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EDUCATION
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Refugee smuggling boats capsize on their way to Yemen

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

ADEN, Jan. 22 — At least 15 refugees have drowned and a dozen are still missing after two smugglers' boats carrying about 270 Somalis and Ethiopians from the Horn of Africa capsized earlier this week in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, said the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

A boat carrying about 120 persons overturned on Sunday near Ahwar in the South of Yemen. The survivors reported that the boat departed from the Somalia on Wednesday.

Yemeni security authorities said that about 80 of the journey's survivors were Ethiopians and 16 of them were Somalis.

Because the boat was overloaded, the smugglers tried to push passengers overboard into deep water off the coast of Yemen, resulting in the boat capsizing. Some 99 persons made it to the beach and were taken to UNHCR's reception centre in Ahwar. Authorities recovered nine bodies who were then buried by a local non-governmental organisation. The other 12 who were reportedly swimming with family members remain missing at sea, the UNHCR said.

"MSF workers treated 91 people who arrived on the beach of Doma, near Arqah, on January 17. A one-year-

old boy lost his mother who drowned. They were coming from the Oromo region of Ethiopia to northern Somalia in search of a better life in Yemen. The boy was treated in the MSF clinic in Ahwar and is now with a relative that was also on the boat", said Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) field coordinator in Ahwar Andreas Koutepas.

Passengers of another boat, mostly non-Somalis, reported to the UNHCR that their boat lost its way floating for three days before reaching the Red Sea side of Yemen's coastline on Friday. They had come from the town of Obock in Djibouti. They said that the boat's engine broke because it was in poor condition and that water started to flood the vessel, eventually overturning it in deep water close to the shore.

Thirty-two passengers made it to shore near Dhubab, around 200 kilometres west of Aden where they were received by UNHCR's local partner who provided them with first aid, food and water. Six bodies have been recovered and the status of the remaining 112 passengers is unknown. Survivors said that many of them have made it to shore and disappeared, according to the UNHCR.

The 117 Brigade stationed in the Gulf of Aden reported to have rescued 297 people from the smuggling boat from Djibouti that sank near Bab Al-Mandab.

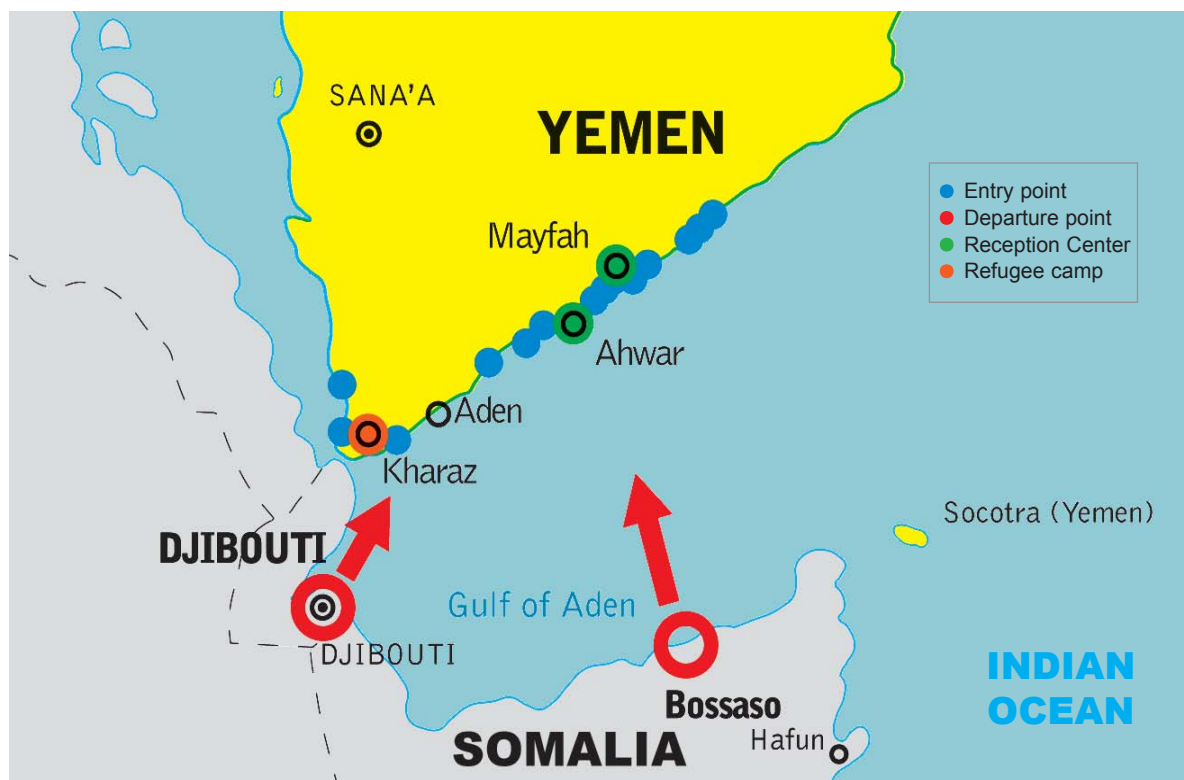
Three people drowned, and their bodies have been recovered and buried. The passengers have been handed over to the Red Cross which will take them to Taiz where they will wait prior to being deported to Ethiopia, according to Ministry of the Interior who said the passengers were all Ethiopians.

Since the beginning of January 2009, MSF teams in southern Yemen have treated over 1,090 people who have arrived by boat. Survivors are provided with immediate medical assistance on the beach and are given dry clothes, water, and nutrient-fortified foods.

They are then transported to a United Nations reception centre in the town of Ahwar, where MSF operates a medical clinic and also provides counseling services, Koutepas said.

"MSF began its project in southern Yemen in September 2007. Since then, MSF has provide medical and psychosocial assistance to more than 14550 refugees," he added.

In 2008 more than 50,000 people made the risky voyage in smugglers' boats across the Gulf of Aden, at least 590 drowned and another 359 were reported missing. Most of the deaths were due to drowning after passengers were forced overboard in treacherous waters far off the Yemen coast in a bid by the smugglers to avoid detection by



MSF Map describing exit and entry points for African refugees coming to Yemen.

Yemen authorities, according to the UNHCR.

About 1,285 African refugees reached Yemeni coasts since the begin-

ning of the year 2009. The refugees registered in UNHCR are 807 and 682 of them are Somalis, the UNHCR added.

