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EDUCATION
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After two days of riots Al-Dhale' and Lahj residents in state of emergency

By: Yemen Times Staff

AL-DHALE', April, 2 — Al-Dhale' province and Al-Habeleen city in Lahj are experiencing a relative calm amid traffic paralysis and an extensive security deployment after last Sunday's protests turned violent and led to rioting throughout the week. The incident began when young men protested after their efforts to enlist in the army were rejected.

Although the situation in Al-Dhale' has settled down somewhat, Al-Habeleen is still witnessing some clashes between protesters and Yemeni security forces as of Wednesday, said local witnesses in the southern governorates.

On Tuesday, army deployments stormed the areas after two days of rioting and demonstrations carried out by hundreds of young men in the southern governorates. The men were protesting "over unfulfilled government promises to enlist them in the army."

Eyewitnesses said that security forces supported by tanks moved into Al-Dhale' and Radfan on Monday evening. Additionally, the security forces in the two governorates arrested at least five people on Tuesday, and are still hunting down 18 other wanted demonstration organizers. Locals said that demonstrators attacked governmental facilities, blocked roads and burned car tires, which covered the

area with clouds of black smoke for hours. "So far, we have been informed that there is at least one dead and five injured in the clashes that took place in Lahj on Wednesday," said Mohammed Husain, a resident of Lahj. He confirmed that the local councils announced a state of emergency and prevented people from gathering in the streets.

"There is heavy security deployment in the two cities that discouraged many people from taking to the streets," said Yemen Times correspondent Fuad Mussaid, a resident of Al-Dhale'. "The stores are closed, students do not go to school and people rarely get out their houses."

Continued on page 2



Protesters carried a donkey aloft in reaction to the GPC, whose symbol is a horse.



Demonstrators attacked governmental facilities, blocked roads and burned car tires.

Yemen will be landmine-free in 2014, says expert

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April 2 — Yemen aims to eliminate the most landmines from every Yemeni governorate by March 2009 and to eliminate landmines from Yemen completely by 2014.

Mansour Mohammed Al-Azi, the director of program management for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the chairman of the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center, stated that by 2014, Yemen would be free of all types of mines in all governorates.

The director's statement came shortly before the International Mine Awareness Day and Assistance in Mine Action, which will be held on April 4. International Mine Awareness Day focuses global attention on the danger of these legacies of war and marks the progress that has been made towards their eradication.

Yemen ratified the anti-personnel landmine-ban treaty in 1998, and has committed to completely clear its minefields. The same year, the government began the National Mine Action Program and by 2002 had completed the destruction of



The mine action program has surveyed and cleared nearly 7 hundred million square meters and the rest is in the process of clearance.

stockpiled anti-personnel mines in line with article seven of the mine-ban treaty. It has also developed and enforced legislation in line with article nine of the same treaty.

The threat of landmines still exists in more than 80 countries. Countries with the highest amount of un-cleared mines include Afghanistan, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia and Yemen, which was classified as one of the 24 countries most affected by landmines.

Mines were planted in all of the Yemeni governorates except Mahweet, located south of the capital Sana'a. Based on the center's statistics, the four governorates with the highest number of mines are Ibb, Al-Thale'e, Al-Beitha, and Taiz.

Seventy percent of the mines in Yemen are anti-personnel, five percent are anti-tank mines, and the remainder are mixed mines (lands with multiple types of explosives, such as both anti-tank and anti-personnel landmines), which are considered the worst and most difficult to eliminate. Unexploded mines are spread all over Yemen, added Al-Azi.

However, the center marked a decrease in the number of mine victims — now about one or two victims per month — since 2000, when there were 15 to 27 victims per month. Al-Azi added that over 800,000 Yemenis are at risk, as they reside close to lands planted with landmines.

The center carried out a number of

awareness campaigns in order to educate approximately 600,000 of these vulnerable citizens and warn them about the risks and dangers of living in landmines.

The Mine Action Center works under the National Mine Action Committee, with the cooperation of the UNDP. The annual budget for mine action operations is US \$6,500,000.

According to the 2005 Landmine Monitor Report, between 15,000 and 20,000 people — at least 20 percent of them children — lose their lives worldwide due to these devices, but that number has been decreasing over the last decade.

For more information, see the interview with Al-Azi on page 5

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In brief

SOCOTRA

Socotra photos gallery opened in Japan

Yemen's ambassador to Japan Marwan Abdul-Wahab opened on Tuesday in the Japanese capital Tokyo a Socotra Island photo gallery for the Japanese photographer Taira Hisaw.

The five-day gallery included many images that show the beauty of the Island's nature.

ADEN

Yemeni coastguards rescue Pakistani sailor

Yemen Coastguards rescued on Monday in the Aden Gulf a Pakistani sailor was suffering from serious illness on board of the Pakistani warship "Tariq".

An official source in the coastguards stated to Saba that the coastguards authority received a help call from the Pakistani ship to rescue the sailor.

The source said that authority sent immediately a boat to transport the sick sailor to a hospital in Aden city where he received the medical treatment and the required cure.

Health ministry launches spray campaign in Aden

Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul-Karim Rase launched on Sunday a combating diseases spray campaign implemented by the National Program for Fighting Malaria during the period from 30 March until 03 April.

The minister briefed the working plan of a number of rooms which operate in the province to realize the highest rates of spray coverage of the areas targeted.

Deputy Aden governor Ahmed Salim affirmed readiness of the local authority to provide all possible assistance to facilitate the work of teams deployed to fight spreading diseases.

Aden discusses facilitations to investors

Aden Investment Consultation Council discussed in its regular meeting held on Sunday facilitations for customs and tax managements. The meeting dealt with preparations concerning the industrial zone here and remaining measures for completing it.

Speaking to Saba, deputy governor of Aden Wahid Rashid clarified that the meeting tackled some issues faced by investors because of linking them to a center that does not provide required facilitations to investors.

"Investors complain from customs measures that consume time and sometimes the investor transmits his administrative apparatus for reducing measures," he said, adding that there are a number of issues concerning taxes need to be revised.

HODEIDAH

Over 700 European tourists visit Zabid

The Italian tourist ship "Costa Marina" boarding 770 tourists from different European nationalities arrived in Hodeidah.

A tourist source said that the European tourists will get acquainted with the archeological and historical sites and traditional markets in the historical city of Zabid.

MAHRAN

Yemeni court fines Egyptian captains \$150,000

A Qashan Initial court in Mahrah province delivered on Monday in the case of three Egyptian boats held hunting fish illegally in Yemen's territorial waters.

According to the verdict, the Egyptian captains of the steamers Mohammad al-Ghareeb, Jamal Mohammad Abdul Jawad and Ata'a Mahmoud are to pay \$150,000, \$50 thousand for each and the steamers will be released with fish.

It is noteworthy, four Egyptian fishing boats boarding about 85 sailors, were held by Yemeni authorities recently, three of which went to the Qashan court and the fourth was set to be referred to prosecution to take legal action against it.

U.S. Embassy to Qat Chewers: quit now if you want an immigrant visa

By: Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, March 31 — The United States Embassy in Yemen recently introduced a new provision for Yemenis seeking permanent residence in the U.S. Its message? Lay off your qat if you want to live in America.

Under this new stipulation, the U.S. Embassy will not issue immigration visas to anyone who is addicted to qat. Unites States law defines an "addict" as anyone who has used a drug for other than experimental purposes, i.e., more than one-time usage. This means that anyone in Yemen who has chewed qat more than once will have to medically prove that they are no longer using it in order to live in the United States.

U.S. law qualifies qat as a Schedule I controlled substance because it contains the chemical cathinone, which is a nar-

cotic with addictive properties and has no known medicinal benefits. Abuse of Schedule I drugs is considered a "Class A" medical ineligibility under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

To become eligible again, former qat chewers will be required to provide medical proof that they have been qat-free for three years. The former qat users will need to provide medical examination notes from a qualified doctor stating that they are no longer using the substance. After providing this medical evidence, the applicant may be given a "Class B" medical rating, making them eligible for immigrant visas again.

Qat users are allowed to enter the U.S. as visitors, since these conditions do not apply to visitation visas, only immigrant visas.

There are currently over seven million qat chewers in Yemen, according to the

Combating Qat Damage Association, local non-governmental organizations.

United States Embassy sources say that some immigration visas have already been denied as a result of the new measure, though the source declined to comment on the specific number of applications rejected. "This is a medical determination," said the source.

Qat is not only legal in Yemen, but part of its social customs and daily life. For those Yemenis hoping to immigrate to the U.S., the restriction feels like a double standard. "There are many Americans in Yemen who chew qat," said a 26-year-old man who wished to remain anonymous because he is in the process of applying for an immigration visa with the help of his American wife. "Why is it only Yemenis that have to do this?"

Struggling to combat maggot attacks

SANA'A, March 31 — (IRIN) - Myiasis, the infestation of human or animal tissue with fly larvae (maggots), is spreading fast among livestock: The government cannot control it due to lack of funds, according to officials at the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture's General Department for Animal Resources (GDAR).

The disease, which first appeared in December 2007, has now been detected in the governorates of Saada, al-Hudeidah, Hajjah and al-Mahwit.

Ghaleb al-Eryani, GDAR's director-general, told IRIN on 30 March that his department lacked the funds to fight the disease and as a result, surveillance and field teams had been unable to continue their work.

"The allowances of field teams have not been paid and they will stop working as of 31 March," he said, warning of a disaster should the situation remain unresolved.

Al-Eryani said his department submitted an emergency plan requiring 750 million riyals (about US\$3,750,000) to the Cabinet early this year, but the latter approved only 50 million riyals (about US\$250,000).

Appeal

"The approved 50 million-riyal budget has not even been paid, and we are fighting myiasis using funds allocated for vet-

erinary campaigns in 2008," he said as he appealed to international organisations to assist Yemen in fighting the disease.

According to al-Eryani, pesticides and anti-parasite medicines should be sprayed fortnightly, but this was not happening as the field teams had run out of pesticides. "This is the first time we have encountered such a disease and we are fighting it without experience. It is beyond the resources of Yemen," he said.

Over 3,000 villages affected

According to the latest GDAR figures, the number of villages affected by myiasis was 3,413, while the number of affected animals cured was 16,750. The animals include goats, sheep, cattle, camels and donkeys. Some 464 animals have died of the disease. Some 16,795 barns have been sprayed since the outbreak of the disease.

There are 42 field teams in the five infected governorates but those operating in Saada have stopped working since 14 March for lack of funds, according to GDAR. According to GDAR, Yemen has 15 million sheep, 1.4 million cattle and 250,000 camels.

Myiasis is caused by screwworm or 'New World' - a species of parasite fly whose maggots eat the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, including humans.

Khaled Saeed, in charge of surveillance in al-Hudeidah Governorate, told IRIN a

child was recently infected with myiasis in the governorate. Eight people have contracted the disease since December 2007. No one has died.

Saeed said the productivity of infected animals decreases, as they recover very slowly. He added that another consequence of the disease was rising meat prices.

Field workers at risk

Saif al-Bahri, a field surveillance officer at GDAR, said field workers were at increasing risk from the anti-myiasis pesticides as they are not provided with safety equipment. "They are at risk of nasal sinus inflammation, skin eruption, and asthma. Some of the field workers have been infected," he said.

The disease is curable. Al-Bahri said "It is cured normally through removing the maggots and antibiotics. The period of treatment ranges between one and two weeks. If the infected person is left without any treatment, the disease might kill him."

Al-Bahri further said the beginning of summer and the rainy season presented an opportunity for myiasis to spread rapidly. "If myiasis infects monkeys, it will be difficult to control... as it is difficult to control these animals. There are a lot of monkeys in the mountains," he told IRIN, adding that many dogs in some of al-Hudeidah's districts had been infected.

Yemen to question 'disobedient' websites

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANAA, 2 April — The Ministry of Information has said it will consider the publications of electronic journalism in Yemen although there has been no law regarding news websites.

Minister of Information Hassan Al-Lawzi said on April 1 that what has been published by news websites has no relation to the profession of journalism, which he described as the fourth estate. He expressed concern over the content of the published materials on the news website, which he said are used as means to disseminate hatred and spite against Yemen.

The websites will be subjected to questioning by the Yemeni justice in case they commit "publication crimes, blaspheming, defamation, sedition, riots and violence that threaten the national unity and social peace."

Investigations will be in accordance with the press and publication law, said Al-Lawzi. The minister's statement came after violent riots that erupted in the southern governorates of Al-Dhalei and Lahj over the past two days, instigated by residents who were refused entry into the army. Tens of rioters were injured and a number of others were arrested by security forces.

Anti-website censorship campaign

Meanwhile, an anti-censorship website, freeyemenportal.org, was officially launched on April 2 by Mideast Youth and YemenPortal.net as part of an ongoing campaign to free yemenportal.net from a two month ban imposed by the Yemeni government.

The launch of the website coincides with an unprecedented wave of bans by the Yemeni regime targeting news and opinion websites, including blogs and discussion forums. Around 2,000 Yemeni blogs, run by Maktobblog.com, were blocked in Yemen a few weeks ago, but have recently become accessible again.

"The authorities kept on denying that they blocked the website despite clear evidence to the contrary. It is frustrating to see your own government fighting a project that could have enabled millions of Yemenis to be well-informed," Walid Al-Saqaf, founder of yemenportal.net, said in a statement.

The blocking of Yemenportal.net and its alternative domain was protested by many local and international advocacy organizations including Reporters sans Frontiers, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Article 19 and the World Association of Newspapers, among others. The Director of MidEast Youth, Esra'a Al-Shafei, said she committed to assisting the website's founder and

administrator Al-Saqaf in putting more pressure on authorities to unblock the website. "It is imperative that we defend free speech and free access to information," said Al-Shafei. "The Yemeni authorities have failed to provide adequate grounds upon which the website has been banned within the country."

Al-Saqaf said he is campaigning on many levels to unblock the website, which is a search engine fetching and indexing news and opinion content on Yemen from about 1,500 sources. He hoped the new website that was launched on April 2 will be able in the future to include news updates, information about alternative domains, circumventing techniques, information on how to help the campaign, media coverage about the ban and other relevant cyber-journalism information.

YemenPortal.net started as part of Al-Saqaf's master program in Sweden to analyze the Yemeni cyber-sphere and examine the impact of news websites on democracy. With more than 300,000 items, the website became one of the most content-rich Yemeni online resources. On March 1, Reporters Without Borders released a list of "countries under surveillance" for their oppressive internet-related policies. Yemen was included on the list of these censored countries.

Quitting qat isn't only a problem for immigrant applicants though. The substance has caused trouble for American citizens as well, as the U.S. has been cracking down on qat trafficking inside the country.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), qat abuse has been on the rise in the States since 1995. In 2005, the most recent year for which information is available, 32 metric tons of qat were seized by drug enforcement officers.

"Qat is widespread in America. I have never chewed it there, because I am not a frequent qat chewer; however, it is easy to buy and there is low censorship," says Hakim Al-Masmari, the Yemeni-American editor-in-chief of the Yemen Post. "People were arrested for growing qat in Minnesota and California over the last five years," he added.

In December 2007, four men were convicted on conspiracy charges in New York City for their roles in an international qat trafficking ring that ran from Africa, into Europe and finally to the U.S.

"This investigation unearthed awareness that khat [qat] is a highly addictive stimulant that is illegal in our country," said the DEA special agent in charge of the investigation. He also warned of similar indictments and anti-qat measures to come.

Though there have been reports to the contrary, American government employees in Yemen are not allowed to chew qat, according to the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a.

There are more than 40 million qat trees in Yemen, according to the Combating Qat Damage Association's survey conducted in 2006.

Japanese citizens donate health center in Al-Jawf

By: Mahmoud Assamie

AL-JAWF, March 31 — Japanese Deputy Head of Missions Matahiro Yamaguchi and Al-Jawf Governor Fadhil al-Qawsi inaugurated on Monday Al-Hazm Health Center in Al-Jawf governorate, which is donated by Japanese citizens via Islah Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW).

With equipment worth US \$90,000, the center is the only one of its kind in the tribal governorate, located 170 kilometers north of Sana'a to the north, and which lacks basic services such as public hospitals, sanitation and electricity.

The Japanese official, who entered the governorate accompanied by two military escorts for fear of being kidnapped by armed tribal members, expressed his pleasure for coming to Yemen to inaugurate the project.

"The health sector is the most important among Japanese-supported projects in Yemen. Japan provided this aid to donate al-Hazm Health Center and buy an ambulance to help this poor people," said Matahiro, who stated that the project is the first one carried out by Japan in Al-Jawf.

The center, in which seven doctors and assistants work, provides initial health care, vaccinations, and delivery and family care services. The center

receives 80 cases daily.

Matahiro said that he spoke with the governor and officials here about future projects his country would grant the governorate. "Japan has two types of grants, popular and governmental, and we will work on providing both in the next five years to carry out projects in fields of health, water and education."

Al-Qawsi, who thanked the CSSW for managing the center, expressed that his governorate is badly in need of further projects in the field of education and others and called on the Japanese embassy for more aid to help these "tribal and uneducated people," estimated at 500,000.

CSSW's Al-Jawf branch head Abdul-Hadi Farhan said that the charity covers operation expenses of the health center and plays a vital role in providing other services to the people.

Criticizing government negligence, Al-Jawf citizen Farhan said that the CSSW is repairing the government's scandals in helping the citizens.

"The charity is taking care of more than 600 orphans from across the governorate," said Farhan, who stated that there are thousands of orphans, some orphaned because of revenge killing among armed people in the governorate.

German language classes introduced into Yemeni schools

By: Alia Eshaq

SANA'A, March 31—Three Yemeni schools will receive German language programs funded by a new German government initiative this summer and fall.

Abdulaziz Bin Habtoor, the Vice-Minister of Education, met with Simona Jore, the director of Germany's "Schools: Partners for the Future" program, last Monday to work out the details of a new German language program that will eventually be instituted in five governorates: Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ibb and Hadramout.

The project aims firstly to enhance the quality and quantity of German language teaching throughout the Middle East, including Yemen, and secondly to foster inter-cultural dialogue. "With our partner schools abroad, we not only want to give children access to the German language and education, but also to awaken an interest in and understanding for each other," according to Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Foreign Minister, who is quoted at length on the program's website.

The program is coordinated by Germany's Federal Foreign Office and will be implemented through various governmental culture and education groups.

The "Schools: Partners for the Future" program will start by partnering three Yemeni schools with another three schools in Germany. "We will supply these three [Yemeni] schools with all the equipment they need," said Jore. "The teachers will be trained in Germany and we will also furnish the schools."

Jore also added that six special classes of only around 25 students will be provided in the partner schools. Those exceptional students who excel at German language will be applicable for scholarships to

4U

For more information about the program and about German schools abroad, visit:
<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html>
 The site is available in a number of languages including English and Arabic.

Germany where they can continue their studies at a university's undergraduate program.

The project also includes supplying 25 schools in the five governorates with syllabi, as well as training their language teachers in Germany.

The representatives from "Schools: Partners for the Future" are still in the process of choosing the three schools that will participate in the program. Two of the schools will start the German-language programs this season and the third school will begin implementing the program in September.

"Belal Bin Rabah will be one of the three schools to participate in the project," said Jore. Regarding the other two schools, she mentioned that they will be chosen in the next two to three weeks.

Jore declined to give a specific figure for the estimated funds that Germany will contribute to the project's outlets in Yemen. "All I can say is that a huge amount of money is put into this project [and] that we are willing to expand it in the next three years," she said.

Approximately 45 million euros are budgeted for the program's worldwide network in 2008. The German government is aiming to establish 1,000 partner schools throughout the world.

Continued from page 1

Al-Dhale' and Lahj residents in state of emergency

"Some people feel secured due to the existence of the army forces who say that will provide them with protection. However other citizens revealed their frustration as the security forces arrested citizens randomly who were not involved in the riots but found walking in the streets," added Mussaid

The presence of army forces prevent citizens from protesting against the arrest of a number of political and social figures who were involved in organizing the marches, according to security sources who wished to remain anonymous.

According to national media, 13 people were injured last Tuesday in confrontations between security forces and demonstrators in the two cities. The security forces also fired on the demonstrators and released tear gas into the crowd, causing serious injuries to a num-

ber of citizens. The injured were later taken to Al-Habeelen Hospital for treatment.

Eyewitnesses also revealed that demonstrators broke into a number of public facilities and privately-owned stores. Protestors picked up a donkey and carried it aloft while chanting "no donkeys after today," referring to the symbol of the ruling General People's Congress party, the horse.

Electricity was cut in various Al-Habeelen neighborhoods after an electric generator was shot. The local university's Faculty of Education in Lahj was also subjected to gunfire and tear gas bombardment in its yard.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) in Al-Dhale' issued a press release concerning the events in the governorate. The statement they issued placed responsibility on the government for the youths' outrage that resulted in the ensuing chaos. While the GMP in Al-Dhale' considered the events to be a result of the government's irresponsible dealings those men

applying for army recruitment.

The press release claimed that the government deals with army enlistees in an opaque way that arouses anger, which is what happened with the army applicants in Al-Dhale'.

Tariq Al-Shami, head of the GPC's media circle accused the JMP of instigating the riots and spreading hatred inside the society. Al-Shami pointed out that recruitment in the army varies according to population and under service law conditions. He also noted that JMP intends to agitate people and warned against the consequences of such behavior.

An official source from Al-Dhale' local authority accused some parties affiliated with the JMP of instigating sabotage, riots and the looting of private and public property that took place last Sunday. The local authority pointed out that the parties don't consider their national responsibility when they aim to create disturbances that eventually incite violence.

WHAT IT MEANS...

The global implications of reform

By: David Merahn

As Yemen faces a time of great political tension, it is important to view the reform process in light of a larger regional movement with global implications. Yemen, as well as the larger Gulf region, is in the challenging position of balancing two substantive developmental processes. One is the difficult, but ever more pressing, issue of internal reform and increased democratization. The other is creating for Yemen a proper space in an increasingly interlinked international community. Domestic commentators have written much about the reform process in Yemen, while likewise international analysts have

speculated about the future of geopolitically important gulf-states.

While these two issues are often discussed separately they are, and will become even more so, intertwined. It is crucial that the public and the leadership begin to recognize that reform and international activity go hand in hand. Reform and increased popular sovereignty will create a level of political stability, maturity, and --most importantly-- credibility that will allow Yemen to take a more active role in the international community to the benefit of its neighbors and itself.

