating business sessions.

The concern expressed by several Workshop participants and the measures suggested for a turnaround in communi-

cation skills by redesigning the course components in phonetics and phonology, technical writing etc merit serious consideration. The language taught should be contemporary in nature, suited to everyday situations and pertinent to the day-to-day communication needs of the learner. Oral fluency, linguistic accuracy and cultural content should be given due weightage. As regards the spoken variety of English, I think we need to establish the phonological core of intelligibility, the lingua franca core (LFC), as Jennifer Jenkins notes in her recent book, *The Phonology of English as an International language*.

The Workshop has happily taken on board a course in World Literature in English; happily, too, it seeks to broaden the spectrum of literary studies by redrawing its borders. The new thrust areas thus recognized call for an expansion of the parameters within which English language teaching and research have to be reframed. Alongside new literatures in English, this new course component can also include a segment of Arabic literature in English. Take, for instance, representations of the Oil

Encounter in modern Arabic literature. In this context, two novels by Abdurrahman Munif in excellent English translations by Peter Theroux, *Cities of Salt* (1989) and *The Trench* (1991), and *In An Antique Land* (1992) by Amitav Ghosh form a veritable new genre—

Petrofiction. It is true that well-read literature majors are in short supply but it is also true that most often the existing literary courses are not worth majoring in—word, work and world (if you are willing to suffer the alliteration for the conceptual good it does) do not interrelate. Also, the Workshop could have envisaged a few common courses in the Faculty, such as: Theories of Translation, Research Methodology, comparative literature etc. to move towards an integrative and interdisciplinary approach in a cost-effective way.

Several participants admitted to having had no remedies for inadequacies in research, namely poor and perfunctory dissertations by ploughing the well-tilled area, incompetent supervisors, and all that jazz; but in these matters the Workshop seems to have bitten off more than it can chew: you can't make bricks



Prof. A. K. Sharma, Prof. Khalid Ahmed Tamim and Prof. Abdurrahman Abdurabu.

without straw.

On a lighter note, no workshop or seminar on English is complete without some collateral damage to the language. This too had its share. While talking shop on the fringes of the Workshop, Dr Mahmud Dawood, former Dean of the Faculty, and I agreed to disagree on the interpretations of the phrase, *English Studies*. I have quizzed wonderful minds since then, and here is a provisional definition: the study of the English language in its multiple varieties and of the literatures and cultural productions expressed in English of those who use English as a first or second language.

Finally, the Workshop, otherwise quite engaging, had an indifferent moment. During the inaugural address a section of the audience was left high and dry. The language barrier could have been easily dealt with. However, there is no point in second-guessing it now. All in all, it was a stimulating event.

Cultivating self-awareness in young children (part 1)



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As children grow up, they undergo a mental maturation process which takes place along with their physical development. One of the elements of this maturation process is children's awareness of the 'self.' From the moment they are born, young children begin to learn about themselves, the people around them including their siblings, parents, relatives and the neighbors. In other words, they develop a sort of sensitivity towards their immediate environment. It involves a kind of interface between their 'self' and the world around them which makes them conscious of their identity and helps them to cultivate their total, essential qualities that distinguish them from others, and contribute to their individuality. This complex and composite 'being' of the child is also known as his 'ego' which defines his nature, character and abilities as an individual.

A young child's sense of self plays a crucial role in cultivating relationship not only with other people around them but with all subsequent learning as well (Dowling, 2000). Learning, as we know, is widely regarded as a lifelong activity which may occur intentionally or otherwise in a range of different learning environments including schools, colleges, universities and the workplace – all contributing to the awareness of 'self.'

Gaining knowledge and understanding of their 'self,' their own culture and community helps children develop a sense of belonging and strong self-image. Children gradually develop a culture of their own defined by their community and more meaningfully by their family. This personal culture develops in them their own self-image and self-esteem that gives them the mental, moral and psychological equipment to conduct themselves in life. If a child has a strong positive self-image and high self-esteem, it gives him the mental strength, conveyance and sense of security to maximize his potential, to make the most of the opportunities to communicate

effectively, to interact with others confidently, to explore the world around him and to establish himself as a leader in various fields of human endeavor. On the other hand, if a child has a weak self-concept, and a negative self-esteem, he is likely to be a social rake or a misfit in all walks of life.

There are essentially two elements to self-image:

1. 'self-concept' or becoming aware of who you are;
2. 'self-knowledge' or recognizing your own strengths and weaknesses.

Self concept: Developing 'self-concept' is a process rather than a product. It begins as early as infancy. From birth onwards young children build a picture of themselves based on their interaction with others and people's responses to them, particularly those with parents and siblings. Even babies are not immune to this process in so far as they recognize that they matter when they smile at a face that smiles back at them. Continuity in the relationship over a period of time helps the child to stabilize and further strengthen his self-concept of himself or herself within.