Boat loads of refugees regularly arrive on Yemen's southern shores having crossed the dangerous waters separating the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Somalis fleeing war and political instability at home usually form the majority of these refugees, but some Ethiopians also

head to Yemen fleeing persecution and violence in some areas of their country.

"A lot of attention has been paid lately to tackling the issue of piracy in the waters off the Horn of Africa," said MSF Head of Mission in Yemen, Francis Coteur. "Unfortunately, little attention is paid to the drama of the refugees crossing the same waters in horrific conditions. Much more needs to be done to address this issue."

Southern Movement detainees released, traffic resumes on Sana'a-Aden road

By: Ali Saeed and Fouad Mused

SANA'A, Jan 22 — Mediation efforts between the government and the Southern Movement in Radfan, Aden, have resulted in an agreement to release the 103 detainees of the movement arrested following demonstrations held last week.

Last week security forces clashed with hundreds of Southern Movement protesters who were demanding equal opportunities and arrested them.

Following the arrests, more demonstrations were held demanding their release. Armed men have been blocking the Sana'a-Aden road for the same purpose since January 13.

The mediation committee reached an



Trucks queue on the road between Aden and Sana'a which has been blocked for over two weeks by protestors from the south.

agreement to open the roads under the condition that all the detainees of the Southern Movement demonstration be freed. The Sana'a-Aden road was opened on Monday after the two bodies agreed to stop the escalation.

The agreement stated that all the detainees would be released, even those who blocked the road and clashed with security forces, and ensured that those released would not be subject to surveillance, according to a source from government security.

"Blocking the road was a natural reaction against the security forces' arresting the protesters in the reconciliation demonstration," said representative of Radfan inhabitants and head of the Peaceful Struggle Movement in

Lahj Naser Al-Khibji.

He added that the road had not been unblocked before the detainees were released.

On Monday morning, the police in Aden released 15 detainees from the criminal investigation Khour Makser prison. The government had freed all detainees by Tuesday.

Yahya Ghalib Al-Shoib, lawyer and human rights activist, confirmed that all the 103 detainees were released. He explained that 12 of the detainees were at police stations in Aden, seven were at the Seber prison in Lahj, 40 were at the intelligence prison in Aden and 41 were at the criminal investigation prison in Aden.

After the release, detainees stated

that they were badly treated by the prison guards.

Mahdi Hassan, secretary of the Yemeni Socialist party in Radfan and one of the detainees, said that ten of them were put in "two by two meter cells" without bathroom or mattress in the Al-Mula police station. He and his fellow detainees refused to speak to the police or answer any of their questions so they were transferred to Seber prison in Lahj where they stayed until they were released.

The Southern Movement is spearheaded by former military officers from the south, the Military Retiree's Coordination Council, who demand equal opportunity for the southerners.

Clashes in the last week between the movement's supporters and security forces resulted in the explosion of a hand grenade in the Al-Dhale that killed one soldier, injured dozens of people and destroyed a military vehicle.

In Aden, the clashes resulted in four people being wounded, one of them critically. The latter was transferred to Al-Thawra hospital in Sana'a but died there from spinal cord injuries.

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Two Al-Qaeda loyalists dead, one from Saudi Arabia

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Jan. 21- The leader of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, Nasser Abdul Karim Al-Wihaishi, also known as Abu Baseer, announced the merging of Al-Qaeda organizations in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the name of "Al-Qaeda Organization in the Arabian Peninsula." Meanwhile, the Yemeni security authorities announced that two members of Al-Qaeda - including one from Saudi Arabia - were killed in a security operation last Monday in Sana'a.

Al-Wihaishi said in an interview with Abdul Elah Haidar Shay'e, a journalist who specializes in terrorism, that the decision to integrate came after "the mujahedeen of the keepers of the two holy sites (Saudi Arabia) expressed their allegiance with leadership in Yemen." He pointed out that "the organization includes youth from the keepers of the two holy sites (Saudi Arabia) and other countries."

According to news published in Al-Fajr Media Center which belongs to Al-Qaeda, during the interview Al-Wihaishi talked about the importance of the attack that targeted the US Embassy last September "as it is considered an important stronghold of Crusader-Zionist campaigns against Muslims in Somalia, the Arab Peninsula, Iraq, Afghanistan and

Palestine."

Haidar told the Yemen Times that the interview he conducted with Al-Wihaishi will be published soon in both local and international media outlets. He pointed out that he interviewed Al-Wihaishi in the presence of leaders of the organization and the legislative body, including vice-leader of Al-Qaeda Saeed Al-I Al-Shahri, also known as Abu Sufian Al-Shahri, who was detained in Guantanamo and then released early last year.

The Al-Qaeda organization in Saudi had announced last May that it lost the battle with Saudi security authorities, who demanded that Al-Qaeda loyalists to head to Yemen "to avoid being arrested by Saudi Security authorities" since they might impede oil supply in the region.

The state-run agencies reported that a security source from the Ministry of the Interior said that security apparatuses stormed "a house in one of Sana'a's neighborhoods where members of an Al-Qaeda cell were hiding." He pointed out that armed confrontations broke out between the two sides and resulted in the death of two members of the Al-Qaeda cell, including Salem Mohammed Muqsef Al-Nahdi from Saudi Arabia. The other one is Badr Dawod Saleh Musharrif from Al-Hodeida.

According to the security source, Al-

Nahdi was among the elements wanted by both Yemeni and Saudi security authorities. He is a member of Hamza Al-Quaiti's cell who was killed along with others in armed confrontations with the security forces in Tarim city, Hadramout, last August.

The source said that the last operation also resulted in the arrest of Abdul Rahman Al-Ghurabi of Dhamar, whereas Musa'ed Ahmed Naji Al-Barbari of Al-Jawf managed to escape.

The Ministry of Defense reported in the online news website "September.net" that primary investigations with Al-Ghurabi revealed that the Saudi man, Al-Nahdi, was among those who carried out the attack that targeted the US embassy in Sana'a and hit a school for girls in the nearby area last March.

The defense ministry said that "two explosive belts, a number of grenades, a machine gun and a motorbike" were inside the house that security stormed where the Al-Qaeda cell were hiding. It said that the group is "considered one of the dangerous terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda."

Throughout last year, Yemen witnessed 23 terrorist attacks in which 40 people were killed, including ten foreign tourists, two of which were women. Another 90 people were injured, most of whom are citizens, according to Yemen Times Statistics.

Medical practitioners demand justice for slain doctor

By: Enas Al-Awami

SANA'A, Jan. 20 - Over 50 members of the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate staged a sit-in in front of the Council of Ministers on Tuesday morning continuing to demand that authorities bring the people who killed Dr. Derhem Al-Qadasi to justice.