Gone are the days where the smaller Gulf and Peninsula nations can sit back and passively enjoy security guarantees from the United States, while pursuing an active economic agenda. The role of bijoux Middle

Eastern nations increasingly entails a leadership role. This burgeoning role as a player on the international stage is highlighted by last week's high-level meetings between Yemeni officials and Palestinian representatives, in an effort to help resolve the fractured Palestinian community. In the upcoming years Yemen will have the opportunity and responsibility to take on more roles of this type, but in order to successfully pursue this new role Yemen must first have the credibility and standing that can only be obtained through further internal reforms. The past years have been witness to great political reform in the region. Nations like Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and to a lesser extent Yemen itself, began steps to transform themselves into new and modern entities. Historically, such

reform efforts have come from popular pressure, governmental crises or were attached to aid money such as the United States Middle East Partnership initiative. Recently, however, many of the regional reforms have been conducted in response to changing global conditions. In many of these countries the franchise has been expanded, women have begun to play a larger role, the power of local authority has been increased, and opposition figures have been given a bit more latitude. Reform and democratization provides safety and trust for international partners, as well as for a nation's own citizens. As more businesses and governments have felt safe investing, the economic benefits of political reform can be seen across the region. In the following years the same will increasingly be seen as far as

international political affairs are concerned.

Reform moves slowly, but it is essential in an increasingly globalizing world. Unfortunately, in some cases the progress of reform has not manifested itself as steadily as might be desired. In many of these cases reform has failed because it is still viewed in the context of traditional internal political dynamics without factoring in the international aspects. It is crucial that reform efforts be viewed as part of a modernization process in both an internal and global sense. Political reform is a means of creating fluidity in the international community and will open up economic and political opportunities.

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Their News

Ahgaff University hosts private universities conference

Under the sponsorship of Dr.Saleh Basurah, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ahgaff University hosted on Monday, March 24 2008 the conferring conference of the private universities.

Welcoming the minister and the private universities and college's representatives, prof.Abdullah Baharoon said the conference was an opportunity in which they exchange ideas for developing the universities. "We face the global change and we should be flexible to deal with them," he added.

Dr.Saleh Basurah thanked the hosting university and praised it for being non-profitable for taking leading steps towards development and in addition to its distinction in computer science.

Dr.Slaeh told Yemen Times that his aim of meeting with the private universities is talk about some issues concerning executing the rules. "We told the private universities to graduate the registered postgraduate students and stop registering the students. We don't want any postgraduate programs at the Yemeni private universities. The ministry is not going to approve any master or PHD certificate issued from any private university," he said.

Al-Harazi "Still in Shock" Over Olympic Berth

Yemen's Nashwan Al-Harazi told IG he is "still in shock" after recently receiving a wild-card berth for this summer's Olympic Games in Beijing.

Al-Harazi will be the first gymnast from Yemen to take part in Olympic competition, after a tripartite commission selected him and female gymnast Thuong Di Thi Ngan (Vietnam) for the two available wild-card berths for Beijing.

The tripartite commission consists of the International Olympic Committee, the International Gymnastics Federation and the Association of National Olympic Committees. Geographic representation at the Olympics is one of the factors for designating wild-card berths.

"I know that there are gymnasts with greater accomplishments than me who have not been invited to Beijing," Al-Harazi told IG from Yemen this week. "I feel a great responsibility to them and to the international gymnastics community to perform my best, and to be a worthy example of what the Olympic spirit is supposed to mean."

Al-Harazi got the news of his wild-card berth at home, where representatives of the Yemen Olympic Committee telephoned him. "I am still in shock," he said, noting that officials from his country's gymnastics federation are equally enthusiastic.

"They are very, very pleased and hopeful that this will help gymnastics develop in our country, so that we might have a full team compete at some point in the next quadrennium and beyond," Al-Harazi said.

At the 2007 World Championships in Stuttgart, which served to qualify gymnasts for the Beijing Games, Al-Harazi competed on five events only because of a sore wrist.

Al-Harazi said that, prior to the start of his U.S.-based training under coach Jim Holt in Seattle, Wash., he had never trained on rings, parallel bars or high bar. In Stuttgart, he competed for the first time ever on rings and parallel bars.

As Al-Harazi awaits approval of his visa to return to the U.S. for pre-Olympic training under Holt, he said his training plan has shifted "from the 'long-term' to

'competitive preparation' phase." He intends to compete in the all-around at the Beijing Games.

"I'm looking to have my floor, pommel horse and vault Start Values in the top 15 in the competition," said Al-Harazi, who placed 27th on vault at the 2006 Worlds and 21st on vault at the 2007 Worlds. "Ensha Allah, my goal is to perform my exercises cleanly!"

ACCESS-MENA Project launches series of workshops for mosque preachers to combat child trafficking phenomenon

Today Saturday March 22 started the fifth training course implemented by the ACCESS-MENA Project targeting mosque preachers in Aflah Al-Sham district, Hajja Governorate. The training was inaugurated by General Director of the district, Secretary General of the District and Director of the endowment.

In the course, targeting 25 mosque preachers and imams, the trainer, Nashwan Al-Sumairi, reviewed child trafficking and exploitation, its destructive impacts on children and community, and its adversity on the child's best interests. Al-Sumairi also reviewed a number of cases for children who were used for trafficking and smuggling who were exposed to permanent handicapping and negative psychiatric traumas during the trafficking journey.

Project manager, Dr. Jamal Al-Haddi, confirmed that this course comes within a sequence context of five workshops targeting 125 mosque preachers and imams in five districts of Hajja governorate aimed at mobilizing the community against child trafficking phenomenon. It also comes within a comprehensive awareness campaign and intensive community mobilization to stigmatize the phenomenon and correct the false concepts with regard to such phenomenon. "These courses will be followed by an awareness work plan for mosque preachers which includes tackling the phenomenon during the Friday preaching and urging citizens to enroll their children in schools and education as substitution for risky works such as trafficking/smuggling," Dr. Al-Haddi added.

It is worth noting that the ACCESS-MENA Project aims to combat the worst forms of child labor, particularly the risky ones such as trafficking/smuggling. The Project is financed by the US Department of Labor (USDOL) and implemented by CHF International and an executive partnership with the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW).

Stagflation Threatens Industry Outlook

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) downgraded its industry profit expectations for 2008 to US\$4.5 billion based on global economic growth slowing to 2.6% and an average annualised oil price of US\$86 per barrel (Brent Crude). This is the second downgrading of the 2008 forecast. In September 2006 IATA predicted a US\$7.6 profit for this year. The initial impact of the credit crunch saw that lowered to US\$5.0 billion in December 2007.

"We still expect a positive bottom line of US\$4.5 billion, but it's turning out to be a very tough year," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO.

Skyrocketing oil prices during 2004-2008 were offset by efficiency gains and rising consumer confidence. "The broadening impact of the US credit crunch has brought buoyant consumer confidence to

an abrupt end. Oil prices continue to rise. Demand is softening and after the 64% improvement in labour productivity and an 18% reduction in non-fuel unit cost attained since 2001, efficiency gains are much more difficult to achieve," said Bisignani.

At an average annual price of US\$86 per barrel for Brent, fuel represents 32% of operating costs and a total bill of US\$156 billion.

Along with the credit crunch and oil prices, three other key elements are impacting the performance of the industry:

Aircraft Delivery Cycle: The downturn in demand coincides with a stepping-up of aircraft deliveries—from 1,041 new aircraft in 2007 to an expected 1,231 in 2008. While some of this will be offset by retiring less fuel-efficient aircraft, real yields (adjusted for inflation and the US dollar) are expected to drop 4.1% this year (compared to a 3.2% drop in 2007).

Increased competition: The US-EU Agreement on Open Skies is increasing trans-Atlantic frequencies by 11% in April. London Heathrow and Spain are leading the change with an increase of 25% each. Increased competition will put pressure on yields in these markets.

Non-Core Assets: In the past two years non-core business significantly boosted the consolidated profits of airlines. In 2007 alone the contribution of non-core profits and asset sales almost tripled the airline business profit of US\$5.6 billion to over US\$15 billion. The crisis in financial markets will make asset sales more difficult in 2008.

More than 200 entries from 28 countries and 5 continents entered in Al Mahabba Awards 2008 Festival dates moved to 24-26 April 2006 to accommodate flurry of submissions

ABU DHABI – The Islamic faithful and lovers of the Islamic arts from around the world have responded overwhelmingly to the call for entries of the second session of the Al Mahabba Awards Festival.

More than 200 artistic pieces in various literary platforms from 28 countries and five continents have so far been received, prompting the organizers to move the festival to a new schedule – from 24 to 26 April 2006 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates under the patronage of the His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Minister of Defence; with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the festival's honorary president.

Dr. Abdul Hakim Murad, Chairman of the Judging Committee, has presented the entries to the Committee members in London for evaluation. The committee is comprised of a group of international specialists in the areas of literature and the arts.

The Al Mahabba Festival was established to inspire Muslims all over the world, especially young people, to express their deep love for the Prophet through the universal language of art. In so doing, people live their lives with greater meaning and in the process help convey Islam's message of love and peace to the world.

The annual event was designed to encourage, promote and honor art works about the prophet, peace be upon him, and his associates in the categories of songs, advertising, movies, television programs and docu-

mentaries, books, photography, visual arts (painting), media outlets, personality of the year and event of the year.

Among this year's entrants is Egypt's Hamada Hilal participating with his song "Mohammed our Prophet", as well as the Australian Brotherhood band who have submitted an entry entitled "Light Upon Light".

In the TV program category, Mr. Amr Khaled has entered with his program "On the pace of Al-Habib", which is produced by Iqraa channel and "On the pace of the Prophet", which is produced by MBC. Amr Khaled is one of the Arab world's most popular media personalities hosting Islamic talk shows preaching about the elements of Islam.

In total 28 countries are represented in this year's edition of the Al Mahabba Awards Festival, including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Amr Khaled, Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Afghanistan, Iran, Britain, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Turkey, Greece, USA, Canada, Australia and Malaysia.

The Organizing Commission of the Festival launched a special website, www.mahabba.tv, to receive its online submissions for the competition and in order to establish interaction with young people wishing to participate with their works, as the love of the Prophet PBUH is not exclusive to the professionals in the fields of art and literature, but for humanity in whole.

Last year's winners include, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the "Personality of Year" in honor of his efforts towards the founding of the "Alpordah Award". Sheikh Mohammed Saeed Ramadan Al Bouti and the late Mustafa Al Aqqad, were also awardees in this creative festival.

Last year's festival was organized by a group of young men and women from the Arab and Muslim worlds under the supervision of a select group of scientists, clerics and artists, and the support of several UAE and Saudi Arabian companies. Lending support to the Festival, which is expected to usher in a cultural and artistic renaissance among the Islamic faithful all over the world, as members of the Board of Trustees, include such high profile personalities as His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will serve as Emeritus Chairman of the awards; Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayah, Sheikh Al Bouti, Dr. Abdal-Hakim Murad, Al Habib Ali Jafri, Dr. Mohammed Abdo Yamani, Professor Abla Kahlawi, Mrs. Noha Azzam, Dr. Amal Kubasi, Sheikh Hamdan Al Mazroui, Dr. Walid Fitaihi and Mr. Mr. Yousf Ali.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Participates in Largest ever Project to Reintroduce Endangered Specie into Its Natural Habitat

Abu Dhabi, UAE: In line with the United Arab Emirate's strategic efforts to increase the number of Houbara in the wild, His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, participated in the release of more than 5000 North African Houbara (Chlamydotis undulata) in an area of about 300 km inside the Eastern desert of Morocco. The released Houbara had been bred in captivity at the Emirates Center for Wildlife Propagation (ECWP) in Missouri, Morocco.

This release is considered to be the largest reintroduction of endangered species into the wild so far. 'Houbara bustard', the specie that has been reintroduced has been seriously threatened by a combination of detrimental factors besides the habitat loss. The Abu Dhabi Government has put in a great deal of effort at conserving the Houbara by building a sound scientific knowledge base about the bird and also by initiating sound management and conservation measures.

The strategy for implementation of the sound conservation and management techniques includes identification and assessment of suitable habitat for Houbara throughout the UAE, monitoring of Houbara population numbers and trends in populations in the UAE and throughout its distribution range; monitoring and assessment of the impact of hunting on Houbara populations in the UAE and its distribution range; initiation and implementation of a captive breeding programme for falconry training and future restocking / re-introduction purposes.

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed stated, "this release of the Houbara in North Africa was necessary to meet the continuous decline of Houbara numbers due to the destruction of their wintering and breeding habitat, over trapping and over hunting in addition to illegal trade, all of which require insistent steps to restore a healthy Houbara population in the wild".

Efforts to conserve the Houbara started as early as 1977, when the late President of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan directed that Al Ain Zoo begin a breeding program for the Asian Houbara Bustard, even before the population reached a 'vulnerable' status in the endangered data list. In 1982, the first captive chick saw daylight in the UAE. In 1989, the National Avian Research Center (NARC) which is now currently spearheading maximum conservation efforts was founded and later incorporated under the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi.

Sheikh Mohammed added that "the unlimited support of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

President of the UAE, to preserve the environment, wildlife and develop natural resources has always given us an incentive to continue working to conserve Houbara from becoming extinct". "We are now very excited to have helped to increase the number of Houbara population in wild".

He noted that the integrated programme set by the UAE, in which the Emirates Centre for Wildlife Propagation (ECWP) is participating has made tremendous progress and has already succeeded in creating a self-sustaining captive Houbara population.

Sheikh Mohamed stressed that "the UAE is committed to restoring an unlimited houbara population in the wild". Despite the intense challenges of breeding this shy bird in captivity, the UAE is currently on target to meet its ambitious goal of producing 5,000 birds per year by 2008.

About 35% of the released Houbara (60 birds) were fitted by satellite transmitter to track their movement. Birds chosen to be released were selected from a group of chicks produced by the Centre based on specific criteria. In 2006, the breeding population totaled 8,142 birds. The Centre followed international standards protocols and procedures before releasing these Houbara, which was the main factor in the success of this release.

The Centre's breeding complex is the headquarters of a vast network of specialized stations distributed over 40,000 km2 in Eastern Morocco. The integrated, state-of-the-art facilities use the latest scientific innovations to breed, acclimate and reintroduce Houbara into the wild. After release, their movements are closely tracked and their behavior is studied in their natural habitat. One of the project's successes is that it locally grows all the food required by the Houbara population.

Since the ECWP's primary objective is to restore a sustainable wild Houbara population, tracking the released birds and monitoring their behavior in their natural habitat is crucial. In studying the Houbara's efforts to survive, ECWP scientists monitor everything from weather systems to vegetation and wildlife in the release areas.

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Landmines exist in nearly every governorate, says Al-Azi

Every Yemeni governorate except for Al-Mahweet has a problem with leftover landmines from past conflicts. The Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center began in 1999 to clean up all mines from suspected areas. Mansour Mohammed Al-Azi, general director and program manager for the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the chairman of the mine center spoke to the Yemen Times about his organization's plan to make Yemen completely landmine-free by 2014.

By: Hamed Thabet
hamed_thabit@hotmail.com

Could you give us some background about landmines in Yemen?

Over the past 30 years, landmines were planted in Yemen during four different conflicts. The first was a 1962-1975 conflict between republicans and royalists in the north. Then from 1963 to 1967 [there was] the war of independence in the south. After that, in 1970-1983, the leftist guerrilla war in the central governorates. Finally, in May-July 1994 in the separation war. No mines have been used since 1994.

What were the obstacles in locating the landmines around Yemen?

The worst obstacle was that we did not have any information regarding mines that had been planted between 1962 and 1983. For this reason, Yemen conducted a level one impact survey from 1999 to 2000 to locate the suspected mine fields. The survey was specifically designed to identify the problem in Yemen, because we did not have any maps or information, as almost all of these mines had been planted randomly and by untrained people [the national front]. That is why mines are spread

What were the criteria for selecting these areas?

These places were first and foremost selected by the citizens and not the government. So after the survey, we concluded that there are 594 villages planted with mines, which means that almost 700 villages were free of mines.

Can you tell us the number of landmine victims in Yemen?

I have to assure that the number of the victims has decreased since we started our program in 2000. Before 2000, the number of the dead and injured was 27 per month. However, from the second year of our project in 2000 the number reduced to 1 - 2 people per month, which means 17 to 25 per year dead and injured. The total number of landmine victims in Yemen so far stands at 5,400 victims [dead and injured]; of these, 2,990 were injured.

Most of the victims are women, children and farmers. Children and women are the most vulnerable groups due to the nature of their activities, such as herding, playing and collecting wood for fire. We have 827,000 people living next to lands affected by landmines. So far we have reached 670,542 of them and made them aware about the risks and dangers that could happen to them because of mines.

How many areas are free of mines?

From the 594 [communities with landmines], we cleared and marked 338 areas. From the 338 areas, we found 630 mine lands. From the 630 mine lands, 524 are free of mines and 35 are still being worked on. Sixty-one mine fields will be cleared in the future.

The total area affected or suspected to be affected by mines is 923,000,000 square meters, which represent the 594 communities. The mine action program has surveyed and cleared 691,838,911 square meters out of 923,000,000 and the rest is in the process of clearance.

Sometimes an area or village might have more than 4 to 6 minefields. For example in Lahaj, in the mountain it will be more than 30 minefields.

When will Yemen be free of mines?

Yemen will be free of mines in 2014, and will be free of effective mines and anti-personnel mines by March 2009. The most interesting thing is that in 1999, Yemen was on the list of the 24 most affected countries with landmines. However, I can say that Yemen has improved and very soon will be taken off that list. On June 2006, three governorates, Aden, Hajjah, and Hodeidah, were declared free of landmines.



Mansour Mohamed Al-Azi, general director and program manager for the UNDP and the chairman of the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center

How many accidents happened to your team while working in mine fields?

In general since 2000, 74 were injured and 57 died from our team. In 2007, we had 23 dead and injured from our staff.

What kind of treatment do the mine victims get, including victims from the team?

The mine action center created a unique program in 2001 called the Victim's Assistance Program. The program provides immediate and long-term medical assistance, rehabilitation and support to landmine survivors. Survivors are taken to a hospital and all costs, including medical rehabilitation, transportation and accommodation, are covered by the program.

Each of them has a file and we do not wait for them to come, but we go to them and take them to hospitals at our expense and provide surgery and medical care. After that, each survivor will have a report and [we] provide for their needs, including hearing aids, eye glasses, eye surgery, prosthetic devices and physiotherapy.

The injured from our team [soldiers] will be given monetary compensation and medical treatment. Our soldier victims will be treated as soldiers with honor, who sacrificed their lives for saving the country.

There is also a program called Mine Risk Education. We have three teams and their job is to travel to suspected and affected areas before we go there in order to provide training and briefings on landmines and other explosive devices to reduce casualties and reduce risks among the people in affected areas.

Afterwards, the injured are helped by the committee, by being provided with small projects like dressmaking, handicrafts, mechanics and carpentry. The other highly important work this committee undertakes is the awareness program and every 15 days they travel all over Yemen and go from house to house to ensure the people are aware of the risks of mines. The



A clearance unit or mine-dog group clears the land inch by inch until all the mines are removed.

problem that the villagers face is that many of them did not even know what a mine looked like, but now they have an idea.

How do you work in the mine fields?

Technical survey teams collect information from community leaders and landmine survivors on the location and size of the affected land, the type and depth of mines, and ground conditions. They then mark minefield boundaries, produce an operational map for clearance methods (manual, canine, mechanical or a combination). A clearance unit or mine-dog group will then clear the land inch by inch until all the mines are removed. Cleared lands are then subject to quality assurance, where two officers will

inspect a certain portion of the land to ensure it has been cleared in accordance with the national mine action standards. Finally, cleared lands are handed over to the local community for use in a formal ceremony.

In the survey teams, we have 12 teams, and each team has seven people; five surveyors, the medic and the driver. All of them are highly-trained by international standards. Their mission is to identify and find the mines in the suspected areas. It is a very difficult job.

Who supports and provides the funds to the Mine Action Center?

Our annual budget is US \$6.5 million. The Mine Action Center works under the National Mine Action Committee,

with the cooperation of the UNDP. The cost of mine action operations in Yemen varies from year to year. The Yemeni government provides 50 percent of the budget in remuneration of national staff [salaries, field allowances and other benefits such as social security and health care].

In addition, the program has received contributions through bilateral channels or the UNDP from the governments of Belgium, Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. The support is sometimes not enough and technical difficulties are also one of the main problems, because Yemen has vast deserts and sandy areas, which make the work more difficult.



The number of the victims has decreased to 1 to 2 people per month since 2000. Until now 2,410 have died and 2,990 have been injured by landmines in Yemen.

randomly all over Yemen.

However, the situation in 1994 was different. We have some maps, but not with all the information we need. There is always missing [information], like for example, the size of the mines, the number of mines in each field and also if it is mixed with anti-tank or anti-personnel [landmines]. Before we embarked on the level one impact survey in 1999, the number of suspected areas with mines were 1,200.



Every 15 days, a team from the mine action center travels all over Yemen, going from house to house to ensure people are aware of the risks of mines.

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Fitna, much ado about nothing?

Reactions to the early release of Dutch MP Geert Wilders' anti-Islam movie, *Fitna*, have so far been muted in the Muslim world. But it may be too early to tell how the Arab street will react. MENASSAT reports from Beirut, Cairo and The Netherlands.

(MENASSAT) – Perhaps the worst thing the Muslim world could do to Geert Wilders and his anti-Islam movie, *Fitna*, is to simply ignore him and it.

That seemed to be the main reaction to the early release of *Fitna*, the movie.

The Dutch government condemned the film, saying "it hurts the feelings of the Muslims." The European Union went further, saying that *Fitna* "incites hatred," which unlike hurting feelings is actually punishable by law.

In The Netherlands, most people had expected the movie to be much worse.

Yes, *Fitna* once again shows the Danish cartoon of the Prophet with a bomb for a turban. But even Arab newspapers have published it.

Fitna does use a bit of animation in which the original bomb is seen with a lit fuse, accompanied by a ticking sound. But it doesn't show an actual explosion; just an image of lightning striking.

Fitna shows the Quran accompanied by a sound of tearing paper. But it comes with a voice-over of Wilders saying, "What you are hearing is a page being ripped from the phone book. It is not up to me to tear the hateful verses from the Quran; it is up to the Muslims themselves."

Other than that, *Fitna* seems to be meant mostly for internal Dutch consumption. Statistics showing the rise of Muslims in The Netherlands, or "Greetings from Holland" postcards featuring mosques, may be frightening to a segment of the Dutch population but they are hardly offensive to the Muslim world at large.

In the end, *Fitna* looks like any amateurish YouTube movie that some troubled teenager might have cooked up in his bedroom.

Hype

So amateurish indeed that Wilders mistakenly used a picture of Dutch-Moroccan rapper Salah Edin instead of Mohammed Bouyeri's, the murderer of filmmaker

Theo Van Gogh. Salah Edin has threatened to sue.

Initial reactions to the movie's early release in the Muslim world have been tame compared to the hype that preceded *Fitna*'s release.