Stages of development of self concept:

Bec and Boyd (2004) have identified two main stages in the development of self-concept:

a. a *subjective stage*, which takes place during a child's first year when a baby is learning that he or she matters and can make things happen (e.g. can move an object)

b. an *objective stage*, when as a toddler, a child learns that he has a name, is a boy or a girl, is big or small, and so on.

As children grow older, they also become more knowledgeable of what they can or cannot do and how this relates to other children and adults. They begin to recognize when they need help and what they need it for. When their efforts are acknowledged, respected, praised, or rejected, that affects the regard they have for themselves. The two components of self-image which are 'concept' and 'knowledge' grow, develop and eventually become more complex as the children gain wider knowledge and experience in proportion to their physical growth.

In the next part, we'll analyze the role of family and society for the growth of self-concept.

References:
Dowling, M. (2000) *Young Children Personal, Social and Emotional Development*. London, Paul Chapman.
Bec, H. and Boyd, B. (2004) *The Developing Child*. Boston, MA: Pearson Press

Graduation ceremony and cultural fete at Mahweet

Under the aegis of Department of English, Faculty of Education, Mahweet, the graduation ceremony to bid farewell to the outgoing Level 4 student of the department was held on Tuesday, 15 May 2007. It coincided with the Annual Day celebration of the department and the Prize Award Ceremony.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Ajel, Dean, Dr. Hamid Al-Zubairi, Youth Advisor and Dr.



Welcome speech by Dr. Hassan Jaashan.



Dr. Ahmed Al-Ajel, Dean, addresses the audience.

Mohammed Al-Ward, Head, graced the occasion as guests of honor.

A total number of 38 students graduated. At the outset Fuad Ja'afar recited verses from the Holy Quran. It was followed by a welcome speech by Dr. Hassan Jaashan. A welcome song by some students of the department set the tone for the ceremony. Walid Al-Qalisi



The prize award ceremony in progress.

and Hassan Faqeeh presented the graduate speech.

Hassan Al-Wajeeh, a graduate student, presented a poem. Hashid Al-Salimi of Level 3 in his farewell speech wished the seniors all the very best in the journey of life. This was followed by some songs by students. Dr. Mohammed Al-Ward, Head, in his speech highlighted the efforts of the department to promote the latent talent in the students of the depart-

ment. There was an interlude of a colorful cultural skit by some students.

In his address Dr. Ahmed Al-Ajel, Dean, put on record his deep sense of appreciation for the collective efforts of the department and the students to keep up the heritage of the department.

Distribution of certificates and prizes to the 9 toppers and winners of competitions brought the glittering ceremony to a close.



Hats off, young graduates!

Toppers		Results of Literary Competitions (2006 – 2007)			
Level 2	Rank	Name	Level	Work	
1. Ahlam Al-Nawar 2. Sabah Al-Shahabi 3. Sumayah Hizam	1st	Hanan Hamoud Al-Sanhani	4	Back to the grave	
	2nd	Ahlam Mohammed Al-Nawar	2	Who is my son	
	3rd	Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kaina'ay		The innocent	
1. Layali Amir 2. Fawaz Al-Hakami 3. Ahmed Al-Kaynaee	1st	Mohammed Ali Al-Ahdal	4	Layla and Marwan	
	2nd	Hanan Hamoud Al-Sanhani	4	Make a difference	
	3rd	Fawaz Mohammed Al-Hakami		University life	
1. Walid Al-Qalisi 2. Hassan Faqeeh 3. Fuad Ja'afar	1st	Hassan Al-Wajeeh	2	Philosophy of education	
	2nd	Faisal Mohammed Ahmed	2	Benefits of literature	
	3rd	Hassan Mohammed Faqeeh	4	Islam and Western civilization	
1. Walid Al-Qalisi 2. Hassan Faqeeh 3. Fuad Ja'afar	1st	Hanan Hamoud Al-Sanhani	4	Remember	
	2nd	Saleh Zaid Hasan	3	My long cherished dream	
	3rd	Hana'a Farag	3	The souls of graves	
1. Walid Al-Qalisi 2. Hassan Faqeeh 3. Fuad Ja'afar	1st	Abdu Mohammed Abdu Saleh	2	To see you again	
	2nd	Akram Mohammed Al-Ouzzahi	4	When we were friends	
	3rd	Adnan Ali Abdu Al-Budhi	4	Mice are nice	
Elocution					
Senior Group		Junior Group			
1. Ahmed Al-Kaynaee		1. Ali Yahya Omer			
2. Intisar Al-Khayati		2. Sabah Al-Shihabi			

Poetry recitation contest at University of Science & Technology

Under the auspices of the Department of English, a Poetry Recitation Contest was held on 15 May, 2007 in which about ten students recited their own

poems. Dr. S.M. Rafique Azam, Professor of English, Faculty of Languages, and Dr. Ayid Sharyan, Associate Professor of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University acted as judges.