Members of the syndicate in Sana'a, Dhamar university teachers and Science & Technology hospital's doctors declared on Monday that they would start to voice their objection through large demonstrations and sit-ins in front of official government buildings if the government hasn't brought the attackers to justice by January 24.

Al-Qadasi, who died on Sunday due to injuries he sustained when he was attacked late last month, was a medical practitioner at Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a.

A gang of 18 members broke into the hospital because one of their relatives, who was over 80-years-old, had died in the hospital. Eight of them stormed into the ICU and stabbed Al-Qadasi in his back, damaging his right lung and main arterial vessels.

"We will start a full strike. We will quit working and stop receiving patients in private and general hospitals, and even the private clinics," said the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate two weeks ago.

"They called on all non-governmental organizations and on the local and international media to address with the case," said Dr. Reda Al-Aghbari, head of the Science and Technology hospi-



Doctors operating on Dr. Derhem Al-Qadasi on Dec. 24 after he was stabbed by relatives of a deceased patient. Al-Qadasi was announced as clinically dead and may not survive the attack.

tal's doctors' syndicate. "We will only deal with urgent cases," he adds.

"There has been very clear negligence towards this case for unknown reasons as it has been 25 days since the event happened and the responsible authorities have shown no interest," he said. "Although we asked the prime minister to address this issue and he promised that they will catch the killers as soon as possible, nothing has materialized."

Around ten representatives from the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate, teachers of Sana'a University and teachers of Dhamar university syndicates met yesterday with the prime minister to ask him how long it would take to find the killers.

"We are doing our best to catch the murderer as soon as possible," Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Mujawar said during the meeting.

"We ask you to give us two more weeks to catch them, and we promise that we will contact you with details and updates."

"We are going to hold a sit-in in front of the president's office on 22 January. If they didn't catch the killers we'll start a full strike no matter what the prime minister says," said Dr. Mohammad Al-Sermi, head of Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate in Sana'a.

"This is not just the crime of one man, this is a crime that concerns the whole community," he added.

Over four million damaged gas cylinders still in use nationwide

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Jan. 20 - Up to 4,144, 660 damaged cylinders are still in use around Sana'a and the rest of Yemen, according to a recent report by the Yemen Gas Company (YGC).

To protect the consumer, the Safety and Security Commission at the Ministry of the Interior has recommended removing damaged gas cylinders from the market and drawing-up a list of safe gas cylinder filling stations and suppliers nationwide.

In a recent meeting, the commission's chairman Major General

Saleh Hussein Zuari recommended establishing a map of available gas filling stations and gas cylinder suppliers in Yemen.

The commission further recommended compensating the owners of damaged gas cylinders removed from circulation, and called on the YGC to carry out its duty in designing and planning safe gas stations and gas cylinder stores.

With the YGC's approval, a Safety and Security Commission sub-committee will soon conduct a detailed report on the gas-filling stations and gas cylinders stores in the Sana'a

governorate.

The import of gas cylinders will be suspended for the next six months until the inventory of cylinders available on the local market is complete.

"Some traders import gas cylinders which do not go through the necessary examinations to check whether they meet local and international safety standards," said YGC deputy director Dr. Najib Al-Auag.

There are about 15 million gas cylinders and more than 22 types of cylinders imported from other countries in Yemen, according to the YGC.

Conflict in Sa'ada resumes

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Jan.22 - Tensions between Houthis and the government have resumed in several districts, particularly in Dhahian, Bani Mu'ad, and Mahdha, according to tribal sources.

The sources said that the new military sites that the army set up during the last few years created a tense atmosphere between the two sides in the areas located nearby the sites.

The sources said that soldiers deliberately block roads outside checkpoints to check citizens and identify them, thus allowing citizens proved to have no relations with Houthis to pass and intimidate Houthis.

The online website almenber.net, mouthpiece of Houthi leader Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, reported that groups of military forces deployed in the areas of Bani Mu'ad and Mahdha opened fire at random towards citizens and killed citizen Mohammed Haidar.

A release issued by the Houthi office said that Haider was hit with a bullet to his head and was left bleeding until he died, as the army prevented citizens' vehicles from approaching to save his life.

"Military groups attempt to control lands and properties of citizens in the area," said the source in the Houthi office. "Soldiers deployed in the area occasionally bulldoze and control lands in spite of continuous promises of mediation to remove the army from their property." The source added that military groups are still deployed in their lands and that they aim to seize more and more citizens' property.

Government officials at the Ministry of Interior denied receiving such reports on military clashes in Sa'ada while local security in Sa'ada were not available for the press to comment on the news.

Concerning mobilization of the government forces in new areas of some northern districts, Abdul Malek Al-Houthi said in a statement to Al-Deyar weekly newspaper that the army is



Child sitting on his family's share of emergency food supplies donated by relief agencies during the Sa'ada conflict.

mobilizing for war, pointing out that "mobilizing the army is not a message of peace. It doesn't indicate good intentions."

He said that not releasing detainees over the Sa'ada war and procrastination in reconstructing Sa'ada are "other negative signs that don't bode well."

Locals in Sa'ada expect that a sixth war may break out prior to conducting parliamentary elections scheduled next April. They said that Saleh's decision to stop the fifth war wasn't followed by strict practical procedures to ensure good intentions and initiatives.

They confirm that the situation is tense in Sa'ada as the army refused to withdraw from plantations and houses as well as continuous persecutions against Houthis. Additionally, they say that the siege is still imposed on villages and that Salafia supporters, supported by military leader Ali Muhsen Al-Ahmar and the government, refused to leave the mosques that belong to followers of Al-Zaidi sect. More importantly, they say that the government refuses free the detainees over the

Sa'ada war.

In addition, observers said that the government didn't reveal any information about the people missing during the war, and that compensations circulated in official media haven't reached the affected people who support the Houthis. They further confirmed that powers in the area are escalating the tension in the North by various means, including assassinations.

The war in Sa'ada had ended in July 2008 after four years of struggle. President Saleh declared the war over promising that it will never be back.

A committee for reconstructing Sa'ada and maintaining the peace was lead by the then minister of local administration Abdulqadir Hilal who resigned towards the end of the year because of dispute over his handling the peace and reconstruction process. Today the committee is chaired by Sa'ada governor.

Developing higher education

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA'A, Jan 21 - Increasing obstacles to the development of higher education such as lack of professors and outdated methodology were discussed by Sana'a University professors in a seminar held at Al-Afif Cultural Foundation on Tuesday.