An overview:

- The Netherlands raised its national terrorist threat level from "limited" to "substantial" on March 6.

- The European Union alerted its diplomatic missions around the world to expect a reaction to the release of the film.

- Public protest took place in Afghanistan ahead of the film's release where a Wilders lookalike doll was burned. (The Dutch have troops in Afghanistan.)

- NATO expressed fears that the film could lead to increased attacks on Western troops in Afghanistan after the Taliban's Zabihullah Mujahid said as much.

- Al-Qaeda allegedly issued a fatwa calling upon Muslims to kill Wilders.

- Wilders is under police protection in The Netherlands.

- Network Solutions, Wilders' U.S. hosting company, suspended the *Fitna* site pending an investigation as to whether "the site's content is in violation of the Network Solutions Acceptable Use Policy." The movie was eventually released on the British video sharing website LiveLeak.com.

- In Lebanon, there was a brief controversy over the absence of the flag at the Dutch embassy. A spokesman said the embassy was closed for unrelated reasons. On Friday, the Dutch embassy was proudly flying the flag, and security appeared minimal. (It was in Beirut that angry Sunni Muslims burned down the Danish embassy during the 2006 cartoons riots.)

- Last month, Pakistan pulled the plug on YouTube because of what the authorities referred to as a "highly blasphemous" and "anti-Quranic" video which turned out to be a trailer for *Fitna*. In trying to block

the trailer, Pakistan accidentally caused a worldwide blackout of YouTube that lasted several hours.

- On Monday, Amsterdam-based cultural organization Mediamatic called on Dutch citizens "to make their own version of *Fitna* in which they apologize for Wilders' embarrassing behavior". "If everybody joins in it will be hard to find the video by Wilders without finding lots of movies apologizing for it," said a statement released by the organization.

- Attempts by Muslim organizations to forbid *Fitna*'s release through the courts failed.

Of course, many people feared – and Wilders probably hoped – that Muslims would react to the movie in the way they did in 2006 over the Danish cartoons of the Prophet, i.e. violently, thereby proving the point that Islam is indeed a violent religion.

So far they haven't but as MENASSAT's interview with Lebanese Sunni cleric Bassam Tarraf shows, it may be too early to tell.

Interestingly, the initial reaction of Dutch Muslims was one of relief because Wilders had not burned the Quran or used the name of the Prophet in vain; he had only juxtaposed verses from the Quran with images of 9/11 and Iraq that everybody is all too familiar with by now.

'Our own worst enemy'

This in turn led a number of Dutch people to comment on news websites that it is a sad state of affairs indeed when Muslims express relief over the fact that Wilders "only" showed images of innocent people being murdered in the name of Islam, as if to say that this is OK.

The underlying message is that Muslims as a whole are too uncritical of what is being done in the name of Islam.

However, people do speak out.

Al-Hayat, the U.K.-based Saudi paper, ran an editorial by Jihad El-Khazen on March 26 which went into the Wilders controversy. El-Khazen became interested in Wilders after reading an interview with him in *The Observer*. He consequently sent letters to Wilders' private address and his address at the Dutch parliament on three occasions, asking him to arrange a dialogue. Wilders never replied.

El Khazen wrote, "The enemies of

Muslims exist in Israel, in the Israel lobby in America, among the neo-nazis of Europe, and elsewhere. However, the most dangerous enemies of Islam and Muslims are terrorists who have emerged from our ranks and have overpowered Muslims – or almost did!"

"I can curse Wilders' mother and father", El-Khazen continued, "but the worst mistake one can make is to be provoked into saying something [one] might regret later. What we need is to face Wilders in an open debate to uncover his ignorance, or racism and prejudice."

Similarly, Mona Eltahawy, an Egyptian columnist currently living in the U.S., recently wrote a column on March 12, "Our Own Worst Enemy," in which she advises Muslims to disregard the Danish cartoons and the Wilders movie and to concentrate instead on the Muslim-on-Muslim violence that kills hundreds every week in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"For this Muslim, no number of Danish cartoons or Dutch films will ever be more offensive than the seven suicide attacks that have killed at least 100 in Pakistan in the past three weeks alone. No slur is as horrible as the 600 people dying in violence in Pakistan since the start of the year."

(...)
"And yet, topping the agenda of the summit in Senegal this week of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is Islamophobia."

"Denial? Not just a river in my Egyptian homeland, but blindness to rivers of shed blood Muslim blood."

"I don't expect any enlightened self-criticism from the OIC. It was at a meeting in 2005, after the Danish cartoons were published, that the manufactured outrage against Denmark was cooked up and delivered across the Muslim world – a perfect distraction from domestic pressures for every opportunistic Muslim dictator – and for Islamist groups looking to claim the banner of Islam."

Are people like El-Khazen and Eltahawy representative of the majority of Muslims?

Perhaps not.
"I pause here to say that my defense of Islam may not satisfy many Muslims, but I am not asking any Muslim to accept what I am saying", El-Khazen wrote.



Dutch MP Geert Wilders is known among other things for his crazy hairdo. R.R.

"Muslims have to follow Sheikh Al-Azhar or their country's Mufti. I do not want to open this debate in view of convincing Muslims. For they are already convinced and satisfied with their faith; I rather need to prove that Wilders is an ass (sorry for using this word), or perhaps worse, a racist, spiteful, and ignorant man who dyed his hair platinum blond like women and is seeking a cheap popularity provided by terror and people like Osama Bin Laden."

Personally though, El-Khazen continued, "I condemn terror regardless of its source and causes (...) I condemn terrorists who, like Osama Bin Laden, 'have defended' Islam although it was not accused, then put it in the dock and deprived us of the argument we can use in defending this faith."

In the same vein, Eltahawy concluded, "When I read that a Muslim killed 68 pilgrims, I confess I question if I can continue to claim the same faith as such a barbarian. But with a keen eye on the values of my religion that I hold dear – compassion, social justice, and taking care of the weakest and neediest – I fiercely claim it. I will not leave Islam to the barbarians."

'Severe consequences'

Of course, the usual suspects have obliged Wilders by reacting furiously to the movie.

Mohammad Al-Hosseini, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, "strongly condemned" the release of "what he called an 'anti-Islamic and insulting movie.' (True enough.) Al-Hosseini said it was "a dirty act" on the part of Wilders and LiveLeak.com.

According to Iran's official press agency, IRNA, Al-Hosseini warned against consequences of such "provocative acts" and asked the Dutch and British governments as well as the European Union to put an end to [the] showing of such "[an] insulting, anti-Islamic and anti-

cultural" film.

Iran had earlier threatened to sever economic relations with The Netherlands over the film.

In Egypt, reactions were diverse. After meeting with the Dutch ambassador, the "Sheikh Al-Azhar" or the Grand Imam of the Al-Azhar Mosque, Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi, warned of "severe consequences."

The Muslim Brotherhood was more reserved.

Speaking to MENASSAT ahead of the film's release, the Muslim Brotherhood's Ibrahim El-Houdaiby said that while he is against banning the film, *Fitna* might be hard to accept for many Muslims and chances are high that its release will have dangerous repercussions.

"I am against hate speech but I'm also against banning it. It's ethically incorrect to ban a piece of work. I welcome criticism and dialogue. But this film creates an unbalanced view of things. It will only increase mutual religious hatred," said El-Houdaiby, who belongs to the Brotherhood's moderates.

Nevertheless, El-Houdaiby emphasized that the best response to works like that of Wilders might be to ignore them and not violence. He also suggested that the time might be right for the introduction of a code of ethics against insulting works.

He also had a rather original proposal: let the Muslims produce their own video responses to Wilders' movie.

"It is important to not resort to violence in answer to nobodies like Wilders who only want to provoke. Respond not to the movie, but to the content itself by producing a similar piece."

Watch out for an avalanche of Muslim Brotherhood movies on YouTube.

(Amira Al-Tahawy contributed to this report from Cairo, Alexandra Sandels, Rita Barotta and Gert Van Langendonck reported from Beirut.)

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Basic Education Program

PRESS INVITATION

Ministry of Education and USAID workshop to discuss lessons learned from Basic Education Program.

On Monday 7 April the Ministry of Education and USAID are holding a workshop to discuss lessons learned during the course of the four-year Basic Education Program (BEP) which ran from 2004 until 2008.

The Basic Education Program has improved education in Yemen, especially for women and girls. The program's goals have been achieved through a number of integrated initiatives including, rebuilding and renovating schools, training teachers and social workers, creating parents' councils and running adult literacy classes. The program operated in 77 schools across eight districts in Mareb, Shabwah and Amran governorates.



The opening ceremony for the workshop will be held at the Education Research Development Centre on Monday 7 April, at 08.30.

For further details please contact the Program Associate for the Basic Education Program, Khalid Alkataa at 711 099 013.

Not all Yemeni brides need to look the same

By: Ofri Ilani

In 1949, tens of thousands of Jews from all over Yemen gathered in the southern city of Aden and waited there two months for planes that would take them to Israel as part of Operation Magic Carpet. Many of them brought with them from their homes their families' traditional bridal garments and valuable jewelry. But as they were about to board the plane, many found that they could not bring these items to Israel due to their weight. And so when the Yemeni Jews came to Israel, they left behind their local traditional garments.

"People said they just took off the garments, left them in bath houses and were left wearing lighter garments," said Carmela Abder, a folklore researcher who specializes in Yemeni Jewish culture. "But even if the reasons for removing the garments were technical, I see it as a kind of stripping of identity. A woman in Yemen had a very deep attachment to this garb, and she was familiar with each and every detail of her jewelry and clothing. And suddenly she was willing to part with the dresses and jewels that she was so attached to."

None of this prevented Yemeni bridal jewelry from becoming a kind of Israeli brand, one of the symbols of the ideology fulfillment of the ingathering of the exiles. Yemeni embroidery and jewelry went through a process of preservation and change at the hands of commercial and ideological groups, and of the Yemenite community as well. According to Abder, in the Israeli melting pot, the variety of regional traditions was replaced by a uniform item that became most identified with the community: the splendid bridal garb of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

"Everyone is familiar with the magnificent Sana'a bridal garments, with the crown of pearls and silver and gold jewels," she said. "Yemeni women adopted this garment, mainly at henna ceremonies, even when their parents came from another area with a different tradition."

In effect, the original garment of Yemeni women looked quite different, depending on the area where they came from. Women from Hidan, in the north, were distinguished by a black head covering (shila) and indigo-dyed dress; women in Al-Sharaf, west of Sana'a, wore an asymmetrical, tightly-embroidered garment whose patterns resembled Ethiopian embroidery; women in the region of Bihan and Haban were known for their silver belts and multiple braids. And these are only a few of the clothing styles that existed in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula.

Abder spoke yesterday at the Bar-Ilan University in honor of the 60th anniversary of the "On the Wings of Eagles" wave of immigration from Yemen. According to Abder, "Israeli society was very warm to the Yemenis - at least until Uzi Meshulam and Yigal Amir. They had a reputation of being the nice Jews, relaxed, and also of a community frozen in time that had preserved the culture of the Hebrews from the Biblical era. But as the Yemenite Jews adapted to being Israeli, they went through an interesting process: They created for themselves a kind of general Yemeni Israeli identity. So they adopted the custom of wearing the traditional Sana'a bridal garments, with the high crown of pearls, and it became an icon with an exotic air."

"Even though in Yemen less than a fifth of the Jews wore it, in Israel all of the families adopted this garb, and it became associated with the henna ceremony. It became 'the new Yemeniteness.' This image appeared on posters, in encyclopedias, and even in Ofra Haza's music videos. All of this helped to publicize this image."

And so the Sana'a bridal garments became a symbol for all Yemeni Jews. Yet according to Abder, "The origin of some of these components is not necessarily typically Jewish. In part, it is borrowed from the Muslims. Only in Israel did it become a Jewish symbol. This is an example of utilizing existing elements within a new framework."

'It wasn't this way'

Abder, who teaches at the Hebrew

University and at Ben-Gurion University, is the daughter of parents from the area of Bihan in southeast Yemen.

"My father very quickly wanted to be Israeli in every respect, and therefore these subjects didn't interest him much," she said.

As she tells it, her interest in the traditions of that area started at her sister's henna ceremony. "At the event, Rabbait Bracha Kapach, the wife of Rabbi Yosef Kapach and the chief dresser of the community, dressed my sister in the garments identified with Sana'a. I remember that my mother said: 'By us, it wasn't this way.' This sparked my curiosity and I became interested in the garments of Bihan."

Abder is not the only one. In the late 1970s, when the Israeli melting pot began to disintegrate, Yemeni families also started showing growing interest in the traditional garments of their forefathers' homes. In recent years, a new tradition has emerged at weddings and henna ceremonies: Throughout the evening, the brides change into the garments from different regions.

"At the start of the evening, the bride wears the familiar dress from Sana'a," says Abder. "Afterward, she changes into garments from Hidan in the north, and then into garments from Haban in the south."

Abder is amazed by the variations Yemeni garments have undergone in Israel. "I started studying this subject in order to keep my parents' tradition alive," she said. "But I don't think that the contemporary garments are less authentic or that there is something to mourn."

However, according to her, the wedding garments have over the past decade become a real industry. "The bridal wear industry is flourishing," she noted. "The henna ceremony is being transformed into a festival of garments, and sometimes not only the bride but also the entire family gets dressed up. It is happening in other communities, too, for example among the Moroccans. In a certain sense, the Mizrahi Jews (Jews of Middle Eastern origin) are romanticizing the East."

About Fitna: Explaining Geert Wilders to the world



Radio Netherlands Worldwide tries to address some of the questions surrounding the Geert Wilders movie with a movie of its own, produced in English, Arabic and Indonesian.

By: NICOLIEN ZUIJDEEST

(MENASSAT) – In an effort to explain to the world who Geert Wilders is, and why the Dutch government cannot forbid him from releasing his anti-Islam movie, Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) has produced a film of its own, "About Fitna, The Movie." MENASSAT spoke with Mohammed Abdulhamid Abdulrahman, the editor in chief of RNW's Arabic service, and acting editor in chief Wim Jansen, a few days before Wilders' movie was released.

MENASSAT: Why did RNW decide to make "About Fitna, The Movie?"
MOHAMMED ABDULHAMID ABDULRAHMAN: "The issue of Wilders is all over the media and politics now. As an international broad-

caster we just had to explain to the Islamic world why Wilders made his film and what is the socio-political context of it. We wanted to answer questions that appear in Arabic media like, 'Why does the Dutch government not just stop the movie?' We wanted to give a clear and simple answer to voices in the Arab public opinion saying, 'If they wanted to, the Dutch government really could have stopped this.' Our movie shows why the law doesn't allow the Dutch government to do so."

MENASSAT: How many people have watched "About Fitna, The Movie" so far?

WIM JANSEN: "About Fitna is available in English, Arabic and Indonesian. As of Monday March 24, we had 50,000 views for the English version; 5,000 views for the Arabic version and 2,000 for the Indonesian version."

MENASSAT: Is "About Fitna, The Movie" meant as an anti-Wilders movie?

WIM JANSEN: "This is not an anti- or a pro-Wilders movie. It focuses on the discussion about it. We give answers to

existing questions, we inform our public about what the discussion is all about and it is up to the public to draw a conclusion.

"The most important thing is that we explain the two main legal circumstances of the Wilders movie. First, a person is only punishable of crimes as soon as he has committed them and is proven guilty. So far, we don't know what the movie is about, so we cannot accuse Wilders of anything yet. Secondly, our movie clearly shows that the freedom of expression intervenes with the other existing freedoms like the freedom of religion. In a legal and democratic society such as The Netherlands it is up to a judge to decide whether red lines have been crossed. It is unacceptable to forbid the movie in advance."

MENASSAT: What about the offer of the Dutch Muslim Broadcasting Organization (NMO) to show the Wilders movie?

WIM JANSEN: "It was a stroke of genius. The NMO offered to pursue the dialogue which Geert Wilders says is so difficult to have in The Netherlands, and then he refuses this offer!"

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

Engineering Consultancy

- The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation (YGAPC) invites local and foreign companies who can demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and experienced to submit proposals to provide consultancy services to investigate, report on and prepare designs and tender documents for the repair or replacement of two dolphin/bunkering berths in the inner harbour of the Port of Aden. These are designated Berth 6 In and Berth 6 Out.
- The project is self-financed by YGAPC.
- Intending bidders may obtain the bidding documents from the Statistics and Planning Department at the headquarters of the Corporation in Tawahi, Telephone +967-2-202669, on payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00.
- Bidders should submit their sealed offers, one original and two copies, to the following address:
 Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation (Port of Aden)
 Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board
 Tawahi, Aden
 Tel: +967-2-204638/202669 and fax +967-2-205805/205802/201541
 Email: ygapcplanning@y.net.ye.
- Bids must reach the headquarters of YGAPC before 11.00 hours on **Wednesday 30 April 2008** and will not be accepted after this date and time. Envelopes will be opened at 11.00 on the same day. Bids must remain valid for 90 days from the date of submission.
- The successful bidder will be obliged to pay any taxes and duties relating to the work, according to the tender price and to the laws of the Republic of Yemen.
- The local bidder shall accompany by his bid the following:-
 Valid tax card.
 Valid Al-Zakatt card.
 Valid insurance .
 Valid commercial registry certificate.
- The foreign bidder shall accompany by any required documents, such as:
 VAT Registration Certificate:
 A valid Certificate of Insurance;
 A valid company Registration Certificate.
- Bidders should include in their submissions details of similar projects carried out within the past five years, details of the clients for whom the work was undertaken and cv's of the personnel who will be employed to undertake the work.
- YGAPC will facilitate access to the dolphins for bidders, their personnel and equipment before they submit their bids.

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Education policy between modern reality and medieval gloom

By: Dr. Nasser Mohammed Nasser

Can you imagine at which point of international progress we are? What is the status of our educational institutions in the cotemporary era? How big is the gap between us and the world of today? The following lines attempt to give answers to such questions.

University certificate holders constitute 85 percent of those occupying high-ranking posts in the government of Japan, and in the United States of America, they account for 80 percent, but 62 percent in Germany. There are at least 3500 scientists in every million citizens in Japan, but 2500 scientists in every million citizens in the United States and 1500 scientists in the same number of population in Europe. And, out of 350 thousand automatic humans, 200 thousands exist in Japan, 70 thousand in Europe and 50 thousand in the United States of America.

Despite all such technological development, the East Asian tiger began reviewing its education systems and policies. Japan realizes that it managed to transfer experience of the western technology to its territory, as well as out-perform the westerners in its manufacturing and marketing, thanks to developed skills and sincere efforts. But now, the East Asian state is in an urgent need for pioneering and invention. It wants to be the first vehicle in the train of progress in order to take the world behind it.

The United States, on the contrary, hurried to constitute the National Security Council for Education and

tasked it to oversee three themes, the first of which is the industrial theme that has to do with developing and improving biochemistry and manufacturing satellites and space ships. No. 2 is the military theme that is in charge of achieving specific objectives, most important of which is creating an electronic umbrella and finishing the star war program. In addition, there is the economic theme that is responsible for reaching certain goals, most important of which is doubling the added value in the areas of space, computer and aircraft industries.

Marvelous achievements have been so far achieved in this area of industry and the added value got 20 thousand times doubled since space industry began. The added value in the area of computer manufacturing did also double by 1700 thousand times while the added value in the area of aircraft manufacturing doubled by 2500 thousand times.

The world undergoes rapid change, and this change is marvelous at the same time. A small transistor, of which the size doesn't exceed that of a fingernail, is capable of carrying or storing billion data. Meanwhile, the mathematical chemistry has become more able to construct and establish huge devices, machineries and ordinance out of small atoms and particles, as well as produce accurate and top-quality designs.

Introducing the genetic map and breaking down any barriers between it and other forms of the state is sufficient to create a unique revolution in the area of human brain engineering and making it more able than it is now in the near future.

All these technological achievements

have critical results at the different spheres. In the economic front, the world of today gets integrated in a rapid manner while small economies are contained within the wheel of the world's capitalistic economy, but at the political level, structure of the national state vanishes gradually. When it comes to the cultural sphere, we find that an international trend is growing fast on the basis of respect for human rights and freedoms.

At more than one level, the entire world agrees that the international trend is on its way to wash away all the racial, nationalist and religious affiliations, cultures and trends, and is more able to do so. We are approaching a new world in which all the existing powers and entities melt, thereby providing a new outcome based on affiliation with what is international or global.

Indispensable tasks for educational development:

We are part of this world's fabric while seclusion or standing in the way of changes is not that possible. We are therefore advised to contribute to making change and designing the dimensions of change. We have to bear in mind that the educational institution is the train of progress in any community and man is the ultimate goal of development and is its indispensable means at the same time. The educational institution has to do two primary tasks, the first of which is represented by meeting the community needs by qualifying experts, technicians and engineers required by the development process.

The second task is related with pioneering and inventing new things, a mat-

ter that require universities and research centers, in particular, to review its programs with regard to recruiting researchers and experts in the various majors. They are also recommended to introduce new majors or specializations such as genetic engineering, electronic engineering and mathematical chemistry, and then concentrate on the future of these majors. School and university curricula should be designed in a way transplanting love and loyalty with homeland in the hearts and minds of the younger generation.

I see that it is very difficult to have such tasks achieved within a community where decision-making is controlled by figures that don't differentiate between the 'Open Ta and Closed Ta in the Arabic alphabet', and therefore are only concerned about collecting funds illegally. It is also difficult to achieve these tasks under a political system that insists on politicizing public sector jobs and handing government institutions as sectors to certain individuals. The system followed by our state continues sponsoring sectarian educational projects, some of which raise the slogan of disbelief while others raise the slogan of exploiting public funds and facilities for personal earning.

In Yemen, 'Country of Faith and Wisdom', all the community facilities are harnessed for serving a single family at the expense of the entire nation. At this point, I would like to talk about a long-term strategy while change is inevitable to take place soon. The marginalization policy, pursued by the political regime in Yemen, is responsible for the persisting backwardness and the community meaningless culture. The

local community culture proved unable to produce competent and active political figures that may lead the country toward unique comprehensive development. Instead, it produced backward and stupid political figures that are only concerned about disbelief, regionalism and sectarianism.

Via its sponsorship and design of this culture, the political regime seems to be addressing a letter to Yemeni people telling them to look at the change alternatives that are available before them.

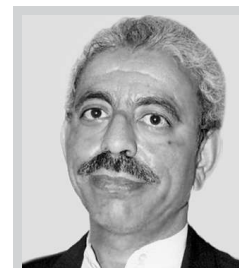
The letter says to people, "If you want change, it will only be backward. So you have two options to choose between: whether change toward religious dictatorship restricting public freedoms and taking you to clashes with the outside world or the return to Imamate via the Zaidi ideology that considers power as the inclusive property of a particular family or dynasty. All these issues are responsible for poor quality education and backwardness in our nation.