Najah Almujaheed, BIT, International College, Radheih Amer, Level 4, Education, and Zaina Mohammed, Level 4, Education, were adjudged first, second and third respectively.

Dr. Mohammed Ejaz Alam,

Assistant Professor of English, Coordinator of the contest, conducted the event successfully. All the teachers of the department and the students of the faculties of Education and Translation attended the function.

Academic meet at Science and Technology Modern Schools, Sana'a

At the instance of Science and Technology Modern School, Language Group (boys section) an academic meet was organized on 29 April in the school premises. Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, Associate Professor, UST graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr. Sahu was cordially welcomed to the school by Mr. Amar Al-Hashdi, Principal; Mr. Mulataf Al-Hajjaji, Vice Principal; Mr. Abdulwahab Al-Ghaithi, Boys' branch Manager, Teacher Yahya Al-Sharafi, Teacher Yahya Al-Hanomi, and Teacher Mohammed Al-Herdi. In his address to the morning assembly Dr. Sahu called upon the students to unleash their best efforts to improve their proficiency in English which, as the language of opportunity, can unlock the gateway of success for them. They should leave no stones unturned to keep up the good



Dr. Sahu addressing the assembly and teacher Mohammed Al-Herdi renders his speech into Arabic, as teacher Yahya Al-Sharafi (L), Teacher Amar Al-Hashdi, Principal (C), and teacher Mulataf Al-Hajjaji (R), Vice-Principal look on.

name of their school, their teachers and lead Yemen in the forefront of the global platform. Dr. Sahu had a close interaction with the teachers and the functionaries of the school in course of which he advised them to rededicate themselves to the cause of advancement of learning with passion and professionalism. He visited each class and

counselled the teachers concerned and the students. Dr. Sahu expressed his satisfaction at the progress achieved by the school during the short span since its inception and accepted their invitation for periodic visits to the school to augment the process of professional development of the teachers.



A section of students in the morning assembly in all attention.



Dr. Sahu flanked by the school's functionaries.

YOUTH FORUM

Friendship

Do we really know the meaning of the word Friendship? Have you found a real, or an honest friend? Are you sure that your friend is a safe place to go to when you need?

I thought that I knew the answers of all those questions. I thought that my friends are all what I need, that they are my field

where I can plant love and reap thanks; but I realized lately that I was mistaken. Honest friendship is something so difficult to find these days. So you should hang up to your old friends because they may be the only real friends you have.

Hanan Abdullah Al-Ansi,
Level 3, Arts
UST, Sana'a

Remember

With the drops of the rain
With the blow of the breeze
Stand up and proclaim
Your right is all what you have
Let not yourself be without identity
Your identity is what you are

And remember
You are a human being
Pay no consideration to race, country or colors
Just remember you are a human being

Hanan Hamoud Al-Sanhani
Level 4
Faculty of Education
Mahweet

The game of life

Will the sky cry for me?
Or the mountains be angry if I change my identity?
Once I played a game,
But didn't win
Don't ask me how I lost or when.
From lies I ran away
The game of life was not for me.

I cannot understand
How destiny brought you to me!
I can't even think to try to change myself
I would rather die
And as long as you have complete say in my life,
I can't feel it
We're destined to say each other 'goodbye!'

Enas Al-Radami
Level 4, Education
UST, Sana'a

Don't die

Don't die, don't die
Don't leave your soul to fly
Keep your word and stay with me
I need you as much as you need me
Don't die, don't die
That can't be the end of our love
That can't be the end of our dreams
We still have to do a lot of things
I can't stay in this life alone and go on
Wake up baby from your sleep

Don't leave me and go deep
Don't die, don't die
If you die I die, too
So let them trench our graves together
And write on its stone
Both died but their love'll live forever
Come on and open your heart
And let me lay to sleep
Or open your eyes and look at me
And don't die, don't die.

Rania A. Hagag
Faculty of Education,
Sana'a University

Doesn't anybody care

I don't know where to go
I've lost my way home
Can't anybody feel me!
Doesn't anybody care!
I've been waiting in the dark
In a gloomy cold night
Been waiting for a day
To take my pain away
Keep wandering about
My mind's full of doubt
Don't find someone
Can figure all this out

I want someone to listen
To feel what I'm missing
Can't give when there's nothing
More than a broken heart
Is it all my sheer sin!
Don't hearts ever win!
I'm feeling no throb of emotion
Who or where you are!

Ahlam Hamid Alwatary
Level 1
Department of English,
Faculty of Languages
Sana'a