The seminar was attended by Dr. Saleh Ba Sorah, the Minister of Higher Education, the Rector of Sana'a University Dr. Khalid Tamim, professors, activists, journalists and university students.

Ba Sorah presented the achievements in the field of Education. "We can't deny that there are some positive sides even if there are also negative ones. However, we should attempt to change our policies in the long run."

He added that the university laws must be respected by all. Moreover, he asked for the regular development of professors skills in specialized programs.

However, Dr. Aidarous Al-Naqeeb, a sociology professor at Sana'a University, stated that the present situation of Higher Education in Yemen causes bad educational outcomes. He pointed out that the proficiency level of basic knowledge among students is a generally weak.

Moreover, he pointed out that the absence of academic research is what delays the progress of education in Yemen. He cited recent international studies which rank Sana'a University at the 600 rank in comparison with other Arab universities in regard to its Educational outcomes.

Youth in the seminar discussed many issues about the educational and the learning obstacles. The seminar participants clearly addressed the Minister of the Higher Education and the rector of Sana'a University with their objections and their suffering at the University. The students demand them to consider the Education as the main bet for development in Yemen.

"We must try to benefit from other successful experiences in education of



Basic education for all is probably the only millennium Development Goal Yemen is likely to achieve by 2015. Higher education has not received as much attention.

other Arabic countries," said Dr. Abdo Al-Baqi Shamsan, politics professor at Sana'a University.

Regarding academic research

Shamsan also pointed out that, "Most research is conducted by doctors for the sake of promotion and nothing would be achieved after it."

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In Brief

HODEIDAH

Seven ships, oil tankers arrive in Hodeidah seaport

Seven ships and oil tankers arrived in Hodeidah seaport during the past three days carrying 32,188 tons of oil derivatives and wheat.

The oil tankers carried about 13,950 tons of oil and 4,917 tons of fuel oil.

The ships unloaded about 13,321 tons of wheat, while four other ships carried nearly 940 containers full of goods and other materials.

Yemeni navy seizes Egyptian boat

The Yemeni navy has seized an Egyptian boat that was fishing illegally in the country's territorial waters, the state-run 26sep.net has reported.

A source at the navy told the website the boat was captured in the Ras Eassa area in the Red Sea.

24 Egyptian fishermen were seized on board the boat, the source said.

This month, the navy seized four Egyptian boats while illegally fishing in Yemen's waters, the source said.

Last year, a Yemeni court fined three Egyptian boats \$ 150,000 that were held hunting fish illegally in the Yemeni waters.

However, the boats were released with fish on board to the captains.

Yemen and Egypt signed last year an agreement under which Egyptian fishing boats have to get license from Yemeni authorities to fish in the Yemeni waters.

Before the signing, an Egyptian fishing boat attacked a Yemeni coastguard patrol in the Red Sea killing a coastguard and injuring another.

In response to the attack, Yemen intensified measures over foreign fishing in its waters imposing a ban on Egyptian boats in particular.

ADEN

31,000 tons of iron, cement unloaded at Aden port

About 31,853 tons of iron and cement were unloaded in Mualla docks at Aden port on Monday, navigation sources at the port said.

The navigation sources added that the unloaded quantities include 27,838 tons of iron and 4,105 tons of cement, pointing that these quantities belong to the national developmental and investprojects which are currently under work in Aden province.

Department of German Studies, Language to be opened in Aden University

A new Department of German Studies and German Language will be officially inaugurated next Wednesday in the University of Aden.

In a press release, the Germany Embassy in Sana'a said that the department would be opened by German Ambassador to Yemen Michael Klor-Berchtold, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Abdul Karim Abdullah Al-Rawdi, and Rector of Aden University, Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Saleh Bin Habtour.

"Germany wants to emphasize the fruitful and long-lasting ties with the University of Aden, and inspire academic staff and students to enjoy an open exchange of views and engage in cooperation", said the embassy.

"Germany is convinced that education is the key for development. Through the new German Department, the international academic network offering studies in German culture and language will be strengthened and extended to anchor German as a foreign language more firmly in the Yemeni higher education system".

For a long time, it had been the

University of Aden's desire to establish a German Department. In October 2007, the German government sent a lecturer of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to Aden to assist the University in setting up a German Department.

In a joint process, a curriculum was developed and in October 2008, the first students registered for the new program. In Yemen, there are now two places to study German culture and language at university level: in Aden and in Sana'a.

YECO exports 2500 tons of salt to Seychelles Islands

The Yemen Economic Corporation (YECO) exported on Sunday about 2500 tons of salt to Seychelles Islands. The director of salt sector in YECO Abdul Rahman Hassan told Saba that the exported shipment's price amounted \$87,500.

Hassan also clarified that the YECO's production plan FOR 2009 intends to export commercial quantities to Seychelles and European markets through French companies expressed their willingness to import and market the Yemeni salt.

SANA'A

Yemen, GTZ discuss educational programs

Yemen and the German development organization (GTZ) reviewed on Monday the organizations' support to improve the quality of educational programs and their inputs in Yemen.

Deputy minister of education Abdullah al-Hamadi discussed with the director of Public Education Improving Program Rodulf Feifer in the GTZ the educational agreement's draft that will be signed by the ministry and the organization in the next two days to implement new projects.

During the meeting, al-Hamadi praised the organization's support in implementing the educational programs, calling for redoubling the efforts to cover the various aspects of education.

For his part, the director said his country would continue to support Yemeni efforts in developing the education and particularly the national strategies for secondary education.

Yemen, Indonesia discuss preparations for holding joint committee

Yemen and Indonesia discussed here on Monday the current preparations for holding the Yemeni-Indonesian committee meeting in Sana'a.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Karim al-Arhabi held an acquaintance meeting with the Indonesia newly appointed ambassador to Yemen Nour al-Awlia.

During the meeting he welcomed the ambassador, affirming that the country would provide all the necessary facilities to the ambassador during carrying out his mission.

For his part, the ambassador expressed his happiness for representing his country in Yemen.

Yemeni-Jordanian security talk session

A Yemeni-Jordanian talk session held here on Monday to follow up the implementation of the Yemeni-Jordanian security agreement.

The session co-chaired by Director of Foreign Affairs and International Criminal Police Abdul Kader Qahatan and Jordanian General Inspector of the Security discussed aspects of security cooperation in areas of training, security information exchange to fight against organized crime.