Source: Al-Wasat Weekly.

COMMON SENSE

The Arab Summit: A real fiasco

The teacher wanted to initiate a lively discussion in the classroom so he asked his students to come up with some feedback on the recent Arab Summit Conference held in Damascus: I am sure all of you were keeping track of the Arab Summit in Damascus, do any of you have any views and projections as to the outcomes of the meeting.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

"For decades now, the only thing the Arab leaders have ever produced for their people, in particular and the Arab Nation as a whole has been an unbreakable series of heartaches, misery and clumsy governance", said Fidel to his teacher and the rest of the class, turning left and right to make sure that everyone heard him.

Nesrin, an optimistic student felt Fidel was not showing the proper respects due to the Arab leaders: "Look Fidel, you must get out of your radical inclinations, you know that our leaders are doing the best they could under the prevailing circumstances. Look at all the pressure they are working under."

Fidel almost forgot his manners and did not even let her finish what she wanted to say: "Nesrin, please do not let the soft heart in your feminine nature take over your genuine political feelings and aspirations. Otherwise, these odd ball mixture of kings, princes, sultans, military commanders and half way decent totalitarian rulers will continue to play with the Arab people as if they were a luxury heaven sent amenity for these claimants to leadership to play with as they like. I think it is about time that these oppressors of their constituencies and bleeders of the Arab World's resources be sent packing to some lost island in the Indian Ocean where no one will ever hear from them again. I know you mean well, Nesrin, but I for one do not want them to play on your tendency to forget and forgive. These leaders have left us with little hope for our nation to come out of the rut that the Arab Nation is in now. To put it simply, the more they hang on to their domination of the Arab World, the further away we are from salvaging whatever is left of our dignity. Can you imagine that the visit of Dick Cheney a fortnight before the Conference has pretty much decided what the outcome will be of the Conference and who should show up and not show up to the meeting, and not simply what should the agenda of the meeting should be."

Ali, who could not help but show where his mind is really went on to plead for the Yemeni case: "Look Fidel, at least the Yemeni Initiative got the upper hand among the topics discussed."

Fidel again was quick to answer:

"Oh Ali, where is your mind really at, or rather where is the dough in your pocket really coming from? What Yemeni Initiative? What Arab Initiative? What Saudi Initiative? Aren't the Arabs really tired of this phony merry-go-round that the propaganda machines of the Arab leaders continue to play with their subject's minds? About the only initiative I and more than 250 million Arabs are seeing are the ongoing initiative of the Zionist thieves to completely take over the entire remainder of Palestine, without any thought or even care of any initiatives coming from these irresponsible hoodlums who continue to have their say from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean. All I want to say is that the worth of the initiatives of our Arab leaders is summed up in one phrase: easy comes - easy goes. What is amazing to find is that throwing these initiatives from one Arab capital to another has come to be a favorite pastime of our leaders, that they have all decided to form a special office in the Arab League, called the Office of Initiatives, which will be responsible for gauging and monitoring all the initiatives of our Arab leaders, to see what is printed, said, or realized in public opinion circles and who many applause each initiative gains. Not only that, each Arab leader has vowed to create a Ministry of Initiatives on the Palestinian Crisis. Never mind that this crisis, which has been labeled by a prominent journalist as the longest human crisis in the history of mankind, is mostly due to their absolute incompetence.

Ahmed, at the far corner of the room, began to gather his books in anticipation of hearing the dismissal bill as he said: "You can be sure that there is one initiative that every Arab citizen is waiting for with great hope and anticipation - the initiative of that man there", pointing to a picture of a self confident Hassan Nasrullah, the indefatigable leader of Hezbollah posted high at the one of the side walls of the room.

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

Opposition and the sea

By: Sadiq Nasher

Since President Ali Abdullah Saleh called on opposition parties to drink from seawater, specifically those who are unsatisfied with the unity, nationwide comments on this statement have been growing sharper and sharper until the extent that some Hadramout's citizens actually went to the Arab Sea with their cups to drink from seawater. One of Hadramout-based websites published pictures for those people while they were drinking from seawater near Mukalla city.

Comments did not stop at this extent or level, as some critics also did com-

ment on Mr. President's statement saying "Only those living in coastal areas or near the sea will drink from seawater while inhabitants of mountainous areas will be deprived of this service (drinking from seawater). Therefore, the state will bring them Zamzam water from Mekka as a compensation for not having easy access to the sea."

Other criticism indicated that Mr. President was conscious of what he was saying, thereby calling on unity opponents to drink from seawater after distillation not before it. By this, he doesn't intend to slander any unity opponents. Mr. President intended to say that they have to wait until his government starts implementing a seawater

distillation project, which is the only option before Yemen, mainly after studies revealed that groundwater in the country is bound to deplete soon. The expression implies that the opposition still needs a long time to reach power or see that Yemen is experiencing a peaceful transfer of power.

These comments are part of nationwide criticism following the heated address given by President Saleh in Hodeida, thus helping the address become more important than it was before, particularly as it came after months of Mr. President's disappearance from people's eyes. Commencing his address, Saleh behaved in a way as if it has antagonism and enmity with the

opposition after news reports indicated that there is relative harmony between Mr. President and opposition leaders prior to his visits to Germany and Turkey.

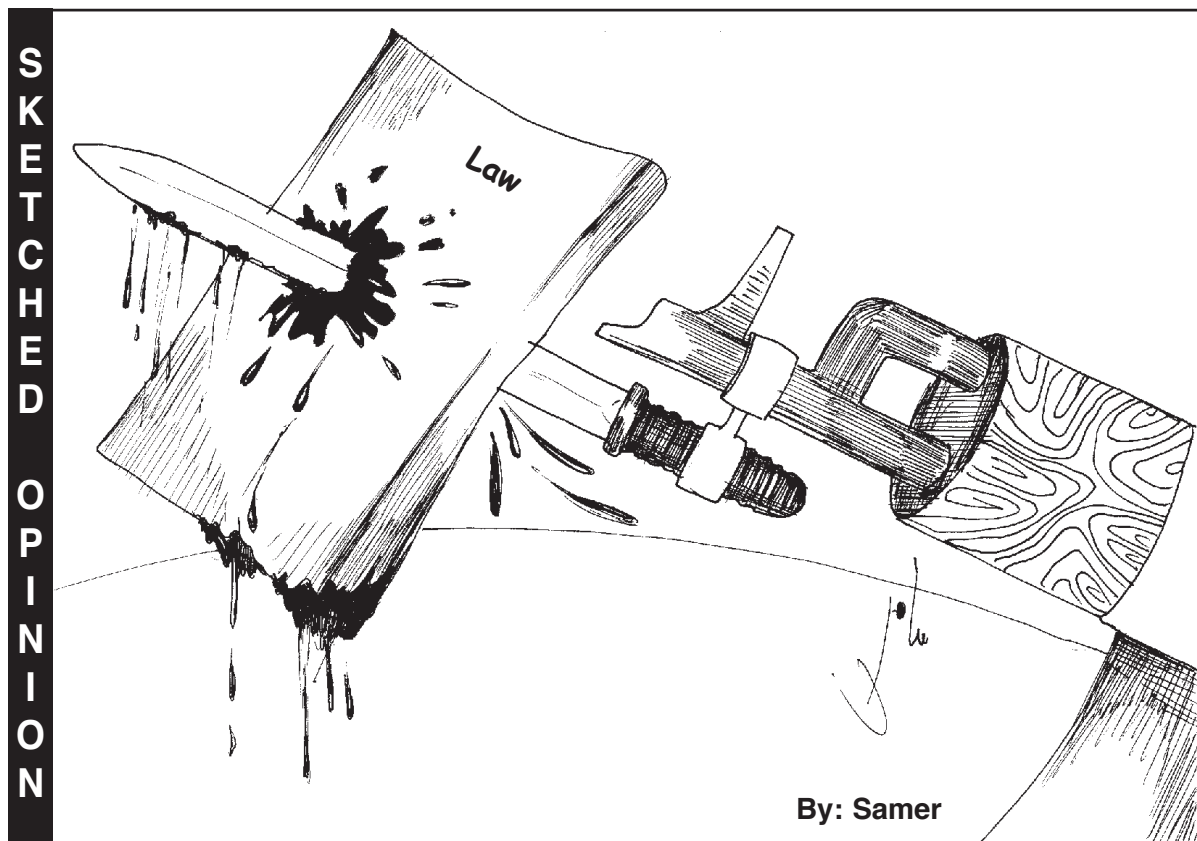
These reports upset prominent leaders in the ruling General People Congress (GPC), who viewed such harmony or compromise as a trick planned against them. Anyway, drinking from seawater is not that bad. If man is down the sea, he may find no water in order to survive except for the water surrounding him, mainly when there are not friends to rescue him.

Yemeni people have so far experienced bloody events, such as January 13th Events of 1986 and 1994 Civil War in Aden, during which they drank from seawater and rivers after the conflicting parties damaged drinking water tanks.

A large number of Yemeni population is living on mountaintops where they can not be outreached by the government nor do they have good access to welfare and healthcare. They drink from stagnant and pool waters like their animals do, and their water is worse than seawater. A few months ago, I noticed that citizens of some Udein areas in Ibb governorate drink from a water pool where Bryozoans and parasites are massing in abundance until the pool's color has gone green.

At this point, I expect that all Yemeni people will collectively drink from seawater one day in the future, particularly as water shortage in the country continues worsening. The government then will have no option but to provide water through desalination. And, I don't know whether we will find seawater to distillate after years or the opponents will have exhausted all the water resources across the country.

Source: Al-Wahdawi Weekly.



By: Samer

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The view from Yemen

For a brief moment it appeared that a major breakthrough in negotiations to reconcile Fatah with Hamas had been achieved with the signing of an agreement in Yemen. It appeared that the only remaining question was whether or not the agreement meant that there would be a full return to the unity government in both Gaza and the West Bank that existed before Hamas took over the Gaza Strip.

The Fatah faction of Mahmoud 'Abbas has now repudiated that agreement. In the early moments following the signing of that agreement, The Media Line spoke with the Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakir Al-Qirbi.

By: The Media Line Staff

Q: What exactly did you think the agreement meant at the time it was signed?

A: What Yemen has provided is an initiative comprised of seven points, which we hope will cover the existing situation and also the reasons that have led to these situations. We've asked both parties to initiate negotiations so they can discuss the initiative, the points in the initiative, agree on implementation and start implementing what they agreed upon.

Q: Is there an understanding that there's going to be a return to the status quo that existed before the Hamas takeover of Gaza?

A: This is a major point that we spent a lot of time on, that the situation in the Palestinian territories should return to the situation that existed before June 13, 2007, which means they will have to be under the authority of the president, the elected government and the parliament, the three organs of rule in the country, and it will be based on the constitution and the laws of the Palestinian state.

In order to achieve that, they will have to look at the reason the situation in Gaza has evolved and it is related to the issue of security; maybe go from there

to the area of preparing for elections for the president and their parliament. So there are a number of issues in the initiative that have to be discussed and negotiated.

Q: Media reports have been strong in saying that Fatah refused to accept the idea that it applied to all of the Palestinian areas and what you're saying is that there is an agreement on both Gaza and the West Bank, all of the institutions, which would imply that there's a complete return to the pre-Hamas takeover.

A: The institutions in the West Bank are still what they were before the Gaza incident. What we have seen is a lot of changes in Gaza and therefore one has to address the changes in Gaza in order to put them under the control of the Palestinian state and the president's office.

Q: I'm sure you saw the TV pictures of senior members of Fatah disagreeing with one another about what was actually agreed and whether it had the blessing of Mahmoud 'Abbas. Was that public argument at all embarrassing for the government of Yemen?

A: Not at all. The government of Yemen understands there are different



positions on how to resolve the existing Palestinian state and how Fatah and Hamas should start negotiating. There are those who do not want them to start negotiating at all, from within the Palestinian areas and from without, and therefore Yemen expected this sort of response. But in the end it is the responsibility of the leadership of both Fatah and Hamas to stand up to all these vocal statements we have heard and make their decision, because in the end Yemen tried to help Hamas and Fatah to get together, to start negotiating on this Palestinian situation, resolving their differences for the benefit of the Palestinians. But our concern is the Palestinian people, who are under great suffering as a result of the conflict

between Fatah and Hamas.

Q: Why is it that Yemen has seemingly succeeded at least to some extent, where others, including the mighty Egypt have failed, simply to get some form of an agreement between Hamas and Fatah?

A: I suppose it's because Yemen is considered by both Hamas and Fatah as an honest mediator. They realize that Yemen's interest is in the interest of the Palestinians and not in the interests of Fatah or Hamas and I think this has created great pressure on the Palestinians because they know the Palestinian people are expecting them to heed to Yemen's initiative and be responsible for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

Q: Have you discussed with Fatah and Hamas a reasonable time frame for getting that next step of the agreement together, the step where they will decide exactly what happens to institutions in both Gaza and the West Bank?

A: I don't know whether you heard President Salih's statement after the signing of the agreement. He said he was taking the initiative now to the Arab summit in Syria; he wants it to become an Arab initiative and not a Yemeni initiative. Therefore, I think after we return from Damascus after the summit we'll start on the second step and that's the beginning of the negotiations.

Q: Are you concerned that given Syria's track record in Lebanon, that perhaps Syria is not the address that should be the address of record for this?

A: If course there are always concerns, but if we depend, in our moves and our decisions, on these concerns, we will not take any action. Therefore, we

decided we should make this initiative irrespective. We hope that the Palestinian people will be behind it and that Fatah and Hamas will realize they have a responsibility not to their own parties but to the Palestinian people. This is what we're banking on.

Q: From the point of view of negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, do you believe that any rapprochement between Fatah and Hamas will hinder that peace process or help the peace process?

A: It depends on Israeli policy makers. For now I think the reality among many European countries is that Hamas can't be excluded from any solution to the Arab Israeli conflict and therefore I think if they are sincere about the peace settlement, they realize the benefits to Israel, they should welcome a renegotiation between Hamas and Fatah so that a strong Palestinian administration is established to control the Palestinian territories. This will lead to the security of both a Palestinian state and Israel.

Q: Regarding the battle between Yemen and the Al-Houthi rebels, where does this situation stand and where does Yemen fall within the Western war on terror?

A: There is an initiative on resolving the Al-Houthi confrontation. The government of Yemen is working on implementing this and there is progress on the ground. There are difficulties that are exaggerated because there are people who are always trying, unfortunately, to derail any agreement. But the government of Yemen is committed to implementing the Qatari agreement and we're working on it. As far as Yemen's role and commitment to fighting terrorism, I think this is part of Yemen's [obligation] to ensure not only Yemen's stability but also as part of its responsibility towards peace and security.

Q: The Media Line's correspondent in Sana just sent a report suggesting there is a rift in the last few weeks between Yemen and the U.S. over the release of Al-Badawi. Would you agree that you're going through a difficult time in your normally warm relations with Washington?

A: Always on issues of terrorism there are some problems, because there are issues that relate to strategy and issues related to tactics. As far as strategy, I think we and the Americans, and the world community in general, are working towards the same objectives, trying to confront and eliminate terrorist groups. But the tactics have to be different, because we're living in different cultures, with different geographical situations. Government abilities and capabilities are also different and therefore everyone has to develop his own tactics to confront terrorism.

Q: Does that mean you think that perhaps the American war on terror has adopted certain misguided poli-

cies when dealing with day-to-day matters in the Middle East?

A: This is in part [true], but I think what we are really talking about in Yemen in fighting terrorism is that we are trying also to look at the roots of terrorism and I think that unless we look at that important point we will never be able to eliminate terrorism. I think we have to look at the causes of it and I think this is where not much attention is being given, and this is one of our failures in fighting terrorists.

Q: How are relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia when it comes to the fight against terrorism, because both of you have suffered, both of you have lost lives. Often we hear accusations and counter accusations that the terrorists, if it's an attack that happened in Yemen, have come from Saudi Arabia and if it's an attack that happened in Saudi Arabia the claim is that it's come from Yemen. Where is this situation between the two of you?

A: I think on a government basis, on a security agencies basis and ministries of interior, our relations are excellent. It is this cooperation and exchange of information and working as a team that has given both Saudi Arabia and Yemen the success that we achieved. Of course, there are problems because our borders are about 2,000 kilometers long and terrorists will always try to escape from one side to the other. This is the difficulty we're facing on how to increase our capabilities on the borders to control such movement of terrorist groups, not only with Saudi Arabia. We also have concerns about the exodus of refugees from the Horn of Africa to Yemen and how we can monitor and control our coastline, which is more than 2,200 kilometers long. You can see the enormity of the challenges Yemen faces in combating terrorism with very limited financial abilities to be able to have the best technologies and the best capabilities to control it.

Q: Do you think therefore that if Yemen were to be allowed to join the Gulf Cooperation Council – and we know that Kuwait and maybe Saudi Arabia have their reservations about this – do you think that, especially given that the GCC is trying to form its combined military, that would actually help you in your defense and your fight against terrorism?

A: I think the security of the Arabian Peninsula cannot be achieved without Yemen being an important party in it. Yemen, with the largest population in the Arabian Peninsula, with the challenges, with the poverty, with the very low economic development, I think it's important for the security of the Gulf states. This is what we've always raised with our brothers at the GCC. I'm sure you've read a lot about it and the success we have achieved because there is more and more commitment by the GCC countries to Yemen, the development of Yemen and the stability of Yemen.



Water is life

By Ban Ki-moon

At the United Nations, March 22nd is World Water Day. We don't expect people to stop what they are doing and observe a moment of silence – but maybe they should. Every 20 seconds, a child dies from diseases associated with a lack of clean water. That adds up to an unconscionable 1.5 million young lives cut short each year.

More than two and a half billion people in the world live in the most abysmal standards of hygiene and sanitation. Helping them would do more than reduce the death toll; it would serve to protect the environment, alleviate poverty and promote development. That's because water underpins so much of the work we do in these areas.

Water is essential to survival. Unlike oil, there are no substitutes. But today, fresh water resources are stretched thin. Population growth will make the problem worse. So will climate change. As the global economy grows, so will its thirst.

As with oil, problems that grow from the scarcity of a vital resource tend to spill over borders. International Alert has identified 46 countries, home to 2.7 billion people, where climate change and water-related crises create a high risk of violent conflict. A further 56 countries, representing another 1.2 billion people, are at high risk of political instability. That's more than half the world.

This is not an issue of rich or poor, north or south. China is diverting hundreds of millions of cubic meters of water to drought-prone Beijing ahead

of the Olympics, but shortages are expected to persist for years to come. In North America, the mighty Colorado River seldom reaches the sea. Water stress affects one third of the United States and one fifth of Spain.

The water system of Lake Chad, in central Africa, supports some 30 million people. Yet over the past 30 years, it has shrunk to one-tenth of its former size, thanks to drought, climate change, mismanagement and over-use. Visiting Brazil this fall, I had to cancel a trip down a major tributary of the Amazon. It had dried up.

I have spent the past year beating the drum on climate change. We've seen the results in the "Bali Roadmap," which charts a course for negotiations on a legally binding treaty limiting greenhouse gas emissions to take over when the Kyoto Protocol expires in

2012. This year, I will make a similar effort to raise public awareness about the Millennium Development Goals.

Among other things, the so-called MDGs set a target of cutting by half the number of people without safe access to water by 2015. This is critically important. When you look at the health and development challenges faced by the poorest of the world's population—diseases like malaria or TB, rising food prices, environmental degradation—the common denominator often turns out to be water.

This September, I will gather top-level officials from across the world at a summit in New York on how to reach the Goals, particularly in Africa. In the meantime, we need to begin thinking about better strategies for managing water—for using it efficiently and sharing it fairly. This means partnerships

involving not just governments but civil society groups, individuals and businesses.

We are at the early stages of this awakening. But there are some encouraging signs, especially in the private sector. Corporations have long been viewed as culprits. The smokestacks from power plants pollute our air, the effluents from industry spoil our rivers. But this is changing. More and more today, businesses are working to become part of the solution, rather than the problem.

Earlier this month, members of the UN Global Compact, the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative, gathered in New York for a meeting on water. The companies in that room had a total worth of about half a trillion dollars with employees in some 200 countries.

The main theme: moving beyond the mere use of water to stewardship. This translates into a commitment to engage with the United Nations, governments and civil groups to protect what is becoming an increasingly scarce resource and ensure that local communities benefit.

Every journey is comprised of myriad small steps, and they spoke about those, too. A major textiles company told how it was working with local governments and farmers to conserve watersheds in growing cotton. A jeans designer is planning to change its labels, calling for washing in cold and hanging dry as a step to save water.

A drop in the bucket, yes. But I see it as the first wave in a tide of change.

The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Vacancy Announcement

The position of Executive Secretary in one of the Multinational pharmaceutical companies is vacant for immediate employment. The office is located in Sana'a, the incumbent should have the following main knowledge :

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Qualifications Required:

University Degree preferably in Business Management/commerce.

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3. More than 3 years experience in Administrative and financial work
4. Able to work under pressure and preparedness to work long hours in hectic period of time
5. Good team player
6. Able to travel in and out side the country

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Alternatively: you can send your CV by email to afak.zabarah@bakerhughes.com

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14october corporation for press, printing an publishing Invitation for Bids

Tender Announcement no. (3) of 2008 for supplying a web-fed offset printing machine , Government funding

The 14october corporation for press, printing an publishing announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (3/2008) for supplying a web-fed offset printing machine , Government funding.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to the procurement and stores department to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 100,000 YR non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at Aden-Malla st. Tel : 02/242660 Fax : 02/242782 Po.box : 5487

The deadline for selling BDs will be on [27 / April /2008].

Bids have to submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the concerned Entity, mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder. The following documents must also be attached to the envelope:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (25,000,000) of (YR or Convertible currency.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than (150) days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)

These documents have to be submitted to the Procurement and Stores Department not later than [11:00 am] on [wed. 30/April/2008]. Bids received after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened.

Bid Opening will take place at 14october Corporation's building and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

State here any key qualification requirements in detail together with details of the evidence required.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period 27 starting from advertisement.



Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race, religion and political believe. In 1999 MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work. Currently MSF works in more than 70 countries, including the Palestinian Territories and Somalia. For more information, visit our Arabic website, www.msfae.ae

JOB VACANCY: Deputy Head of Mission

Location: Sanaa with availability travel to field
Date of Entry on Duty: Mid April
Duration: till end 2008 & revision

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge:

- University Degree in Social Sciences (Political Sciences, International Public Law, Anthropology, Economics, etc.).
- Advance University studies would be an asset (Master, Ph.D. in related areas).
- Multidisciplinary training in issues different from the above would be an asset.
- Knowledge of and interest in humanitarian issues.
- Knowledge of the country and the region (Arabic peninsula, Middle East, Horn of Africa)

Experience:

- 5 years of related job duties & responsibilities experience
- Experience in research, data collection, reporting and analysis.
- Working experience at different levels (Government, University, International NGOs, Local NGOs, media, etc.) would be an asset.

Language:

- Arabic as mother tongue
- High-level command in English (both oral & written)
- Somali & Ethiopian languages desirable

Skills:

- Capacity to analyse data and translate it into practical outputs
- Excellent computer skills, particularly Word, Excel and use of Data Base
- Strong organisational and communication skills.
- Flexibility to travel to the field
- Diplomacy.
- Commitment with MSF humanitarian values

JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supports the Head of Mission through delegated tasks and responsibilities.
- Monitors, documents and analyses on contextual developments.
- Translates, drafts, edits and/or consolidates written materials.
- Together with the Head of Mission, represents MSF-Spain in Sanaa, including communication with authorities, UN agencies, NGO's, media, etc.
- Assists in monitoring of, and advocacy for, humanitarian issues.
- Media liaison: assist with contacts with the press as delegated by Head of Mission.

CONTACT DETAILS

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter before April the 15th to:

Medicins Sans Frontieres – Spain
P.O. Box 16308 Haddah post office
Sanaa - Yemen

Hadhramout Tourism Conference: High Hopes vs. A Complex Reality

By: Bassam Ahmad Al-Saqqaf
YemenTimes Staff
ba_saqqaf@yahoo.com

On March 26, the Tourism and Real Estate Investment Conference was conducted in Al-Mukalla city, the capital of Hadhramout governorate. The conference was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hadhramout with cooperation from the General Investment Authority (GIA), and with funding from prominent businessman Abdullah Buqshan. Over one thousand participants attended the event, including Yemeni businessmen from inside and outside Yemen, businessmen from the Gulf Cooperative Council countries, 14 Arab and regional countries, as well as many of Al-Mukalla's residents.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hadhramout organized the conference with the aim to draw the attention to tourist and real estate investments in the governorate in particular, in addition to investment opportunities in other areas of the country as well, through presenting a number of projects and providing key information about them and the requirements for conducting such projects. Overall, Twenty-seven projects and were presented among are projects for operating commercial harbors, constructing the free economic area in Al-Wadea', housing and tourists projects along with other projects. The province of Hadhramout had the lion's share of 15 projects, three for Socotra island, six for Al-Mahara and three for Shabwa. Other investment opportunities were also presented, including 13 background papers for projects in agriculture, livestock development, fisheries, as well as minerals.

The conference was inaugurated by prime minister Ali Mohammad Mujawar, who praised the conference, and referred to the possibilities opened by last year's investment opportunities conference, and the following strategic investments mostly in real estate and tourist fields with an estimated cost of



Eng. Abdullah Ahmed Buqshan
honorary president of Hadramout
Chamber of Commerce.



Prime Minister Mujawar inaugurating the conference

2.5 billion dollars distributed on ten strategic projects from Emirati, Qatari, Saudi, and Egyptian companies.

The Prime Minister confirmed that supporting investment is considered one of the main interests of the government and presented some procedures that were carried out by the government:

- Providing parallel development among governorates.
- Enhancing empowering the local councils.
- Fostering investment opportunities between Yemen and the Gulf Cooperative Council countries.
- Improving correct ruling through legislating tendering law.
- Fighting corruption through practical steps such as forming the anti-corruption committee.
- Facing development challenges through providing space to investment projects from the gulf countries, Arab and foreign ones in various economic sectors in order to facilitate Yemen's integration with the Gulf Cooperative Council countries.

He also added that those measures and reformations are the true translation for the government's trends in enhancing partnership and laying down the results of the donors' conference conducted by the end of 2006 to reach expected goals. He confirmed his interest in providing an encouraging and motivating investment environment and that the government has done many reformations such as:

- Setting an investment profile which is under the direct supervision from the Republic's presidency.
 - Implementing the one window system that lets the GIA practice its role and making it the sole responsible for investments so that no overlapping or duplicity in providing power.
 - Activating the role of commercial courts.
 - Establishing monetary markets.
- During the conference, a number of discussion sessions were conducted between the Yemeni officials and investing businessmen. These sessions were very open from the part of the investors in which they presented the problems in the investment process, some of which were tackled by the government and others are still a challenge such as:
- Fragile role of the judiciary in solving conflicts.
 - Unavailability of real estate records

that proves the ownership of the lands for the owners.

- Land robbery and practicing power terror in order to steal them and claim owning them despite the huge projects constructed on them.
- Lack of readiness from the industrial areas with infrastructure necessary for the investment process.
- Unavailability of skilled labor.

One of the businessmen presented commented saying, "we are not seeking complements; we want to help our brothers in the country. Therefore, we wish the government and the General Investment Authority to keep being truthful as we have seen in this conference because if the government fails in fulfilling its promises and shows incapability in fighting corruption especially that resulted from those who stole large lands in Hadhramout and the appearance of another land owners after buying them unfairly and therefore getting into conflicts instead of investing. If we felt that promises are fulfilled and that investment is safe in this country, we will be part of marketing investment not only in Hadhramout but in all the Republic's governorates."

Abdullah Buqshan, the funder of this conference, expressed his comfort regarding the success of it and interaction among businessmen and the presence of about a thousand one representing fourteen countries. He noted that if some of the conference recommenda-

tions are implemented, it would be a success we would be proud of.

Among the main outcomes of the conference is the request made by a number of companies and businessmen to implement projects and open investment opportunities highlighted in the conference such as Al-Mukalla harbor in which two companies offered to implement it; one Malaysian and another subsidiary of Buqshan Group and Dubai harbors.

Five housing projects were presented; four in Hadhramout and one in Al-Mahara. Saudi and Imarati companies requested to implement two housing projects for low-income people in Al-Ghail city in the governorate.

Mr. Fahd Al-Sultan, the general security for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Council in Saudi Arabia talked about the procedures that Saudi Arabia has adopted as part of the commercial and industrial cooperation between the two countries and opening new windows and some intentions for constructing free economic areas between the two countries. He also said,

I think this conference has brought about new opportunities in real estate and tourist investment. I call upon businessmen in the gulf and Arab countries in general and Saudi Arabia in particular to invest in Yemen.

He added that, "after conducting many studies, we found out that the more we support exportation, the more we contribute in attracting investment and this is an economic fact." He also assured the raising of the Yemeni exportations rate to Saudi Arabia.

"Saudi and Yemeni governments are seeking to raise commercial exchange between them through constructing free economic areas shared on their borders. I want to confirm that two day ago I met the general manager of the customs in Saudi Arabia and he told me that four ports were opened on the Yemeni borders and they were equipped with the latest technologies in inspection instead of traditional inspection to make sure that Yemeni exportations are intact."



One of the investment projects which is Al-Rayan Residential City owned by Tadhamon International Islamic Bank.



A site of the audience Arab and Yemeni businessmen.

Business In Brief

Tax Authority to decrease income tax

Director of the tax authority Mr. Ahmed Ghalib stated that the authority has presented a draft to the cabinet in order to decrease the income tax of employees in Yemen, adding that the authority is utilizing the consulting services in order to increase the efficiency of the authority, adding that the authority is seeking funding in order to computerize its services.

Parliament approves law to create deposit insurance company

The parliament has passed a law to establish the deposit insurance company in order to supervise the activities of insured banks to protect the rights of depositors. The law is devised into eight chapters covering several topics including the creation of the company to the bankruptcy of an insured bank.

Businessmen donate US\$ 1.5 million to build a college

Businessmen Buqshan and Al-Amoudi has donated US\$ 1.5 million in order to build a nursing college in Hadhramout university for science and technology. Several other facilities within the university were constructed through Saudi financiers, including a teaching hospital, a cancer treatment hospital, and a technology facility will be constructed in the same manner.

Fisheries ministry to merge two affiliated companies

The Ministry of fisheries announced plans to merge the coastal fishing company with the fisheries marketing services company into a single company to increase efficiency and reduce overhead. The merger of the two government-owned companies are currently in loss.

Aden Free Zone grants licenses to five new companies

The Aden Free zone has announced that it has granted licenses to five new companies to operate in the free zone, these are Enma construction and real estate developers, Aden for concrete, Safer for technical services, Talsco shipping company, and fishing boats equipping company.

Sana'a local council to control the supply of wheat

The Sana'a local council has decided to intervene in the local market through controlling the supply of wheat towards stabilizing the prices and supply of wheat. The local council also is working towards stabilizing the supply of all food stuff in the capital following the success of this model.

China's incredible shrinking economy

By: Eswar Prasad

ITHACA, NY -- The World Bank recently announced that the Chinese and Indian economies are 40% smaller than previously estimated. Since these are the fastest-growing large economies, the Bank's revision has clipped half a percentage point off world growth over the last five years, according to the IMF.

The new numbers set off a firestorm of debate, and have brought conspiracy theorists out in force. But when the dust settles, the new data may be less revolutionary than some people believe. They may also have the unintended benefit of shifting a key policy debate in a more productive direction.

The new data are based on improved estimates of purchasing power parity (PPP). The basic idea is that, when comparing incomes across countries, variations in purchasing

power should be taken into account. Market exchange rates are not a good indicator of these differences, because they can fluctuate for other reasons.

The World Bank and some other organizations have, collectively, gathered a massive amount of data - covering 1,000 similar products in 146 countries - to construct comparable international prices. Price levels in China and India, among other developing countries, turn out to be much higher than previously estimated. Hence, their real per capita incomes are lower relative to other countries.

Despite this massive shrinkage, the reality on the ground is unchanged. Indeed, people in Beijing and Delhi are showing more equanimity than most would if their incomes were cut by 40%. The bottom line is that China and India are still large economies, growing rapidly, and consuming massive amounts of resources. All that has

changed is that both countries have been downgraded to smaller roles on the world stage.

But size is not all that matters. The new PPP data also have implications for evaluating the extent of poverty and the level of a currency's exchange rate. This is where the conspiracy theories come in.

The reduction in income levels at international prices means that many more people in China and India are now classified as poor - an automatic boon for the World Bank, whose primary business is to end poverty. And the fact that China's market exchange rate was far lower (i.e., more yuan per dollar) than the earlier PPP exchange rate had been interpreted as evidence of huge undervaluation. The new data, by contrast, show that the exchange rate of the renminbi relative to the dollar is about right.

The calculations can be tweaked,

but it is difficult to generate anything close to the dramatic figures of 40-50% undervaluation that had been bandied about by some researchers. This has fomented accusations that China apologists have cooked the new numbers.

But the conspiracy theories are off the mark.

The World Bank has engaged in a good faith effort to make progress on a hugely complicated matter. Of course, there remain gaping holes in the data. For example, the data for China are based on surveys in just 11 cities. Prices for rural areas - where two-thirds of China's population still resides - are based on extrapolations from these data.

There is guesswork involved, but at least it's been done in a systematic way. In any case, earlier calculations depended on an even greater amount of guesswork.

Whatever one makes of the data, the number of people leading lives of quiet desperation in these countries is unconscionably large. As for the exchange rate, PPP is only one of many ways to calculate its equilibrium level. Given China's massive current account surplus (12% of GDP), the renminbi is still undervalued.

But the degree of undervaluation is not the point. What China needs is a more flexible exchange rate that can respond freely to market forces. Otherwise, China's central bank must focus on keeping the exchange rate stable and doesn't have a truly independent monetary policy.

More flexibility would help attain more balanced and sustainable growth. It would allow the central bank to raise interest rates aggressively to control runaway credit and investment growth, and keep inflation in check. Raising interest rates on

bank deposits, which are now negative in real terms, would reduce incentives for individuals to pour money into equity markets or real estate, mitigating the risk of asset market bubbles and boom-bust cycles in the economy.

Trying to determine the "right" level of the renminbi, by contrast, is a fool's game, and the proposal of a step revaluation to get to that level has become a polemical distraction. Perhaps the new data will cool the heated rhetoric about undervaluation and currency manipulation, and instead generate a substantive discussion about exchange-rate flexibility and its benefits for China and the world.

Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University, is the former head of the IMF's China Division.

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متعة القراءة في كل بيت

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والإصحاح

Family & Development

الأسرة والتنمية

الأسرة والتنمية
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العدد (٤) ٢١ مارس ٢٠٠٨ - العدد الثامن

رئيس التحرير يكتب:
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Yemenia honors travel, tourism and cargo agencies and its outstanding employees in Sana'a region for the year 2007

Under the slogan "Partners not Agents", Yemenia conducted a huge party honoring travel, tourism and shipping agencies as well as its outstanding employees in Sana'a region for the year 2007.

During the honoring party, Mr. Ameen Al-Haimi, deputy general manager for commercial affairs, talked about Yemenia huge successes in the last year and its ability to raise the rate of its sales with 13.22%, reducing unnecessary operating hours to 28% which resulted in significantly reducing operating costs. He referred to its increase in sales in transports and shipping that the company has achieved to its commitment with arrangement and punctuality pointing that the increase rate reached 8%.

Al-Haimi also noted that Yemenia has made good steps regarding improving its systems and the latest was issuing the electronic tickets. The rate of using such tickets in a short period of not more than eight months reached 90%.

It is worth noting that Yemenia has proved its competency and efficiency in going along with international improvements in the flying industry. Major developments were carried out in technical, technician, financial and administration areas such as:

- IOSA
- Level of issuing E-TKT is 90% and is getting higher
- Booking and issuing tickets via the internet will begin in August 2008.
- Cooperation with Arab and foreign companies for joint operating
- Punctuality rate is 98%
- Passengers' movement increase rate is 8%
- Increase in passengers and shipping sales with a rate of 13%
- Reducing unnecessary operating hours with 28%
- Introducing the FFP which has more than 3000 members
- Oracle system for financial and administration work and in stores and to connect all branches,



- areas and stations
- Maintenance and engineering certificates from GESAC, EASA
- Implementing maintenances for engines and airlines with agreeing with companies
- manufacturing engines and airlines
- Success in Haj season and additional operation in Eids
- Signing a contract to buy A350 airplanes
- New lines to Cochin , Dammam , Shariqa
- Daily trip to Cairo – Dubai – Jeddah – Mumbai – Djibouti – Europe
- Entering new planes B738
- Announcing the Interim Company in September 2008.

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Jihad Abbas



Tawfiq Al-Shawish



AMIDEAST & Yemen

By: Ammar Al-Hawi
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AMIDEAST -- America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc --- is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1951, with headquarters in Washington, DC, and twenty field and project offices in twelve countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank/Gaza, Cyprus, and Yemen. With its own motto "Bridging Cultures, Building Understanding," AMIDEAST seeks to accomplish its primary mission of strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between the U.S. and the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa.

AMIDEAST in Yemen, with its two offices in both Sana'a and Aden, is one of the first international non-governmental organizations to have a full legal presence in the country. Since ever AMIDEAST has been pursuing its own mission of enriching bilateral understanding and stronger communication between Americans and Yemenis through a number of programs and services in various fields.

Besides providing English language and professional skills training, educational advising, or testing services to hundreds of students and professionals from the country and supporting and assisting institutional development projects, AMIDEAST has also been providing information and guidance to many Yemenis about the U.S. higher education system and administering the range of tests required for study in the American universities. It has been administering scholarship and exchange programs that have enabled many Yemeni students to study in different American universities and colleges, and helped American students and educators to discover the rich heritage of Yemen.

In fact, through its exchange programs in Yemen AMIDEAST has successfully been able to leverage its experience and wide-ranging presence in the country and its credibility with colleges and universities across the United States to match promising young Yemeni students with scholarship opportunities at all levels. Among such important exchange programs which AMIDEAST has been administering most actively in Yemen for several years is the Fulbright Exchange

Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of State.

AMIDEAST has been assisting the State Department in administering Fulbright grants for undergraduate and graduate researches and students from Yemen, bringing these scholars to appropriate educational programs in the U.S., thus enabling them to achieve their objectives. Since its actual presence in Yemen, AMIDEAST has given more than a thousand Yemeni graduate students the chance to pursue their degrees at a U.S. university through such prestigious Fulbright programs such as the YES Program, PLUS Program or the Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship Program. It establishes policies and selection criteria and selects Yemeni students for these Fulbright awards.

In short, these are just a few of the areas and fields that highlight the importance of the role of AMIDEAST in the development and advancement of those countries in both North Africa and the Middle East, of which Yemen is a clear example. Through its Fulbright scholarship program, AMIDEAST actually contributes to enhancing the growth of education in Yemen, as well as bringing many Yemenis into direct cultural and social contact.

Whisper

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

*The tunes of your soul's melody
Letting my joy sing your lullaby
Raising the rate of my heart's song
As all babies, I smile and enjoy
Without end
For your love, I long
Let me be his bodyguard
To make sure how my dream is kept
Save me
To be with you only alone
With your unique waltz
The beats of my heart go up and down
Let me hug your heart's response
To feel my real soul's bond
That's a gift of my God
Sent by His light
I am created for love
Against pain I have to fight*

*Before the sunrise, my soul starts to shine
Because your love is an ageless prime
When your soul's influence penetrates mine
My thin bones become strong and fine
Between lovers is just a transparent line*

*Every dark night
Before I close my eyes
Through those distant waves
Hearing your call and whisper
Gazing at the night's vesper
Creating many ways to soar
To increase my love's share*

*When I arrive at your pleasant place
I will water down my veiled cry
I will touch your fair hair
I will wipe off your innocent tear
I will minimize your black fear
Your soul I will possess and wear
Our love is still weaving our sun's scarf
To be pure
As the light of moon in each other's half*

*When I wake up
Trying to get my soul's jots
Praying for God and your eyes*

*To be safe as primal love
Thinking of joining your soul's club
By great will,
I will win the world's love cup*

*By all colors
On every white and blackboard
Through the beams of the moon
By the river of my blood
On the leaves of my soul
On gold and diamond
Your soul's tranquility
I've adorned
Your love's demarche be full grown line*

*Without your love
How could it be my life?
If my love survived alive
I would be always born
Only for you
My happy heart would be your home
To save you from harm
And any angry storm*

Whom can I trust

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad
Senior, Ibb University
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*Once to myself I speak
Which place can I seek?
Where a faithful beloved can be found
In the sky or on the ground
Beloveds are a lot by speech
But only a few to the heart reach
Oh, true beloved, where are you?
Show me hints of your view
Show me the colors of your rainbow
One attracts you at first sight
And for you, she shows her delight
But a real adorer, you see right
Clear as the sun's ray in the daylight
Thus, to the heart, he can shed light
Sincere lovers are deceived
Sentimental feelings they received
On the surface, reality can't be sound
Maybe inside it can be found
Don't deliver your heart's key
To someone that you don't know her way
A lass wants you to cry
Another wants you to dry
As a bird of heaven seen in dreams
A hoopoe as my beloved seems
Wanting you to devour by the eyes
But a bad smell inside disguises
Come close and you'll realize
Such a thing can't be endured
And it's difficult to be cured
Seldom can love be pure*

The Vatican's recent list of new sins

I commend the Vatican for restating some of the social sins of modernity. These sins aren't exclusive to individuals, but rather pertain to entire nations and governments that heap up excessive wealth, create a widening of the gap between rich and poor and contribute to polluting the environment.

More and more we're living in a society that rejects immutable principles; however, reason dictates that there must be objective standards for discerning the common good. Otherwise, democratic governments

could authorize anything that any group in society asks for, as long as the group phrases its request in the language of "rights." Ultimately, you end up with anarchy.

We've already seen the nihilistic yet impeccably democratic result of such contemporary legislation involving life itself. I'm thinking here of legislation that legalizes homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion, euthanasia and genetic manipulation.

In general, no one denies universal moral principles such as those pertain-

ing to life, liberty and property. However, in actuality, these positions constantly are violated and eroded by exceptions negating those principles. Such destructive exceptions that consume human dignity are always justified as a good end or purpose, justifying what can't be justified.

Humanity must rediscover the sense of sin because it is a reality he can't escape.

Paul Kokoski
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Does anyone know the City of Dwarves in the Yemeni desert?

For an article I'm writing I would like to have some information. Some ten years ago I worked as a tour manager in Yemen. Almost all my contacts with Yemen are gone. I visited a lot of places, but my last trip we saw something quite peculiar. On this tour we went on a desert trip from Marib to Sayun. In the morning our Yemeni drivers made a detour to a ruined and

abandoned place with small beehive-like buildings not higher than two meters and one or two large rectangular structures (market-square??). All were made of black stones. It was north of the main track in the vicinity of some black rocks. Because it was morning I suppose it was not very far from the oil-wells. I speak a little Arabic and from what I understood the

place was called 'the city of dwarves'. If this is the official name, I'm not sure. Does anyone know of this place or its location? Does anyone know something about the history of this place or know someone who can tell me more about this place?

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Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
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To marry now, or later: is it a problem?

Marriage is socially and religiously demanded for one's stability in all respects. Some circumstances, however, oblige some men to postpone marriage from time to time, trying to overcome any bad circumstances for their marriage lives. They are satisfied with such an ideology. But, others do not leave such men to manage their personal affairs as they want. They take it as a matter of fun, keeping on blaming them for their unmarried status regardless of any conditions they are in. Such blame, in my opinion, must not influence those who delay marriage because no one will pay for any consequences except the person himself, while those who only blame disappear at the end.

I think most men want to get married. But, when they are sure that marriage brings about some undesired consequences, it is better to be delayed so that such persons get a chance to ensure better marriage lives.

Some men, for instance, insist on having separate homes to live in after marriage. They want to have their independent lives away from any family problems may occur when they live at the parents' homes.

Actually, living at parents' homes after marriage is not a shame. But if a man expects that, his life would be dis-

turbed when living with other family members in one home. Here, he has the right to have patience to prepare for a home. Many cases show how problems with family members occur immediately after one's marriage. Such cases are taken as lessons for others who want to keep good relations with family members after marriage. As a result, many people postpone marriage with an aim to establish their own homes.

Some men do not like to live in rented homes. They keep the idea of owning their homes. As a result, they delay marriage, doing best to build or buy homes. Really, it is a good idea to do this because this will be difficult to be done after marriage especially with persons of limited incomes.

Some men postpone marriage because they have certain aims and ambitions they want to achieve. One such ambition is study. If a man has an aim to study to a particular level, and he thinks that marriage will be an obstacle in this process, it is better to be postponed.

When study becomes one's ambition, he must be encouraged to continue rather than to be blamed so that he may get discouraged. Marriage sometimes turns the mind towards home responsibilities and family obligations. Marriage, I think, can be done sooner or later. But if he stops studying and gets married, he may not get another chance

to study. In such a case, marriage- if the person is influenced by others' blames- destroys his ambition and obliges him to do any work in search of money so that he can afford his family's needs and demands.