The talks also dealt with ways of activating the security cooperation agreement and what has been implemented of the previous security agreements.

Seminar on CSOs' role in combating corruption

Regional seminar on role of civil society organization in combating corruption was opened on Monday in Sana'a with participation of 35 participants from 13 Arab countries.

The four-day seminar was organized by Human Rights and Information and Training Center HRITC in cooperation with the Middle East Partnership Indicative MEPI.

During the seminar, the participants would discuss topics associated with doing national strategy for combating corruption and national teams of combating this problem as well as role of the civil society organization in carrying out articles of the UN anti corruption agreement.

In the seminar, the chairman of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption SNACC Ahmed al-Anisi said that the spreading of corruption in any society leads to damage all hopes of the development.

Al-Anisi said that all categories of the society are considered active elements for combating corruption and sending corrupted people to justice.

Minister of Justice Ghazi al-Aghbari reviewed steps taken by Yemen in domain of combating corruption, pointing of ratify of Yemen for several international related to combating corruption as well as establishment of the SNACC .

For his part, Azaeddin al-Asbahi, head of the civil society at the SNACC said that the seminar is a chance to exchanging experiences between the participating countries in combating

corruption. He affirmed importance of the civil society organizations' role in combating the corruption.

Yemeni killed on border with kingdom

A Yemeni citizen has been killed on border with Saudi Arabia while he was trying to smuggle Qat to Saudi lands.

Saudi border security shot dead the citizen.

According the Interior Ministry's Media Center, the citizen died immediately after a bullet struck his stomach.

His body was transported to hospital.

Yemeni authorities are waiting for accounts by Saudi police which have to reveal facts about the incident.

Early last year, Saudi border security burnt 18 Yemeni immigrants as they tried to enter Saudi territories to search for jobs. Reports said Saudi border security poured diesel on the immigrants and then set fire.

Human rights organizations have recently renewed calls for investigating the incident to take legal action against the perpetrators.

GOAM team discovers historical drawing for palace

A team of General Organization for Antiquities and Museums (GOAM) has discovered recently a drawing of palace in recent unearthed site in Raymat Homaid region of Sana'a governorate.

Minister of Culture Mohammed al-Maflahi stated to Saba that the team considered the statue as it contains clear drawings that picture a four- floors palace reflected style of the Yemeni architecture.

He added that the team was carrying out a survey in the site to study its history and importance.

Recently, Special Forces have discovered the site in the region.

Their News

Seeing history through the others' eyes

In a history textbook developed jointly, Germany and France are looking back on their entwined ways

By: Ambassador Gilles Gauthier and Ambassador Michael Klor-Berchtold

In remembrance of the Elysée-Treaty of 1963, the 22nd of January is celebrated as the French-German Day. Is this a mere confirmation of a long-standing and world-wide known friendship between two countries? Upon taking a closer look, this date turns out to be the turning point of one of the most ambivalent, sometimes tragic, but in the end fortunate developments of a bilateral relationship between nations.

Historically, the 22nd of January is a date pointing to the future. The "Treaty on the French-German Cooperation" was concluded 44 years ago by both sides as a tool to reach their distinct objectives. Today, the anniversary describes a success story of convergence, reconciliation and gradual acceptance of the other. Yet, the common past of the two countries goes back even further: Their competition during the race towards the top during the period of Industrialization turned into an arch-enmity after the French-German War in 1870/1. The atrocities of World War I and II seemed to cement the gap between the opponents forever.

So how could this relation be transformed to one of the closest friendships and partnerships in Europe? Following the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, it was the will to reconcile that characterized the beginning of the European Unification in the 1950s with an attempt to share coal and steel, i.e. means of war. Both countries wanted to avoid atrocities of previous wars for the generations to come. Images of the French-German summits over the last forty years speak for themselves: First, the embrace between Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle in 1963. Then the silent commemoration of Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl for the victims of Verdun in 1984, hand in hand. In 2004, the first invitation of a German Chancellor to the celebration of the landing of the Allied Forces in Normandy: Gerhard Schröder and Jacques Chirac demonstrated the French-German reconciliation with a heartfelt embrace. Finally, Nicolas Sarkozy and Angela Merkel lead a joint effort to stabilise the European economies facing the worldwide financial crisis.

If both countries, in 1963, aimed at preventing further confrontation, today they expect from each other that they

both further European interests in a decisive manner. By adding his own version of the treaty's preamble in 1963, Adenauer had strived for Germany's renewed independence, for its reunification and its inclusion in NATO. Today, more than ever, Germany assumes responsibilities within the European and the international network of states. What lies between now and then is the European integration, often considered ponderous but in reality moving extremely fast. As European nations, France and Germany have demonstrated to the world how former enemies can join forces and form a fruitful partnership for the benefit of the whole continent. It was proven that finding common solutions built on shared interests is the only way to turn rivals into winners: foes became friends and paved the way for the development of the EU.

Just as much as both sides had struggled to get close to another on the political level, the citizens had to come to trust each other. How deeply this trust is rooted nowadays is reflected by the completely natural way the post-war generation and their descendants are dealing with each other. The founding of the "French-German Youth Association", also in 1963, and hundreds of community twinning agreements between French and German villages and cities have opened the way for encounters of young and old citizens in both countries which have often led to deep and long lasting friendships. The French-German television channel ARTE has established itself in both countries with its high quality programme. Another prominent example for this development is the founding of the German-French "Youth Parliament" in 2003. One of its initiatives was to suggest a history book called "Histoire-Geschichte" for French and German High School students.

The first of three volumes, "Europe and the World since 1945", has already been in use since the winter term 2006/07. In 2008, the second volume "Europe and the World from the Vienna Congress until 1945" was released. The preface to the first volume already pointed out that "the book is not a presentation of French-German history, but a French-German history book". It is not only the history of one's own country that is meant to be taught and assessed but also common European history - at the same time and in particular from the view of the neighbouring country. The second volume covers the time from 1815 until 1945, i.e. from the end of the Napoleonic period until the end of the Second World War. It demonstrates the special character of German and French history: After one

and a half centuries of conflicts and wars, the two countries contributed decisively to the making of Europe as we know it today. Notable about this textbook is also that, while the initiative came from the political side, it was developed purely by German and French historians. Controversial subjects were simply presented as the controversies they are. In this way, the innovative textbook also turned out to be a historiographic document of a critical discussion on the past.

The complete three volumes of this book might be considered just another step on the path of two distinctive soloists towards their successful duet. As a daily companion in their school bags however, it will form the perception of French and German students of their common history and of a new Europe which is developing. It is a stronger symbol than any monument could ever be for the eventful French-German history, during which foes became friends. It will help the youth in both of our countries to see through each others' eyes.

U.N. Fears Fresh Attack in Darfur Town

TML - Armed groups are preparing for a battle over a town in the southern part of the war-torn Darfur region, fighting that could put as many as 30,000 civilians at severe risk, the United Nations said.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), a Darfur rebel group, took control of Al-Muhajiriyya last week, after battling troops belonging to Minni Arcua Minnawi, a former rebel leader and now an assistant to the president.

UNAMID, the joint U.N.-African Union force station in Darfur, said Minnawi's forces were planning a counter-attack after losing Al-Muhajiriyya to the rebels.

There are concerns about a new wave of violence as the conflict in Darfur enters its seventh year.

Clashes between the JEM and Minnawi's forces in recent days have resulted in an aid office being burned down. The U.N. has evacuated aid staff from the area.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is expected to make a decision in the next two weeks on whether to issue an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Umar Al-Bashir for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

Judges are studying evidence and are expected to issue their verdict before the end of this month.

Khartoum is rejecting accusations against Al-Bashir made by the ICC's Luis Moreno-Ocampo prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, and says the ICC's decision will be politically motivated.

A Sudanese security officer said last week that Westerners would become a target of attacks in Sudan and that violence would increase if the ICC issued the arrest warrant.

The conflict in Darfur began in early 2003, when local rebel groups rose up against the central government in

Khartoum, protesting decades of discrimination. The government has been accused of unleashing aggressive armed groups called the Janjaweed to counter the rebels.

According to international estimates, more than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.2 million displaced in what

some governments are calling genocide.

The Sudanese government is downplaying the death toll of the Darfur conflict, and says it is closer to 10,000.

A JEM commander has warned that an arrest warrant against A-Bashir would be marked by military action.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Yemen Times interview with British Council Middle East director:

“There has been an organizational shift in the way the British Council operates. The world is changing and we have to adapt to it.”

Middle East Director of the British Council Patrick Brazier has recently been on his first visit to Yemen since his appointment in October 2008. After more than 18 years of working at the British Council, sometimes in sensitive countries such as Uganda and Syria he believes today more than ever in the council's mission, which is to promote understanding and trust between people in the Middle East and the UK. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Brazier for the Yemen Times.

Operating in difficult environments The British council is a cultural organization with a mission to facilitate trust and understanding between the people of the UK and people around the world.

Because of the crises in trust between this part of the world and the UK or the west in general, cultural relations are more important in difficult environments than in stable ones.

It is so easy for people to look at security from a narrow angle and miss the wider aspect, which is people around the world listening and learning from either.

It is when security is bad that when we are needed the most, so even in difficult circumstances we continue to operate. It is during the difficult times that we really need to be there because it is about building long term trusting relationships and making the commitment to each other.

The Middle East region includes the six GCC countries plus Yemen and Iraq. We have been in Iraq since 2004, and maintained our operations there even under very difficult security environments.

Through our operations, we maintain relationships with our target partners, who in essence are three groups: decision makers, the next generation of leaders, or people in the middle stages who have the opportunity to implement work, and finally educated young people.

The work that we do in maintaining relationships between people in the UK and our partners is critically important. We need to maintain these relations in difficult times and not just in easy times because we have to build faith in our work and our operations.

That being said, we have an absolute duty to the people who work for us and those who engage with us not to expose them to direct danger. We have to install reasonable security measures to ensure their safety and to continue our operations. This is the challenging balance that we always have to maintain in difficult places.

We must remain open and available to people without compromising security.

Policy shift in operating programs

There is a significant organizational shift in the British Council. For seventy years at least the work we did and the relationships we built was enormously successful. However, the world is changing, and we have to adapt with it. And as an organization we have to recognize the global importance of cultural relations: it is not just local anymore.

One of the things that we discovered from years of experience is that if you have a big building you can only have it in one place in a country because of the cost. You invest an awful lot of money in bricks and water while being available only to a small number of people, many of whom could have access to the services anyway.

So we have instituted a policy change to more effectively use our resources in order to reach a wider number of people. In an environment such as Yemen, there is an additional factor, which is the danger of being open to public access. Unfortunately for some people, having an organization labeled “British Council” constitutes a target.

Having pushed into looking at developing partnerships models, we actually discovered that this is more effective and sustainable. And there is always a physical limit to the number of people who can benefit from our direct services. I think having a building in the past that people came to actually inhibited our thinking to allow us to become as creative and as innovative as we had to now as we respond to complex security situations.

So now we are somewhat outsource-

ing our services so that we can provide the ability to use those resources without subjecting our staff and people we engage with to direct danger.

There are security issues around people coming into a building to learn English, but there is a whole other set of economic factors around the council's offer of teaching English which we are looking at. But we actually do have a large number of English support activities here in Yemen. It is not as if we are not working with the language, but we are working with the people who are looking to spread the use and development of English. We are working through various government institutes to endorse the English language in Yemen rather than through paid English language courses provided directly by the British council.

English language projects in Yemen

We have two projects financed by the British embassy concerning English language in Yemen. One is the Francis Guy institute in the central political apparatus, and the other relates to English in basic education in schools.

Also, we have a large regional English project across the Middle Eastern region. We are currently looking at the whole curricula to improve the quality of English teaching and learning, which is a large scale regional project. Now we are providing workshops for English teachers in summer schools and getting them to pass this training on to other teachers in different parts of Yemen.

There is also a global suite of products which we call global English products. We launched them in Yemen and they are freely available for learners, parents, children, and so forth.

There are at least three different ways here in Yemen in which we are working on developing English language learning. In a sense, the only thing we are not doing is providing direct English lessons to individuals. We may be looking into models to do this, perhaps through partnerships with existing institutes or the university or so forth, to see if we can also provide a more direct way to facilitate the teaching of English in the future.

Cost and Impact balance

The Chevening scholarships are one of the British government's grants for aspiring individuals that we manage. But for this you have to keep in mind that it very expensive to fund the education of an individual, and so it is a lot of investment in one person.

In any program there is a balance between the cost and the impact. You have to make sure that you are spending your money most effectively to achieve the highest level of impact in the most efficient way. And what the foreign office has done is to develop a Chevening fellowship which is for shorter study in the UK, focusing on particular priority areas for midcareer or senior professionals who have a position in an organization to build their capacity. Often those people cannot get away from their work for more than three months, which is the duration of the fellowship. So for the equivalent of one person we have three fellowships on tailor-made shorter courses, and get people in a position of authority in order to implement the learning in their work.