But, delaying marriage and finishing study will offer better chances for this man and then, of course, to his family. So, such a man must not be blamed but rather encouraged and supported by all means.

Some people postpone marriage because they want first to ensure their future with a good job and home, car, etc. They think that they cannot achieve such things after marriage because of home responsibilities and family obligations. They decide to prepare such things so that their marriage status would be more comfortable and stable. If they believe such blame and get married, they soon realize that they have committed a big mistake in their lives.

In short, I am not against marriage and I am not for it either. What I want to say here is that life has priorities. Everyone should be careful of these priorities. When there is a priority to do something else, it is better to postpone marriage. Others must not blame such men who also must not be influenced by such blame, and what everyone should remember is that since there is any priority, "to marry now or later, it would not be a problem."

Global warming

According to a report of the inter-governmental panel on climate change (IPCC) "The Warming of Climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising sea level. The increase in warming is due to increasing concentration of green houses gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere.

Because of global warming the world is facing a series of environmental disasters: glaciers and mountain ice are rapidly melting, coral reefs, which are highly sensitive to small changes in water temperature is bleaching, major changes in extreme temperature is also noticed. Hot days, hot nights have become more frequent, and cyclones and storms are causing more damage. According to World Health Organization (WHO) because of climate change during the last 30 years, 150,000 lives are claimed annually; there is an increase

in droughts and fire incidents, heavy snowfalls and flooding are increasing.

According to a study the United States of America with a little over 4% of the world's population is responsible for 35% of the total emissions of carbon dioxide (the main constituent of

GHG). Actually the problem of climate change is caused by the rich countries, but unfortunately the main victim is going to be the poor countries who didn't cause the problem. In poor countries the burden of climate change falls disproportionately on the poor communities like dry land farmers, and fishermen. In these countries, the environment is directly linked to human development and poverty.

This problem of climate change is caused by rich countries but unfortunately they are not willing to curb this increasing problem. The main emitter of carbon dioxide is United States but it is still not taking the responsibility to cut the emission. The present United States President and the then

presidential candidate in Oct 2000 had said in a televised debate to Al Gore "I tell you one thing I'm not going to do is, I'm not going to let the United States carry the burden for cleaning up the world's air, like the Kyoto treaty would have done." India and china were exempted from that treaty. Rising temperatures could release additional greenhouse gases by unlocking methane in permafrost, freeing carbon trapped in sea and causing increased evaporation of water.

What can be done

Following steps should be taken by the rich countries to ease the problem

1. Rich countries have large contribution to environmental damage so they should take the responsibility for fixing the problem.

2. They should transfer technologies to the developing nations helping them in reducing green house emission.

3. Rich countries should also try to change their lifestyle by moving towards environmentally friendly production and consumption patterns.

4. The poor countries, too, cannot escape their responsibility in this regard.

Looking for my brother Seif Mahssen

My name is Betty Brown. My mom was married to Kailly Mahssen who was from Aden, Yemen; she married him on 2/18/1957. Her name was Mary Jane Campbell. They had a son together on 5/23/1957 named Seif Benkailly Mahssen. Kailly took Seif to Yemen to visit his family sometime in 1958 and was supposed to be gone for 30 days, but never returned. He may have returned to the USA but never back to West Virginia.

Kailly worked at Weirton Steel Mill in Weirton, West Virginia. Some of the people he might of have been related to and were also with him were Hamid Saleh, Hassanain Chaibi, and Amed Ali.

Until this day my mom still gets very upset about this. This was her firstborn child. She never expected this to happen. We do not know if

something happened to both of them or if he just decided not to come back. I would be Seif's half-sister and we just want to know if he is safe and doing okay. He has 7 brothers and sisters in the USA that would love to know him. We think that the name Kailly Mahssen is a nickname and his real name may be Khalid Hassen or something to that affect. We know he was related to Hassen Ali in some way, but Hassen died on 4/27/1997. He would have had to have a visa to come and work at the steel mill. Please, if you can help me, my number is (001)336-293-6313 and my email is jbrown058@triad.rr.com.

Betty Brown



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Dar Al-Hajar: An intriguing story behind a monument

By: Ismael Al-Ghaberi

Dar Al-Hajar is located at the western suburbs of Sana'a in the famous Dhahr valley, and is truly a Yemeni architectural wonder. The palace represents architectural excellence and shows how people cope with nature and turn its complications into man-made monuments. All this unfolds to whoever visits Wadi Dhahr; on an overlooking mountain peak, one can see a huge palace built on top of a rock in the heart of the valley which is surrounded by fruit trees. The fame of the valley goes back ages, as indicated by drawings found on the valley rocks, which led archeologists to conclude that the valley was inhabited before recorded history. The first mention of Wadi Dhahr was in the seventh century B.C. in the famous Al-Nasr Picture, which revealed a significant period of Yemeni history. This drawing earned its significance because the one who recorded it is Karb Al-Watribin Dhamar Ali Makrab Saba. The drawings convey that the valley appeared during the prosperous Sabaeen period inside the territory of the Dhee Ma'dhan tribe.

The name "Dar Al-Hajar" refers to the rock which the palace was built on. Narrations differ on the age of this high palace; some claim it goes back to the pre-Islamic era. But there is unanimity that the palace, known as 'Al-Dar' to Yemenis, has gone through periods of destruction and construction. The palace was totally destroyed during Ottoman rule in Yemen due to heavy rains. Then it was re-built by Imam Al-Mansoor, who made it his house. This was the custom of many Yemeni kings in late periods, but they made the palace a place for excursions, not a permanent place for living. Later, Imam Yahya restored the palace and added some facilities such as a mafraj, which is the room at the top of the house, and through its windows one can see the valley from different angles.

It is also told that the palace was built in the late eighteenth century on the ruins of an old Sabaeen palace known as Dhoo Seedan.

Dar Al-Hajar was also famous for its surrounding fertile valley and rare fruit varieties. In the third century A.H., famous historian Al-Hamdani described in his book "Description of the Arabian Peninsula" the palace, the garden around it and the fruits planted there. In the book, he said, "Among the historic places in Yemen is Dhahr in which there is a valley and a castle, referring to "Dhahr bin Sa'd", a place two hours away from Sana'a. In that valley there is a great river watering two gardens in the valley, in which there are plenty of many kinds of grapes such as the Bayadh, Al-Sooda, Al-Atraf, Al-Nawasi, Al-Ziyadi, Al-Farsi, Al-Jerashi, Al-Oyoon, Al-Dhoroora, Al-Qhawareer, Al-Seysaban,



View of Dar Al-Hajar

Al-Romi, Al-Noshaey, Al-Dawali, Al-Ama'r, Al-Darbaj, Al-Razeqhy, etc.. Among the various kinds of peaches are: Al-Himyari, Al-Farsi, Al-Kholasi. Not only these fruits [are found], but also figs and pears which were not found elsewhere as said by the foreigners who come to Sana'a, and also sweet cider apples, almonds, nuts, quinces, pomegranates, as well as various kinds of roses."

Al-Hamdani also portrayed how the valley was irrigated. Irrigation began from the bottom of the valley to the top. Gardens were watered in the same way, even if their owners were immigrants or the land was not seeded. The one responsible for watering was called the dael, who used to remove the trees whose owners did not water them in the same way.

Al-Hamdani also talked about a river called "the valley's river," which was not full of water during the al-jahiliyya period, but when earthquakes occurred, its water level raised much more. He said that the source of this river is at Hadhoor Mountain and flows from the

bottom of Raia'an and the top of Dhahr.

An architectural wonder

Dar Al-Hajar is a seven-story building and can be reached from an open yard paved with stones. At the right side of the fence's gate there is a type of giant tree called al-talooq in Arabic; its circumference exceeds three meters and it dates back more than seven centuries.

The palace has 35 rooms, a big guest room and numerous halls. The stairs were designed in a very innovative and artistic way, connected together from the top of the rock to its bottom.

At the south side of the palace there is a hidden balcony with small pools in which servants used to do the laundry. There are also stores underground the rock with doors that lead to the neighboring gardens and lobbies with beautiful pillars and arches. On the surrounding mountains, there are many guard towers.

In the palace yard, there is a private separate suite called Al-Shadhrwan, which has lofty summer accommodations surrounded by wooden windows,

with a wide yard and three water fountains. The yard also included many different luxurious facilities, such as kitchens and steam bathrooms.

The main palace building has a reception suite and several small rooms on the first floor. Through the stairs that seem to be engraved in the rock, the visitor goes to the second floor, where there are many caves that were said to be used in ancient times to preserve corpses from the former Sabaeen palace which Dar-Al-Hajar was built on.

The well that is in the rock has a depth of 180 meters and was used to provide water to the palace residents. Many of those who visited the palace agree that this well adds to the magic of the palace. Beside the well's canal there is another canal used for airing and it meets the original canal after a 50-meter distance.

The third and fourth floors were home for the Imam and his bodyguards and women. Suites for men were separated from those for women, and two sets of stairs were built for this purpose, each one leading to a separate area. The fifth floor has the same structure, but also includes a store to keep cereals. The sixth floor has a balcony for pigeons used for correspondence from and to the king. It was reserved for the king and was where he used to meet his guests or stayed alone, especially in summer. The seventh floor, on the other hand, was for the winter. The different floors indicate that when designing buildings, seasons and climate changes were taken into account using very precise engineering and astrological calculations which Yemeni architects excelled at from ancient times.

One of the outstanding monuments in Wadi Dhahr is Roroom castle, which

is wide at its height, providing a good view of the valley. There were palaces for the king and his escorts. The king's palace has a long square yard to receive his consultants. It has seats for everyone, including two raised seats for guards. There is also a rectangular yard. There was probably a holy place between the palaces, since remains are found next to tombs engraved in the rocks at the bottom of the palace.

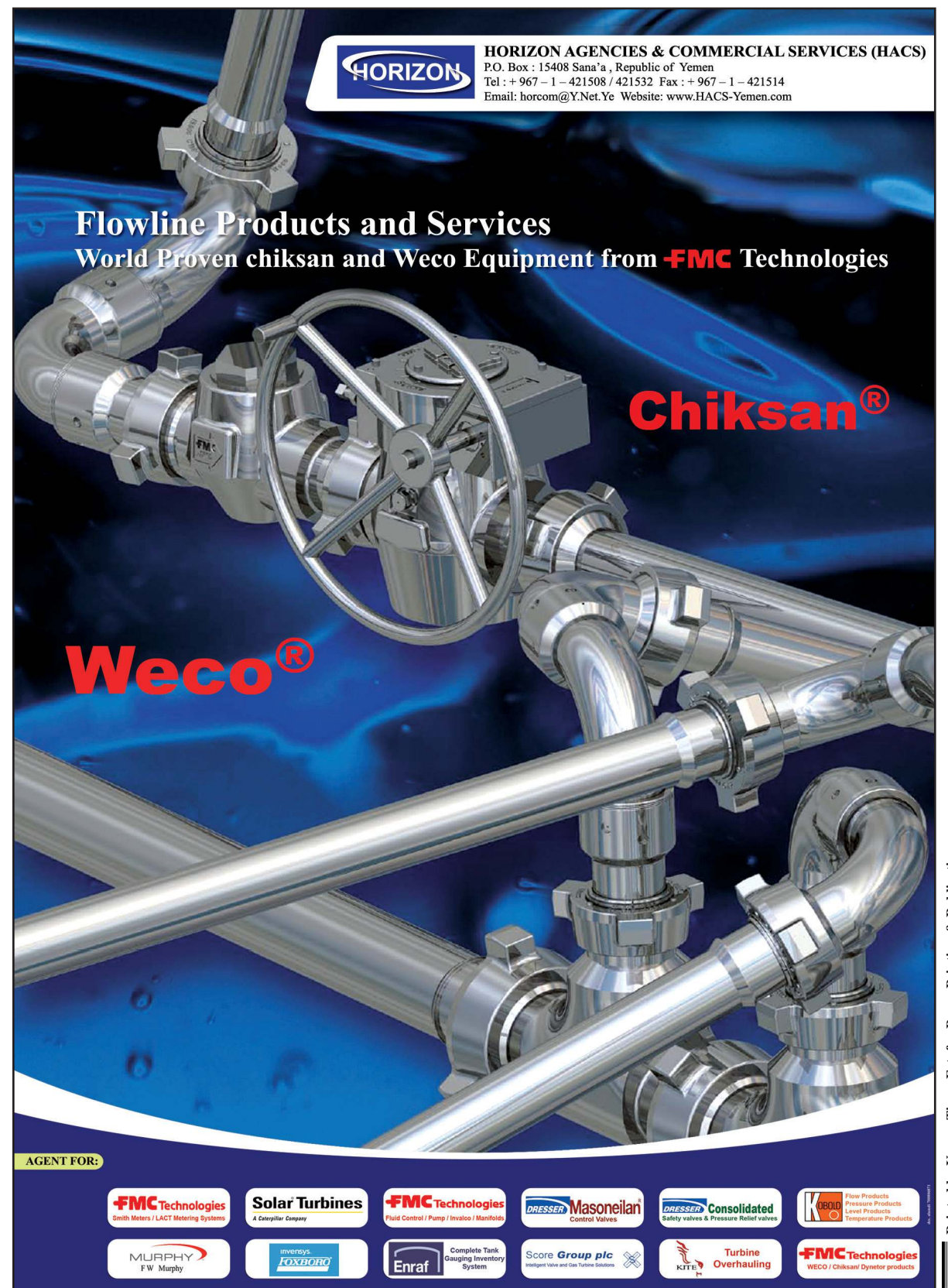
Al-Hamdani described the castle by saying, "Regarding his castle, it is a fortress called "Doroom", wide at the top. In this castle there were "palaces" for the king among which is one called Raidan (other than Raidan - Dhefar) and palaces for his escorts. I saw in one of the palaces a square yard in which its floor tiles were very big with places for seats for the consultants. At the two sides of each seat, there are two pieces higher than the seat for the two guards, who stand on one leg with their swords ready. This was common in many palaces in Yemen. And in the middle of the yard, there is a big floor tile called "the Rokhama," which was brought from a remote country because it is not like the rest of the stones there. When the king wanted to punish someone, he used to place him on it and hit him with a stick, killing him."

Al-Hamdani also talked about houses engraved in the rock which were found when he visited the area, but no longer exist. He said regarding this, "There is an area with engraved houses in the rock on the sides of the castle which is not found elsewhere. In these houses were some holes for their dead, who are still there. The number of the corpses there are more than the number of those in our time, or close to it, and most of them are only bones."

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نت تكنولوجي الموزع المعتمد الوحيد لشركة دي لينك في اليمن.

Education

A free monthly Supplement offered by Yemen Times and presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

No. 26

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Improve Your English: 314

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (101):

Superfluity or redundancy in legal English

Superfluity or redundancy refers to something that is more than necessary. Very often the language of Law abounds in pairs of words that have the same effect. Although linguistically these instances of superfluity appear ridiculous and avoidable, they add a certain flavor to the legal register. Dr. Johnson, the great writer and critic of the 18th century puts it in his characteristic style: "Prolixity is much like obesity; in order to achieve a cure each mouthful must be watched." The relevance of this statement for us here is that much redundancy may be avoided by avoiding the use of pairs of words that are semantically identical and have the same effect. Examples:

Authorize and empower, final and conclusive, full and complete, eminent and prominent, role and exclusive, order and direct, desire and require

The practice of superfluity or redundancy adds to confusion in the minds of the readers. In an expression such as: "The trustee is authorized and directed" there is much scope for contradiction, because the doublets don't mean the same. Some lawyers tend to believe that use of synonyms and near synonyms is unavoidable for reasons of specificity. But there seems to be little substance in their contention because, unless the draftsman is careful to check whether the words he places alongside of each other mean the same thing, superfluity can potentially land him in trouble.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- I view it unacceptable that students should be late for my classes.
- It was because of his headache why he didn't come to the party.
- Outside his house were playing two children on bicycles.
- The door opened and in went we.
- There never had been a football match like that.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Do you **mind** if I smoke a cigar? [We use "Do (or Would you mind ...)" as a polite way of asking permission to do something. We also use "don't mind" if we say that we don't object to something]
- Suddenly, **there** was a loud bang from outside.
- It is difficult to know** why she left her job.
- It was accepted **that a letter of complaint should be sent**. Or, it was accepted **that I/we should send a letter of complaint**.
- I find it difficult to understand how she could have got lost.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Strong base of a building, usually below ground-level, on which it is built up.
- Person who establishes a school, etc.
- Deserted or abandoned child of unknown parents.
- Place where metal or glass is melted or moulded.
- A stream of water that shoots straight up into the air.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Period of two weeks; **fortnight** (n)
- Any place for public discussion: **forum** (n)
- Recognizable part of a prehistoric animal or plant once buried in earth, now hardened like rock: **fossil** (n)
- Help the growth and development of: **foster** (vt)
- Having a bad smell or taste: **foul** (adj)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out the differences in meaning of the following pairs of words:

- figure, number
- foster, flourish
- flounder, blunder
- flush, blush
- fluster, flutter

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- ophthalmologist** (n) (doctor who specializes in eye diseases): I consulted an ophthalmologist and got my eye examined.
optician (n) (person who makes or supplies optical instruments, esp. eye glasses): I got a pair of glasses for my eyes from an optician.
- fort** (n) (building or group of buildings specially erected for military defence): Lalkilla is a famous fort in New Delhi.
forte (n) (person's strong point): Painting is not my forte.
- bold** (adj) (without fear; enterprising): He made a

- bold attempt to contest the elections against the president.
- brave** (adj) (ready to face danger, pain, or suffering): It was brave of him to resist the kidnappers all alone.
- berate** (vt) (scold sharply): Hanan was berated for her habitual absenteeism.
- beret** (n) (flat, round cap, worn with sports and holiday clothes): He put on his beret when he went on a picnic.
- blockade** (n) (the enclosing or surrounding of a place by armies to keep people from entering or leaving): The army made a blockade of the President's palace.
- blockhead** (n) (slow and stupid person): We can't expect anything better from a blockhead like him.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

i. Synonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one in bold in the following sentences

- At a party, he is always in **high spirits**.
a. uncontrollable b. drunk
c. cheerful d. talkative
- The data **compiled** by the researcher was very useful.
a. analyzed b. enclosed
c. collected d. published
- He is a **candid** politician.
a. frank b. faithful
c. fearless d. soft spoken
- The **indiscriminate** cutting of trees has resulted in climatic change.
a. careful b. extravagant
c. unselective d. wasteful
- It is Ibrahim's **practice** to get up early and go for a walk before breakfast.
a. convention b. habit
c. fashion d. rule

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. envisage | to foresee in imagination |
| 2. oppressive | unbearable |
| 3. frailty | weakness |
| 4. lay | ordinary |
| 5. laid down | surrendered |

ii. Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given in bold in the following sentences

- The atmosphere in that desolate place looked **ominous**.
a. pleasant b. encouraging
c. auspicious d. favorable
- He spoke against corruption with **zeal**.
a. indifference b. calmness
c. despair d. passiveness
- The president remarked that the general manager was an **asset** to the university.
a. loss b. liability
c. drag d. handicap
- Modern English poetry is characterized by **obscurity**.
a. clarity b. precision
c. definiteness d. specificity
- The story told by the teacher **amused** children in the class.
a. frightened b. jolted
c. astonished d. saddened

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. improvised | pre-planned |
| 2. logical | irrational |
| 3. indigenous | foreign |
| 4. alert | careless |
| 5. paltry | handsome |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. akustiks b. akoustics
c. acoustics d. agustics
- a. acquieintance b. akwentans
c. ackwaintance d. acquaintance
- a. akumein b. accumen
c. akumen d. acumen
- a. akre b. aker
c. acer d. acre

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. acquire 2. acquit 3. acrobat
4. activate 5. across

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following in sentences

- be breathing down (someone's) neck
- have egg on one's face
- plain sailing

- make a pig's ear of something
- get lumbered with (someone/something)

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- give it one's best shot** (to try one's hardest): The forthcoming job interview is crucial; so try and give it your best shot.
- all fingers and thumbs** (awkward, clumsy at doing something with one's hands): He tried to set right the washing machine without calling the mechanic, but he was all fingers and thumbs.
- take the bit between one's teeth** (to act on one's own without taking instructions from others): My friend impatiently waited a call from the company and so he decided to take the bit between his teeth and phone them.
- give (someone) his/her marching orders** (to dismiss someone from a job): After the employee was caught red-handed stealing the computer, the manager gave him his marching orders.
- strike it lucky** (to have good luck in a particular matter): When I took up my job in Yemen, I hoped to strike it lucky and get a good experience.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Complaints

These people are complaining about the things other people do. Write down what they might say.

- Aysha is complaining about her younger brother.
- Mariam is complaining about her husband, Fuad.
- Fuad is complaining about his wife Mariam.
- Fatima's boss makes her life very difficult at the office.
- Dr. Samson is fed up with Hanan, one of the other students in the class.
- Hassan has just started doing his military service, and doesn't like the officers.
- Mrs. Jaffar is complaining about her children who never tell her what they are doing.
- Ali is having a lot of trouble with his neighbors.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

John was feeling very **bored** in class. He looked at the **rows** of students **reading their books** and **wondered** how he would stay awake for another **whole hour**. Just then he **heard a noise** down by his feet. He **knew** what to do – he was **so sure** his plan **would** work that he **smiled** to himself... What a **sight** there was when the headmaster rushed in – the teacher's scream went **higher and higher** as the mouse **made** its way towards her! She went **pale** as she stood on the chair **wringing** her hands and turned a funny shade of **red**. She **didn't seem** to **know** anyone else was **there**. The headmaster **told** the class to go **straight** home. John was the hero of the class. They **missed** **four whole hours** of school that day and the class bully even promised to **buy him** an **ice-cream** on the way home. It turned out to be a **great** day after all!

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
132: ALONENESS IS THE FIRST
LESSON OF LOVE

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's paragraph
131: NEVER SAY 'YES' WHEN
YOU WANT TO SAY 'NO'.

Some people find it very difficult to say 'no.' They are susceptible to the nuances of the situation and find it easy to escape by showing agreement to an opinion or point of view to which in their heart of hearts they disagree. Such people lack a strong personality or uprightness. By saying 'yes' when they should say 'no', they not only hide their critical judgment, they do positive harm to those involved in the situation by misleading them from the right path. It is true that one should speak the truth that should be pleasing, but under no circumstances should pleasantness take the better of reason. One should hear the dictates of one's conscience and speak it out, no matter how unpleasant it may sound to the other person. An apparently unpalatable truth is preferable to a sugar-coated falsehood. So it is sensible to cultivate the moral and psychological strength to say 'no' in a situation that warrants it rather than be carried away by the temporary need to please others and suppress what is just and reasonable.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"O Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink: but waste not by excess, for Allah loveth not the wasters."
—S7:A31

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Animals are such agreeable friends, they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."
—George Eliot

Learning disorder (Dyslexia)



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Poor academic performance of students has always been a cause of great concern for everyone. A teacher normally puts the best of his/her efforts to help every child to achieve optimum academic performance. In spite of this, not all children rise up to the expectations of the teachers and parents. These under-achievers are scholastically backward. The reasons or causes for this scholastic backwardness are several: some of the important ones are the following:

- Some of the students are actually bright, but cannot get marks in spite of their efforts.
- Some others have certain behavioral problems and may not be keen to make an effort to get good results.
- Some students cannot make adequate efforts because of their physical or neurological handicaps.

The third category of students mentioned above, especially those having

neurological handicaps, experience learning disorders and thereby they become poor school performers.

Learning disorders (LD) or *Dyslexia* is a term that denotes a single, but heterogeneous group of disorders. These groups of disorders are manifested as significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of basic academic skills—skills of reading, spelling, mathematics and so forth. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual and due to the malfunction of the central nervous system. Even though they are intelligent and their overall global brain growth is normal, the miniscule brain areas with the above mentioned academic skills have not developed adequately. This is called specific delay in development which is in contrast to the global delay in development in the case of mental retardation. These students with LD are slow in learning, despite the normal or above normal intelligence. The German doctor, Dr. Berlin coined the term *Dyslexia* (from Greek) to mean "difficulty in words." Studies clearly show that the learning disorders are basically of neurological origin.

An LD child's brain cells are arranged differently or function differently from a normal person's. The brain cell abnormalities may arise from genetic factors or environmental causes during the pre-natal, natal or post-natal periods. The snapshots of the above abnormalities can now be taken using special brain scans.

Continued on page 2

Translation vs. Transliteration



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In the previous article entitled "Translator: Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea", published in Education-Supplement (No. 25) I shed a beam of light on the most significant approaches of translation, namely: *Source Language (SL) centered* and *Target Language (TL) Centered* translation. I hope I managed to bring home to the reader a clear background of translation theory.

In this article, I am going to dwell upon two key concepts that are likely to give a more vivid image of the taxonomy of translation. These are *translation* and *transliteration*. This term, 'Transliteration' means to literally borrow the phonemic description of the source language word to be rendered into equivalent letters in the target language word. An example of this is the proper name 'Tom' in English which may be rendered into **توم** in Arabic.

One may wonder about the necessity of translating the word in the SL into its equivalent in the Target language. As a matter of fact, there are several reasons that stand behind transliteration. First and foremost, is the absence of a comparable word in TL to that in SL. That is, the proper noun 'Tom' does not have a meaning comparable to another in Arabic. Even if it does, the meaning would not be used as a proper noun in Arabic. Another reason is the

uniqueness of this word to its reference because every word has its own semantic and pragmatic potentials. Names of people, places, and days are applicable to this linguistic phenomenon. Brand names of products and organizations are applicable to it as well. Moreover, culture-specific names of things, plants and animals are, mostly, transliterated. A third reason is the newly invented and coined names of innovations and discoveries that were named after their people or given acronyms.

Many examples of transliteration come to the mind when one thinks of words and expressions, that can be borrowed from or lent to the other language. The word 'جنيبة' (a Yemeni traditional dagger) is confined to its users, all of whom are Arabs in Yemen and Oman. If this word was rendered into its typology 'dagger', its mental representation would be distorted. For the sake of uniqueness, this might justify the English speaking news channels when they use words like 'Imam' and 'Jihad' instead of 'clergy' and 'holy war' in turn. Likewise, the brand name 'Microsoft' in English, which is a name of a well-known software company, cannot be rendered into 'البرمجيات المصغرة' in Arabic. Words like 'internet', 'computer' and 'AIDS' are translated into 'إنترنت', 'كمبيوتر', and 'إيدز'.

There are some exceptions to this rendering tool. Some names do have their equivalents in the other language due to having a shared religious, cultural or historical background.

The translator, therefore, is obliged to replace this name by its equivalent. The proper noun 'داود' in Arabic is equivalent to 'David' in English which is a communal religious name in both Islam and Christianity which, basically, are the religions of Arabs and English natives respectively.

Continued on page 2

ELT Panorama

Education and English Language Education in Yemen



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President Ali Abdullah Saleh has set four top priorities for the government. They are *improving living conditions, fighting corruption, reducing poverty and encouraging foreign investments*. Achievement of these objectives is not possible without setting right our system of education. Education is the *sine qua non* for all these objectives. Yemen encourages foreign investment and

globalization. To achieve this goal, first we have to set right our English language education.

Our education, more particularly English language education, is beset with a multiplicity of problems. After the dark age of Imam Yahya, education of Yemen has expanded by leaps and bounds. But the quality has suffered due to quantity. We share most of the problems of the poor Third World Countries like large classes, poor infrastructure, low level of students' proficiency, mixed ability classes, lack of qualified teachers. To begin with, we imported teachers along with courses and syllabus from foreign countries. Currently we are in the process of taking over. We are preparing our own syllabus and teachers. But there are many gaps and lapses. Our literacy rate is low and women literacy still lower. Many of our children are still out of school and the drop-out rate is very high. And those who pass out, most of them are found to be lacking in even the minimum level of proficiency.

All these problems stated above are found to exist in an aggravated form in English language education. We have the largest number of low proficiency learners in our English classes. About 60%-70% of our students pass out of secondary school (after studying English for six years) without achieving an optimal proficiency level of the first year of learning English. We have introduced an ambitious and very expensive set of English textbooks (*The Crescent series*) which seem to create more problems than it can solve. We have a big gap between our school and college courses in English. While the school materials are ELT oriented, the college courses are based on British colonial literature, mostly old and outdated. When the school does not equip them with basic English language skills, the students are asked to deal with old archaic British English literature. Our pre-service training courses in Faculties of Education do not equip the future learners either with English language skill or teaching skills. And

in-service training in ELT in Yemen is unheard of. With regard to medium of instruction in Science, Technology and Medicine, initially we started with Arabic but then have switched over to English. We, therefore, have a myriad of teething problems. When students have not achieved the basic skills in general English, we are trying to introduce them to ESP. And our Achilles' heel is in the area of writing. (I will discuss the problems in the area of writing in the next article.)

But, besides all the negative aspects of education in general and ELT in particular in our country, there are some positive aspects that give us hope. Yemeni learners, if properly guided and taken into confidence, can work hard. Many of them are highly motivated and have real respect for teachers and willing to learn, especially the English language. Therefore, teachers in general and English teachers in particular should take this into consideration while teaching, if they really want to help our learners and our country.

A letter to the learners of English: 14 Joiners and non-joiners



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Dear Student friends,

Do you know that the letters of the English alphabet can be classified into joiners and non-joiners? Yes, if a letter lends itself to joining with the following one, it's a joiner; if it doesn't, it's a non-joiner. Surprising? Letters c, d, e, f, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, r, t, u, v, w and z are joiners as you can join them with the following letter when you write and the others are non-joiners. Do you notice that the joiners are written with your hand moving towards right when you end up with each of them? This enables joining the letter with the following one. For example, while writing the words

court, mice, dive, uncle you'll have to join each letter with the following one in order to have a flow of writing; otherwise you will be breaking the flow of your writing. Try writing each of the words several times and you will experience what I am saying. On the other hand, when you write letters like b, g, j, p, q, s, x and y, your hands moves towards left when you end up writing each of them and so you cannot join it with the following letter; these are non-joiners. For example, look at the following words:

open, speed, give, xerox After writing letter 'p' in the word 'open', as the hand moves towards left, you can't join it with 'e'; similarly in 'speed', 'p' can't be joined with 'e'; in 'give', 'g' is not joined with 'i'; in 'xerox', 'x' is not joined with 'e'.

not joined with 'i'; in 'xerox', 'x' is not joined with 'e'.

Of the joiners, a few of them are top joiners, as the joining is at the top of the letter; for example, f, o, r, t, v, w. Try writing the following words:

owns, fire, reed, vain, twin, wax You will join 'o' and 'w' with 'n' at the top, but 'n' with 's' at the bottom; in 'reed', 'r' is joined with 'e' at the top, but 'e' with 'd' at the bottom; in 'vain', 'v' is joined with 'a' at the top; in 'twin', 't' and 'w' are joined with 'i' at the top in 'wax', 'w' is joined with 'a' at the top. Letters n, i, e, a in these words are bottom joiners, as the joining of these letters with the following letters is at the bottom.

To sum up, the letters of the English alphabet can be classified into joiners and non-joiners, depending on whether you join them with the following letters or not; the joiners can be top joiners, if the joining is at the top of the letter or bottom joiners, if the joining is at the bottom.

You may wonder that there are such nuances in developing your handwriting in English. Your English teachers at the preparatory classes, if trained in the Faculties of Education or on special refresher courses, will be able to help you get the right kind of hand movement resulting in the correct size and shape of the letters as well as the right way of joining the letters with one another while writing continuously.

Remember that joining or non joining is important only when you are engaged in continuous writing. Practise good handwriting and succeed in your English writing and get optimum speed in your examinations.

Be in the forefront among scholars to make your father proud.

Yours affectionately,
Dr M N K Bose.

Continued from page 1

Learning disorder (Dyslexia)

Acquisition of academic skills and the process of learning take place by the integrated operation of various parts of the brain. Broadly, we understand that the brain has two separate halves, namely left hemisphere and right hemisphere connected by a bridge called *corpus callosum*. These two halves, however, function in tandem to instantly produce an integrated output-spoken or written language, for instance. The right hemisphere controls essentially the non verbal and abstract functions like art and music, imagination and intuition, spatial skills, bodily-kinesthetic skills etc., but the left hemisphere controls reasoning, logical, mathematical thinking and verbal skills. The left brain is also responsible for skills to express ideas into words/sentences and to use spoken/written language which is also responsible for understanding through listening and reading. A specific area towards the front of left brain (*Broca's area*) is in charge of expressing language. A location at the back (*Wernicke's area*) is where understanding of speech that we hear takes place. A pictorial representation of the same is given below (Fig. 1)

There is a tiny language area in the right hemisphere too. A plethora of functions related to language are controlled by these various areas in the left and right hemispheres, and by their communication with each other. Any developmental deficiency in these functions gives rise to faulty comprehension or expression of language, causing learning disorders. This may be illustrated by a diagram given below (Fig. 2).

Sub-skills underlying reading and writing include (i) *dealing with symbols for sounds*, (ii) *breaking words down into sound units or phonemes*, (iii) *spellings*, (iv) *deriving meanings from the symbols on the page* etc.. Any defects in these sub-skills lead to learning disorders.

In this context, Dyslexic difficulties may be attributed to a lag in the maturation of the dedicated areas of the left hemisphere. This does not imply any form of brain damage as such, but refers to individual differences in the complex brain organization during development.

A teacher who is sensitized to the academic and behaviour pointers is the most suitable person to diagnose a case of learning disorder in the class room.

1. Reading problem: Reading tires the LD child easily; he is curious to read, but prefers being read to. He reads slowly and hesitatingly, with omissions and additions of letters, and does not pay attention to punctuation. He fails to look carefully at the word, makes a guess from the first letter, eg.: reads "portion" for "proportion." He reads aloud monotonously without intonation, word by word. He may lose orientation on a line or a page while reading. Most often he finds dif-

ficulty to read lengthier words and also may be unable to mentally interpret the meaning of what he reads.

2. Writing problem: Writing is frustrating for a child with LD. He is extremely slow with writing and rarely completes his class notes or exam papers within the given time. His spellings are bad and so are grammar and sentence construction. Even spelling mistakes are inconsistent; the same word may be spelt differently in different places on the same page. He is unable to see the pattern in the spelling like 'tion' in 'portion' and 'station'. The LD child may confuse letters while writing, like 'b' for 'd', 'n' for 'u'. These letters may be mirror images like 'E' for '3', '6' for '9'. He omits capitals and punctuation. The handwriting may be poor and pencil grip awkward. In more severe cases, word images may be transposed eg.: 'saw' for 'was', 'no' for 'on' etc.

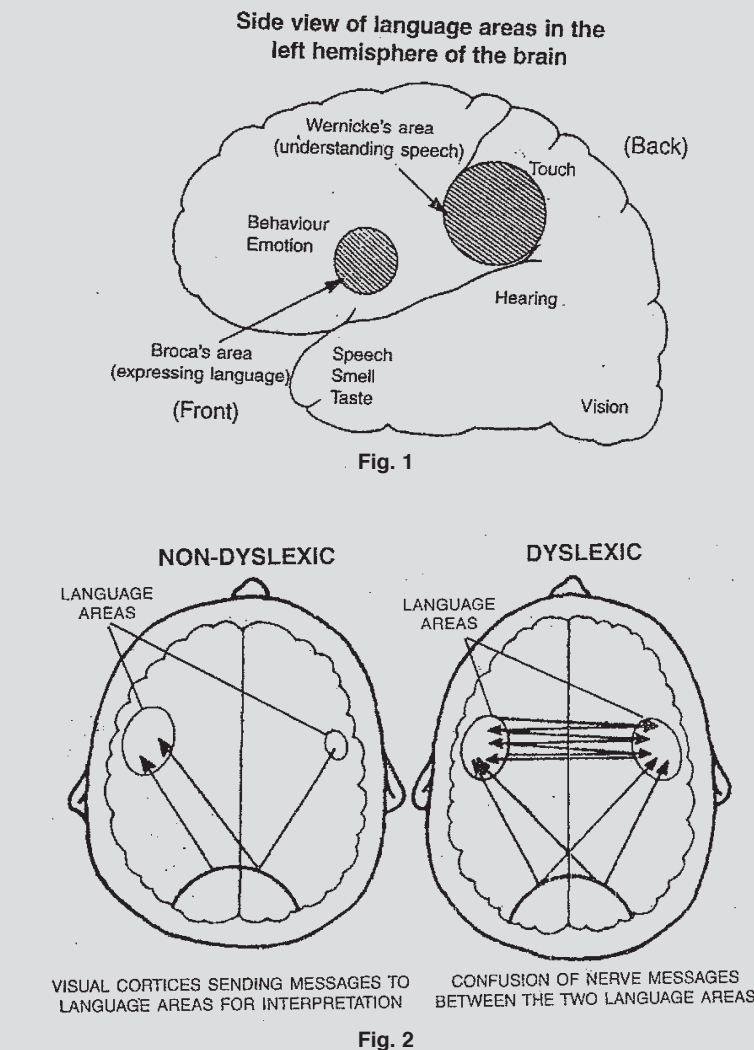
Children with severe problems in writing may find it difficult to write words or letters from a dictation. Some of them may even be unable to pick out letters of alphabet from a display or match the same alphabet. Many children with LD have confusion even between left & right.

3. Arithmetic problems: Arithmetic does not interest many of these children. They may use fingers for calculations even after eight years. They may get confused with arithmetic science like multiplication 'X' and '+' . They may do half of the problem with the correct sign and the remaining with another. They may even find it difficult to decide on correct operations. Many of these children work out answers correctly in the working column, but may transpose the digits while writing out the answer eg: 2538 may become 5238.

These children may reverse numbers, eg: 12 may become 21 on reading or writing. They may subtract a smaller number in one column from a large number, without realizing the value of the number, eg: 43-8 may be answered as 45, subtracting 3 from 8. Also the concept of time, space, speed or distance may be difficult for some children with learning disorders (LD), some find it very hard to tell the time from the face of a clock. Certain others have trouble with maps, graphs and directions making it difficult for them to draw or spot a place in a map or a puzzle.

Education is meant to mould an individual to function effectively as a social being and a useful citizen. This involves a process of identifying the strength and potential of each child and assisting him/her to develop that potential to the fullest, enabling him/her to achieve human excellence.

But most of the time the steps of the parents and teachers to make their children academically excellent with out understanding their strengths and



weakness will surely act as the oil in the fire of problems, especially in the case of children having learning disorders.

In history there is a long list of famous personalities with learning disorders which includes the names like Thomas Alva Edison, Leonardo Davinchi, Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill etc..

It is a fact that even in the western world, around 10% of children are diagnosed as having learning disorders.

Translation vs. Transliteration

Moreover, names of some international organizations, parties and NGO(s) can be translated to TL equivalents if they were conventionalized by the target society. The state of 'Ivory Coast' in English is "ساحل العاج" in Arabic and *Côte d'Ivoire* in French. They all, lexically, have the same meaning. There are so many examples of words that are not transliterated due to the existence of equivalent in the other language. Names like *Egypt, Tigris, Venice and United Nations* can be translated into 'مصر', 'نجلة', 'البنديقية' and 'الأمم المتحدة' respectively.

This, however, is not acceptable to a considerable number of translators. They prefer transliteration to translation. This is because they feel that every name is special to its original culture and surrounding milieu. 'David', for example, gives a typolog-

ical mental image of a Christian English native speaker on the one hand, and the word داوود alludes to a Muslim Arabic native speaker on the other. Also the Arabic writer does not hesitate to use 'كودافوار', which is used by its natives, instead of 'ساحل العاج'.

All in all, transliteration might reflect the originality of the source language. It could threaten the identity and originality of the target language text. This is the reason of the newly founded conservative organizations of nationalism and movements of nativization such as Arabization that, fundamentally, aims at preserving the originality of Arabic language.

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Learn more from your teacher to be a successful teacher



Fawaz Ali Rajeh
Assistant teacher of English
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It is but natural that one can improve himself in terms of knowledge and skill before getting into any job, especially if he/she is aware of the expected input from him in that job in future. Like this, a student can develop himself/herself to be a good teacher even though he is still a student.

In fact, students learn from teachers in a class not only syllabus content or a particular course but they also acquire insight about teaching technology from them. Good methods of teaching, for example, and decent behavior of teachers in a class can be imbibed naturally and automatically by students and they can make use of them when they become teachers. Some of the intelligent students also may alert themselves against the wrong methods and inap-

propriate behaviors of their teachers. For example, when a teacher follows or applies *teacher-centered* method of teaching (a teacher explains a lesson without students' participation) and he is always bad-tempered in the class, students should not follow him as a model. A good student should get the right message from such unsuitable methods of teaching and avoid them in future to be a successful teacher. When a student becomes a teacher, he should respect his teacher because his teacher helped him a lot in learning the academic course, follow his methods in the class and shaped him as a young, budding professional. A student should respect his teacher even though he/she adopted inappropriate or unsuitable methods and showed irrational behaviors during his studentship because the teacher makes us aware of our possible shortcomings in future and encourages us to avoid them when we become teachers. Thereby, he helps us to be competent teachers.

Finally I would like to say that a good student should do his best to learn efficiently. He should try and get maximum benefits from his teachers' methods of teaching whether acceptable or unacceptable and try to apply the ideal principles and avoid the undesirable methods when he becomes a teacher.

RESEARCH ABSTRACT

Managerial role performance of heads of schools

G. Manulal

Under the supervision of
Prof (Dr.) A. Amalraj
& Prof (Dr.) S. Mohan

Introduction

Globalization of all fields of education has increased the importance of professionalized approach in all aspects of management of educational institutions. Fundamentally the purpose of school management is to enable the right pupils to receive the right education in the right way at the right time from the right teachers by bringing them together at a cost within the means of the state at a place specifically designed for the purpose of education.

The efficiency and the effectiveness of any institution mainly depends upon the management of role performance of the Head of that institution. The school education is considered as a prime stage in the development of an individual which, in turn, leads to the development of the society. Hence any managerial problem which affects the school education will adversely influence the development of an individual.

The head teacher is entrusted with the management of 5 M's. These are: i. Men, ii) Money, iii) Machines, iv) Material, and v) Methods.

The Head of the School is expected at various times and by various interests to play many roles. He must, by nature of his position be:

- a teacher of teachers
- a supervisor not only of teachers but of service personnel.
- a disciplinarian, just but effective.
- a psychologist at least to the extent of discovering maladjustments, especially of teachers which hinder progress.
- a financier in organizing the school budget.
- a sociologist to the extent of understanding the relationships of the school with the community.
- a lawyer to the extent of being able to know his own obligations, rights, legal limits and jurisdiction as well as of those of all school personnel.
- a technical expert in educational measurement and evaluation.
- an expert in group dynamics to the extent of working effectively with staff pupils, public and the authorities.

Major objectives

- The objectives of the study were
- to analyze the managerial role performance of heads of schools.
 - to find out whether managerial performance has any significant correlation with the four managerial roles namely, *interpersonal roles, informational roles, decisional roles, and diplomatic roles*.
 - to examine whether there are any significant correlations among managerial roles of heads of schools and the school's efficiency.
 - to investigate whether there is any difference in the ranking of the four managerial roles performed by the heads of schools.

Significance of the study

As is the Headmaster, so is the school. The success or failure of the school depends on him. He is an indispensable and integral part of the school. Without an efficient performance of

his managerial roles the school cannot progress.

The population and the sample for the investigation

The heads of schools in the state of Kerala (South India) were the population for the study.

Based on the stratified incidental sampling technique, 300 heads of schools from the above mentioned population were used as the sample for the study.

Tools used for the study

The following five tools were constructed and validated for the study.

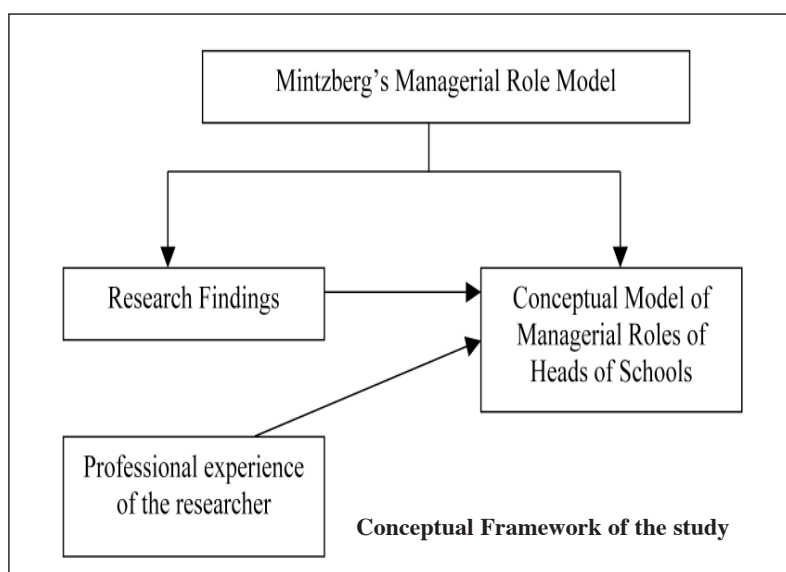
- Managerial roles performance scale for the heads of schools
- School efficiency scale
- An opinion survey for heads of schools (on managerial role performance and school efficiency)
- Managerial roles Preference Index

Tool development

The draft tools were constructed on the basis of the managerial role performance envisaged by Henry Mintzberg along with the different theoretical perspectives in relation to managerial roles, functions and experience.