So the amount of scholarships has decreased compared to the amount of fellowships, although generally the total number of scholarships and fellowships has decreased generally. This is because there is a sense of the balance between this particular way of engaging people and the other areas of program work.

Another aspect that we have explored recently is that we sought out other organizations that share our mission to endorse cultural relations around the world, and would be willing to contribute to the costs of British Council's work in ways that we haven't traditionally looked at. In this region, we have appointed a business-commercial manager who is a former business woman whose job is to go out and sell British Council projects and fund raising. Our ambition is to double our business contacts and partners who would be interested in our work, and to match the programs with funding.

It is about a cultural shift in the British council because we are an old-fashioned public organization and we haven't traditionally worked with businesses. It is really important that we



Patrick Brazier: Through the Connecting Classrooms program, we have an ambition that every single school in the UK will have an international connection. This way people in the UK have the ability to better understand and learn about the world.

think in a more business-like way, not about making money per se, but being more effective. Therefore, we are trying to attract businesses and institutions and individual philanthropic organizations to our work.

Regional or global projects

There are many regional projects that Yemen is a part of. Many of these programs are running on a long period of time and more than one cycle.

One is the 'English for the Future' project that we talked about earlier, whereby English expertise is exchanged across the region and the capacity of teachers is built through training.

In school level education we have a global program which is called 'Connecting Classrooms.' This program links schools in the UK with schools all around the world. It provides a whole set of training for teachers for school curricula, but the focus is a link between students. And of course, like all our work, it is about a two-way interaction. And it is equally important, and in some cases more important, that people in the UK have the ability to better understand and learn about the world. One thing about connecting classrooms is that we have an ambition that every single school in the UK will have an international connection. The overall goal is to provide those children with a broader international outlook on their life so that they can understand when they watch the headline stories in news that the reality is

much more than what they see.

Another regional program is 'Skills for Employability'. This is about vocational training and education, and again looking particularly at the situation of young people. As the title suggests, this program is about giving them the technical and vocational skills that would enable them to find jobs. In other words, we give them practical skills and not high level intellectual skills. We are not training young people directly; we provide the curricula, materials, and technical assistance to relevant ministries to allow development of vocational training. We are doing this in partnership with the Yemeni Ministry of Technical and Vocational Training.

We have a fourth program for higher education, known as 'Quality Assurance in Higher Education' which is in its early development stages and focuses on the quality assurance of higher education locally. It is about facilitating contacts with expertise from the UK to enable people to develop their quality assurance systems for higher education. We have done it with Sana'a and Aden Universities and the Science and Technology University through the Ministry of Higher Education.

Another strand with this program is research and capacity building in higher education. This program focuses on research at the university level and provides training and exchange of expertise between UK researchers and the Middle East.

We are also managing on behalf of the Department for International Development a program called the 'Development of Partnerships in Higher Education Program'. This program used to be called 'Higher Education Links' and it is an opportunity for universities in Yemen to form partnerships with universities in the UK and other countries for capacity building and institutional development.

In the overall area of the arts, we have a major regional exhibition called 'My Father's House' which is a graphics exhibition starting soon and will be touring the whole Middle East region. We expect that it will be in Yemen in June. It is an exhibition of photographs by British and regional photographers looking into aspects of history and architecture of religious houses. It is also about how people around the world interpret the concept of 'my father's house' in different cultures. So there are eight main photographers and we will be doing a series of activities around the exhibition itself.

We have the cultural leadership program, which is about improving the skills in arts management, called the 'International Cultural Leadership Program'. It is also about the ability for arts organizations to develop their management skills. It is still fairly in its early stages.

Additionally there is the global program called 'Voices' which is about artistic performances. The important element of that would be working with local performers and developing joint productions, joint activities, and workshops. This program is also just beginning.

Looking at a different aspect, we

have a program called the 'Global Change Makers.' We have a Middle East angle to the program which is about supporting people in developing local and community projects. It is about motivating the youth and the community to look into the global issues and see what can be done about them locally. Through this program, we provide people with advocacy and leadership skills so that they can work in areas of importance and make a difference within their local communities.

There is the 'Springboard' project which is a women's empowerment program. We have been running pilots in other parts of the region; we started in Saudi Arabia, and twenty five percent of the participants in the program in its first phase were either promoted or set up their own business.

We have a 'Global Exchange' program specifically set up in Yemen, which is an exchange between Yemen and the UK. In this program, we have a total of eight volunteers from Yemen and eight from the UK. This group of sixteen people does community work for three months inside Yemen and three months inside the UK. This will start by the end of 2009, Yemen being one of the priority countries in this region in the program.

We believe that by such programs we will be able to endorse the cultural exchange and learning process between Yemen and the UK, with the exchange working both ways. It is about tapping into the international experiences and different cultural experiences in different ways of looking into the world to address specific problems in the UK and in other countries.

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For more information on British Council Global Projects in Yemen: English for the Future contact Julia Cavesmith (Julia.cavesmith@ye.britishcouncil.org) Connecting classrooms contact Hanna Al-Shami(hanaa.alshami@ye.britishcouncil.org) Skills for Employability contact Nawaf Shamsan (nawaf.shamsan@ye.britishcouncil.org) My Father's House contact Salah Salem (salah.salem@ye.britishcouncil.org) Development of Partnerships in Higher Education contact Edrees Al-Qadasi (edrees.qadasi@ye.britishcouncil.org) Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Research in Higher Education contact Edrees Al-Qadasi (edrees.qadasi@ye.britishcouncil.org) Global Change Makers contact Nawaf Shamsan (nawaf.shamsan@ye.britishcouncil.org) Global Exchange Nawaf Shamsan (nawaf.shamsan@ye.britishcouncil.org) Springboard contact Huda Saleem (huda.saleem@ye.britishcouncil.org) International Cultural Leadership Program contact Salah Salem (salah.salem@ye.britishcouncil.org) Voices contact Salah Salem (salah.salem@ye.britishcouncil.org) For information on British Council business partnerships in the region contact Business and Commercial Partnerships Director Larissa Malycheva (larissa.malycheva@ae.britishcouncil.org)

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The story of UAE-donated wheat

By: Nabeel Haidar

It is not the first time for facts to clash with lies and false rumors, nor will it be the last time for the same thing to occur. The fact has been accustomed to wears of the victim while false rumors are put on the perpetrator's dress. This is the story.