For the validation of the 1st tool, the *Managerial roles performance scale for the heads of schools*, data were processed using Pearson's Product Moment Method of Correlation and the resulting correlation matrix was subjected to Factor Analysis.

As far as the 2nd tool, the *school efficiency scale* is concerned, the response sheets were arranged in an ascending order on the basis of the total scores for item analysis. Analysis table (Mathew, 1972) was employed in order to find out the *Phi* value and *P* value. The reliability was estimated using Spearman-Brown (Anastasi, 1969).



With regard to the 3rd tool, an opinion survey was conducted for heads of schools on managerial roles performance and school efficiency. Item analysis procedure as suggested by Anastasi (1969) was used and the reliability of the scale was estimated by odd-even method (Anastasi, 1969).

The validation of the entire tool except the 1st one was done by five experts in the field of education consisting of educational administrators, evaluators, consultants and researchers.

Statistical techniques used for data analysis

The following important statistical techniques were used for the analysis of the data.

- The t-test (Garrett, 1969)
- Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) (Garrett, 1969).
- Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Walker, 1985) and
- Pearson's Product Moment Method of Correlation (Garrett, 1969)

Important findings

I) The theoretical framework of the study is directly based on the work of Henry Mintzberg model of managerial roles performance. Mintzberg proposed the above said model by interviewing and observing business executives over an extended period of time. The model has 3 managerial roles consisting of 10 factors. But, by using the method of factor analysis for the construction and the validation of managerial roles performance Scale, 14 significant factors were found as relevant as against the total 10 factors envisaged by Henry Mintzberg.

The roles proposed in the researcher's model were based on the data collected from the heads of schools and subjected to Factor analysis. This resulted in 14 factors catalogued under 4 categories of roles namely; *Inter personal roles, Informational roles, Decisional roles and Diplomatic roles* as mentioned in the table. Addition of the new roles namely *diplomatic roles* with the four factors can be considered as one of the major contributions of this study.

Counseling, Democratic behavior, Dedication and Motivation are the essential factors required for teachers in general and heads of the schools in particular. Hence the diplomatic roles as a whole can be treated as very important roles that an educational manager should play. All other nine

Roles proposed by Henry Mintzberg

I. Components under interpersonal roles

- Figurehead
- Leader
- Liaison

II. Components under informational roles

- Monitor
- Disseminator
- Spokesman

III. Components under decisional roles

- Entrepreneur
- Disturbance handler
- Resource allocator
- Negotiator

IV. No diplomatic roles under Henry Mintzberg model

Corresponding factor identified in the present investigation

I. Factor under interpersonal roles

- Figurehead ship
- Leadership
- Liaison ship

II. Factors under informational roles

- Monitoring
- Dissemination
- Spokesman ship

III. Factors under decisional roles

- Enterprising
- Discipline
- Resource allocation
- Negotiation

IV. Factors under diplomatic roles

- Counseling
- Democratic behaviour
- Dedication
- Motivation

in the case of the Head of the school.

III) Through the development of school efficiency scale, the researcher could envisage four major components for school efficiency namely (i) *infra-structural development* (ii) *student development* (iii) *staff development* and (iv) *community development*. The development of each component is reflected in the development of the school and, also in its efficiency. The Correlation Analysis showed a substantial relation among all the four components of the school efficiency.

Much study hasn't been done on the correlation among school development, school efficiency and the managerial roles performance. Hence the researcher constructed and validated an Opinion survey to study the correlation between the above-mentioned components of school efficiency and the four factors of the managerial roles performance efficiency mentioned earlier.

The findings showed a high correlation between the school efficiency and managerial roles performance. It can be interpreted as the correlation between proper managerial roles performance by the head of the school and the efficiency of the school.

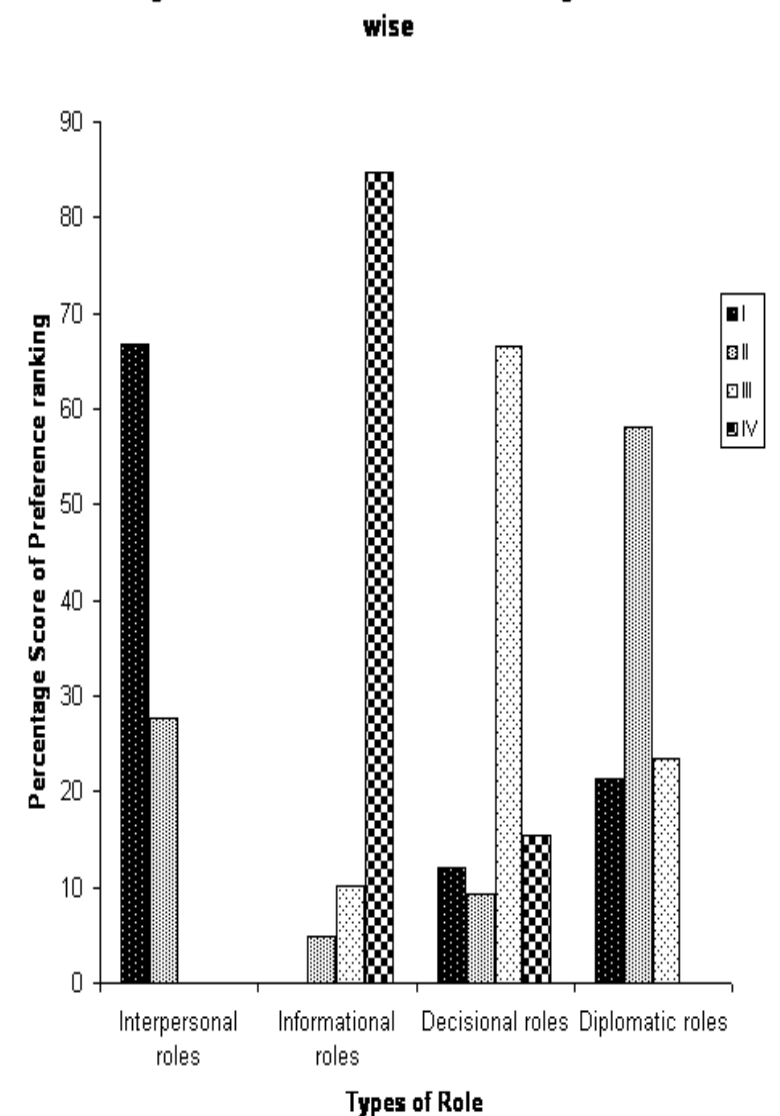
IV) Henry Mintzberg proposed that while all managers perform all roles to some degree, the roles vary in significance. Most managers being specialists are required to perform a particular set of specialized roles. This is the reason why the fifth tool, namely *managerial role performance preference index*, was constructed, validated and administered among the heads of schools, so as to know their preference in the managerial roles performance in the context of school education as well as to find out whether there is any difference in the ranking of managerial roles performance by the heads of the schools on the basis of their affiliation.

Mintzberg also stated that individual personality, style and values, hierarchical level of proposition, functions, size, structure and type of organization play significant roles in determining how the manager works and performs his or her roles. Similarly, there is a certain degree of emphasis given to each role even though no significant difference is observed in the preferential ranking of managerial roles among the different schools on the basis of their affiliation. It was found that there is a difference of preference in performing the four managerial roles by the heads. Among the roles of the heads, the first rank was given to interpersonal roles, second rank to the diplomatic roles, the role which has newly emerged through this study; and the decisional roles got the third preference of ranking; the last rank being given to informational roles.

The reason for giving first rank to interpersonal roles on the part of the head may be attributed to the high interpersonal skills required of him to handle the various groups of peoples like students, staff, parents, management and the community with whom they have a network of interaction everyday.

Also the high competition in the educational field and the demand due to globalization of education makes the survival of the schools difficult

Managerial Role Preference Index - Managerial Role wise



which may be the reason for the second higher ranking given to diplomatic roles by the heads of schools irrespective of their affiliation.

The private managed school heads are found performing diplomatic roles better than those of government and semi government schools. The reason may be the high competition in the field of education in general and school education in particular due to globalization.

It can be concluded on the basis of the findings and from the above graphical representation that the managerial roles performance by the Heads of schools, and the interpersonal roles they are called upon to play got the highest priority followed by diplomatic roles, which is the new role that emerged from this study. Finally, the decisional roles, the last preference, was given to informational roles by all heads.

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. Name the asteroid that passed within 'a hair's breadth' in astronomical terms and which would have wiped out life on earth in 1996.

- Toutatis
 Proxima Centauri
 Binary Star
 Pulsar

2. Which is the first naturally occurring thermostable enzyme?

- Restriction endonuclease
 Lysozyme
 Taq DNA polymerase
 DNA Pol I

3. Pasteurization refers to

- The vaccination of a baby against small pox
 The sterilization by steam cooker at 100°C for 30 minutes
 The heating of milk or other liquids to 60°C for 30 minutes
 A technique of curing people bitten by mad dog

4. Plant movements to external stimuli is called

- tactic
 tectonic
 paratonic
 spontaneous

5. Which one of the following diseases is associated with crowded and poorly lit housing?

- Asthma
 Tuberculosis
 Cancer
 Heart Attack

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- If an air conditioner is available at home, one should check for voltage fluctuation. Galileo invented thermometer.
- Aqua regia is a mixture of nitric acid and HCl in a ratio of 1:3.
- CTC written on tea bags indicates cutting, thrashing and curling.
- Salinity of sea water is the amount of minerals dissolved in 100 kg water.

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About Naming: Some thoughts on the English departments



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I deem it apt to begin my views on the issue on a personal note: I arrived in Yemen a few months ago to teach in the Department of English, Ibb University. Having taught and engaged in research for a little more than two decades in one of India's oldest (fifth oldest, established in 1916) and illustrious universities—University of Mysore—I was a bit surprised about the use of nomenclature 'English Department' or 'Department of English' in Yemeni Universities. Although it doesn't look a serious fault at the outset, it certainly calls for the attention of the academia and intelligentsia of Yemen. But elsewhere in the world the move to rename the English Departments as *Departments of Studies in English* or *Departments of Literature* (and housing within it *Translation Studies*, *Gender Studies*, *Culture Studies*) started long ago. In some Universities they are named *Department of Comparative Literature*. It is not the simple matter of name-changing exercise but an issue of academic, political and cultural import which I propose to dwell upon.

Should the name bother? Does it matter or does it matter really if it is English Department or Department of Studies in English? Isn't it the content which matters—the courses we offer?

Is the issue worth the dispute? "What's in a name?" is an old saying. It is the substance, the matter which matters not so much the form—the name. This is one side of the argument, and there is another side to it, perhaps the right side—the side I want to argue for, which says: No, there is everything in the name. Name matters as much as the content.

Revamping of the curriculum and restructuring of the Courses began long ago in the Departments of English especially in the Universities in India and Africa as part of seeking identity and place for the literatures and cultures of our own. Renaming of the English Departments as Departments of Studies of Literatures in English (and, in some cases as the Departments of Comparative or New Literatures) is indicative of the shift in focus from English Literature or Studies to Literatures or Studies in English. The fact that the English has moved out from the empire to the former colonies, and the literary scene is now dominated by the 'empire writing back' compelled the academia to rethink about renaming. Hence it is no mere accident or a trend to redesign the departments.

Part of the ideology behind such moves is to decolonize, to free ourselves from the hegemony of English language and literature that reined the English departments everywhere ever since the colonization, and even after political decolonization. And, most important programme is (and should be) to focus on our own language and literatures thus bringing value to our own. It doesn't mean to do away with English! English can't be wished away. It's there whether one likes it or not, and it should be there. The point is to study it comparatively and together with our own.

Moreover, the twentieth century - now twenty first - is dominated by English writings from countries other than England and America. Perhaps

ever since the Nobel Prize crossed the Mediterranean Sea and was awarded to an Asian (Indian) Rabindranath Tagore for his English *Gitanjali* in 1913 the literary centre started moving from its assumed location in the west to the rest of the world. Since then the world has witnessed some of the most significant writings emerging from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. And, it is very important that the younger generation of students in the University get familiar with our own writing and thinking.

An important Kenyan writer living in exile in America, Ngugi wa Thiong'o offers valuable insights into the importance of preserving and promoting indigenous culture against the backdrop of western cultural onslaught in his books, *Decolonizing the Mind* (1986) and *Moving the Centre* (1990). He argues that although the political centre shifted from its location in the empire to the colony, Europe is still looked up to as the 'fountain head of universal civilization'. Moving of the centre implies many shifts. It is to shift the literary centre from English literature and language to other languages especially of literatures and languages of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Ngugi speaks of the urgent need to move, more importantly, the centre of perception from the single centre to the multiplicity of centres which are there in non-European languages and literatures. And also moving the centre from west to the rest; from privileged to the marginalized not only between the nations but within the nations.

Ngugi, when he was Head of the Department of English (1976) in the Kenyatta university, Nairobi, Kenya moved a resolution to abolish the English department, and to rename it as *Department of Literature* and succeeded in it. The debate concerning the abolition of English Department drew the attention of the academia world wide,

and it is known now as 'Nairobi debate.' He gave up writing in English (altogether) as part of his anti-colonialist, imperialist stance. He had earlier abandoned his Christian name, "James" on a similar commitment. Name is both symbolic and realistic.

However, it should be noted that the moving of the centre—the efforts to know visions from the non-European part of the world started long ago in England itself in Leeds University in the 1960s under the tutelage of Norman Jeffers and Ravens Croft who started courses in Commonwealth literature and introduced in the curriculum writers from India, Africa and West Indies. However today the term 'Commonwealth' is resented as it still denotes the colonial legacy and it is being replaced with Postcolonial studies.

The seminal work to provide a theoretical premise for the postcolonial studies in the world is *Orientalism* (1978) by late Edward Said, a Palestinian exile in America. Since its publication there has been a shift in focus from narratives of the empire to the colonies. The debates initiated by Said with regard to the west's construct of the orient—the East, especially the Middle East—continue to generate conflict of ideas in the academia in the department of studies here or elsewhere. The need to deconstruct the myth about the orient perpetuated in the narratives of the empire; the need to represent (represent), rewrite our own narratives from our own centres of perceptions and to advocate them, is more and more urgent, especially in the context of the return of colonialism in the ugly form of globalization.

Well, it is in this context the name of the department—the indicator of our existence, of content, of purpose—together with the change in the content matters. Yes, name matters, after all the world is about naming system!

Modern Approaches in International Law



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International Law is the body of principles and rules which civilized States consider as binding upon them in their mutual relations and it rests upon the consent of sovereign states. It covers dimensions such as war, conflict, trade,

environment, nonproliferation and legal proceedings between the states party to it, in International courts.

In modern world of globalization there are many new concepts of justice emerging in International Law and its value has immensely increased. It has become an essential element of human association. Man, as Aristotle put it, is by his very nature a social being, and he is by his very nature in need of law. The various modern approaches emerging in International Law consists of:-

1- Realistic approach: This approach takes the world as it is right now by working on eliminating needless violence, and establishing the pre-conditions for justice which flow from a greater sense of security. Realist conceptions always put order before justice.

2- Liberals approach: Liberals support peace through law which characterizes much 20th century thinking. It believes in the need to do some primary work on justice issues first- issues like poverty, hunger, disease and ecological balance. This position is quite prevalent among Third World nations or developing states.

3- Distributive approach: It is about distribution of justice to each according to their contribution in the society.

4- Economic approach: This focuses on how each person earns a living, enters into contracts, and exchanges goods and services which is part of the material foundation for sustenance and well being. Typically, the focus is on the equity components of economic arrangements.

5- Cosmopolitan approach: It is the

topic of recent dialogue between international relations scholars. It is argued that cosmopolitanism should be seen as a public law in which both states and individuals have rights, and where individuals have these rights as "citizens of earth" rather than as citizens of particular state.

6- Restorative approach: Basically, restorative justice seeks to repair the harm done by any offence, to empower communities, and reintegrate offenders back into the fold through reconciliation rituals. The key concept of this approach is forgiveness.

These are the various predominant and emerging approaches in international law which can play a practical role in the various decision-making processes in international courts.

To the least motivated learners of English

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How much you can learn will depend on how strongly motivated you are and how hard you work for it. Your instructor will guide and help you constantly, but you are the one who will navigate the learning route. Your instructor will take you from where you are and lead you as far as you can go along the path. Since the whole English program is supposed to be tailored for you and your interests, it seems logical to start with you at your entry level and taking you to the level of competence you target to achieve.

One easy way to discover a person's potential is by writing down what he is not. Everyone plays so many different parts or roles in his life. When you think of all that you do in only one-week's time, as a student and citizen, you can see that your life is fairly complicated. Your personality has different facets which is not so easy to categorize.

Personality may be defined as what you seem to others. As psychology tells us, personality involves adding together all of different ways you feel about what happens to you. Friends might say that you have a "good personality", or a "likeable personality", or a "complex personality." What is important for you is to be brave and honest enough to look objectively at yourself as you really are.

There are some questions, such as the following, the answers to which may yield valuable insights about your personality:

1. Are you motivated enough to be a competent speaker of English?
2. Do you unleash efforts to learn what you aim at?
3. Do read some English books for pleasure?
4. Can you explain to others what you have already learned?
5. Do you read an English daily regularly?
6. Would you talk to the moon in English if you had a chance?

Although this does not provide the key to your entire personality, it does throw some light to a small portion of it.

Education in Yemen



Amin Al Saghir
Sana'a

Education is considered a main sinew in the building of any society. We can gauge the advancement of a society by its existing culture and the excellence of the education of its members. This is why we always find that any civilized society expends its maximum resources to educate people, without discrimination on the basis of gender. The republic of Yemen strides seriously to build an institutionalized society for all its population and this is part of its special drive concerning education. As a matter of fact during the preceding period, the Yemeni government has been quite conspicuous for outlining a definitive strategy with quite clearly laid out plans ready to be implemented. Education in Republic of Yemen rests on constitutional and

legal principles that explicitly admit the right of all to education, the ensuring of equitable political economic, social and cultural opportunities for compulsory basic education based on assumption that education serves as one of the pillars of society. In compliance with the law of education, the government protects according to the existing the law the right of every citizen and sets up various schools and cultural establishments in addition to the compulsory law of primary education in the expansion of the vocational and technical education. The government in a particular manner, is concerned with the rearing of the offspring, their protection from deviations and secures for them religious education, the training of the body and mind of the citizens. Furthermore, it secures for the citizens a suitable environment to support and develop their learning capacities. All these is taking place because the government of Yemen looks a the field of education, health and other social public services as the basic correlates of a solid social structure and the cornerstone for its ceaseless progress. Thus, the society and the government are committed to the just and successful implementation of the articles 24, 43 and 52 of the constitution.

POETRY CORNER

Desert



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Desert has its own dictates;
Dives a hard bargain.

For one thing
It is open, unwall'd
Like a sphinx.

A patient sadist
Easily satiated,
Snatching just one item at a time
Route, sap or vision...

Charmed by the lavish stretch
Of its beckoning grace
Dawn after dawn
Dusk after dusk,
Barging in thoughtless glee
Gliding down its one-way trap-door,
You beat your insect wings
In limbo...

Light fails.
With the last prop snatched
Under your very feet
A charged, magnifying memory
Warns, gnaws and haunts...

Lifting eyes of lead
You glimpse, at horizon
No silver hills
Dripping in bliss...

But fold upon fold
Piles and piles of gold
Glinting in dunes,
Wreathed in a broad, ballooning
Sandy smile.



The sweetest days at university

University gathers many students from various areas. Those students study together for four years, enjoying their life at its green oasis of knowledge.

Usually students of level one and two with fresh minds may not understand the real value of university days, but students of level three and four may realize the precious time of university. To them, university days are not only to get knowledge, but also to learn the true meaning of life and gain a wide circle of friends/classmates. In other words, the period of university education is the medium by which the students know each other closely, and spend their youth happily joking and playing as birds on green trees.

Hence university time is a remarkable period which leaves an unforgettable trace in the heart of every sensitive student. On the other hand, leaving university represents a turning point in a young person's life as it marks the end of the theoretical input by many doctors and graduates during "the sweetest days of life" and catapult one to the practical realism of the material-

istic world. That is to say, finishing the study at university puts an end to the sweetest days. It separates the intimate friends/classmates from one another.

It is natural for a group of people, living and studying together in one place for long days to be familiar with each other and feel the soul of fraternity within themselves that grows gradually with the passage of time. Similarly, the students have spent four years together in the university, living a happy life full of pleasure, love, cooperation etc. Therefore, they become overwhelmed with the sense of sadness and sorrow, when the period of university education comes to its end and the sense of separation approaches. In short, the university time is precious, full of happiness and enjoyment, and that is why most of students feel sad when they complete their study at university.

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Friendship

In everyday life a lot of things happen to a person regardless of whether he is a child, youth or aged. We all need to talk about thoughts, problems, dreams, habits and love. We can't live without that person who stands with us for better or for worse, in sorrow and in joy, in good and bad days.

Friends are born, not made. We have to coexist and deal with other people outside our bounds to reach to the main aim: a good friend.

A good friend is he who gives you all he has without waiting to return anything... who gives you trust, sincerity, loyalty and love. It's not easy to find a friend who gives you all that, therefore, you should look for that person to feel comfort and tranquility.
As the proverb says: 'A man is known

by the company he keeps', so you have to choose him among all people around you. Friendship is a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity. You will walk and talk with him, feel and laugh, eat and listen to him. Your friend must be you, and you must be him.

Judge people not by the size of their bank account, but the size of their hearts. It's not necessary that a friend must have money, big house, special style and special, interesting story. What is important is to have feeling, good thoughts and a soft heart.

It is your friend who makes you closer to Allah and always I call such a friend "THE PEARL".

Asma'a Aish Al-Hanadwa
UST
Sana'a

Musings

When my eyes stand and don't
move...
I gaze far away...
I fly to the sky...
I feel... I soar very high.

When my heart stops thinking about...
my mind muses around the world...
He sees all lovers, but no one can
see him.

When my spirit travels unknown
realms

She puts my body on the bed softly...
She goes to meet all friends' spirits
And returns into my body
Every part comes back to their
places... still...
I am looking over there...
A gleam is coming to me...
to repeat the same cycle
Again...

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READERS' VIEWS

Dear Dr. Sahu
Thanks for your help in imparting knowledge to the Yemeni community that will never forget you.

Dr. Ayid Sharyan

Dear Dr. Sahu
First of all, I would like to thank you very much for your great efforts to help students and teachers to develop their skills in English and for publishing the

educational pages. I have read your two articles published in the latest two issues and I have found them very important and useful to the learners of English. So I would be grateful to you sir if you could write more articles on similar topics in addition to your series. Thanks.

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