In last May that coincided with the climax of the global food crisis, the price of grains, most notably wheat, skyrocketed in a non-imaginable way due to efforts to obtain energy sources at the expense of certain agricultural products. At that time, United Arab Emirates (UAE) took an initiative by announcing its food assistance to some Arab states. It approved to donate 500 thousand tons of wheat to Yemen as part of the assistance.

It was only few weeks since the story was published until numerous questions about fate of the UAE-donated wheat were raised. Other questions asked about where the donation is stored.

It was not a long time for the story

until it turned out to take the form of top priority reports published on front pages of some local newspapers alleging that the donated wheat might have gone to the unknown.

Through the manner of fast foods that needn't more spices, a crucial part of the fact was exploited irresponsibly by some politicians to serve irresponsible political purposes, like what happened recently during one of the partisan festivals.

As most of us are not familiar with investigation and examination of facts, we turned to believe that the UAE-donated wheat has already disappeared or gone to the unknown. Even after the government declared this past Ramadan its plan to distribute the donated wheat to those vulnerable cases registered in social welfare offices, which implied that the donation hasn't disappeared.

The plan, declared by the government, was exploited to deny lies committed in this regard as we used to jump forward without considering the numerous gradual stages of discussing issues.

Numerous stages in this regard were never considered like some people's attempt to bury real facts on the ground due to their being living in vacuum or their being unable to live except amid controversies.

The stages, which were not considered by some local newspapers and some their misled readers, are those related with the consecutive arrangements for the consignments of donated wheat to reach Yemen. Such arrangements are not that simple or easy.

We are all misled

Before explaining such arrangements, I would like to frankly say that I believed that the UAE-donated wheat might have disappeared having heard a lot of rumors in this regard. Having realized the real fact, I turned to ask some of my colleagues, mainly those following the wheat donation story and found that we are all on a misleading track. I discovered that we all learn nothing about the fact, as nothing of the donated wheat reached Yemen, and that the first consignment of the assistance is due to be transported to Yemen

soon.

In order for some of us not to jump over the numerous stages of understanding how facts proceed, I would like to say the following:

The UAE-donated wheat was delayed up for reasons that are even unrelated with the donor. The quantity was not available in the UAE local market. Being reliant on the international market, provision of the wheat quantity must undergo several purchase and procurement procedures, as well as is governed by factors of available quantities in the internal market.

This is the real story of the UAE-donated wheat, which by itself denies all the baseless and false rumors promoted for the sake of serving certain political purposes. Here, I don't defend the government, which is the side being targeted by such fabricated lies and accused of manipulating the assistance.

I rather accuse it of being careless about clarifying facts to people and rescuing them from being misled.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

Parties ignore women's rights: Will it lead them to establish their own political party?

By: Najeeb Ghallab

Regardless of their affiliation, Yemeni parties continue to act within a traditional social and cultural context when it comes to dealing with women. This context is hostile to women's rights and their humanitarian role in the construction and progress of society. Despite some of these promoting ideas of modernization, they ignore women's rights and contribute to perpetuating a traditional environment which focuses on the negative role of women.

Women are still subjected to traditional norms, and their resistance is restricted by shyness and fear. Laws that relate to women, for example, obey the Salafi traditional vision, but the women's movement has not yet shown any serious or organized objection to them.

This painful reality does not mean that all political activities relating to women are dark. Some women's power has shown signs of light in civil society. These women are backed by active cultural and political figures that deal widely with women issues. The problem is that most people concerned with women's issues are overpowered by political concerns, often employing women's issues in the context of the political conflicts but forgetting the miserable reality of women.

In following political and social activities, one can find that the political

speeches of most political currents tactically deal with different women's issues. In public, the speech takes on a liberal democratic note as it rejects political tyranny and dictatorship against women. It calls for freedom, equality, human rights and the end of oppression against women.

Still, this political speech moves within a traditionally-restricted social field "ideologized" under the pretext of religion. The political fundamentalists in Yemen, for instance, may be in alliance with those who contradict their trends just to face the ruler, but they will not join forces with modern powers using contemporary language to address women issues.

What makes the liberal values more difficult in Yemeni society is that the traditional values presenting an obstacle to women are not criticized even by the illuminated cultural and ideological powers in the political field. This facilitates the role of traditional powers in defining the situation of women without criticism and with the support of the conservative Salafis. It is also notable that traditional laws are approved in Parliament without real disagreements between the sides of political conflicts.

Yemeni political parties are all similar in what regards women's issues as none of them has given us a clear vision, despite liberal powers with modernizing visions inside these. There are therefore two main powers with regard to women: modernizing and traditional powers.

The problem with the illuminated powers inside the different political currents is that they are unable to highlight women's issues amid political conflict. Contradictory political alliances have marginalized modern ideology related to women. For example, the Socialist party, as a pioneer of modernization, is no longer able to counter traditional thought. It has renounced on the issues of women as well as social and ideological modernization. It has neglected women's accomplishments and, consequently, lost this supporting power as it has ignored the role of women by focusing on the political conflicts.

Modernizing powers in the General People's Congress (GPC) may be more active in supporting women's issues. However, the GPC, as a ruling party, faces many problems as its wide alliances and dependence on traditional powers has encouraged it to adopt a traditional vision of women. In spite of party leader statements in support of women's rights, religious powers inside the party continue to be confined to the local vision and it has failed to highlight the issue of liberating women from extremist visions.

It should be clear that liberating women from a bad reality doesn't mean exceeding the original values of the society. Women need a system of rights to cope with the Islamic norms free from tradition. They also need modernizing religious visions to be in accordance with different changes.

The Islah party, which has a religious

trend, is unable to rid itself of the crisis with regard to women's issues, despite its appearance of ideological flexibility among some of its members. Its intellectuals cannot criticize the party's religious system as it could result in its disintegration. There are some women's groups inside the party which are liberal compared to its traditional construction and are able to employ religion in a positive way to resist traditions and contribute to the establishment of a liberal Islam. Yet these powers are weak and surrounded with traditions of the past.

With regard to the traditional powers, they are tribal, social and religious as well as partisan fundamental powers which in some cases, overlap. In this respect, the religious current deals with women's issues according to norms which based on tribal attitudes, not religious values. That is, it understands women's issues out of its historical readings of Islam once dominated by tribal norms and traditions. The role of this current focuses on preventing women from committing vice. Although it may urge women to practice political activities in order to be seen as free from a traditional framework, it insists that their function is restricted to home tasks. Therefore, political Islam in Yemen has only done a little to liberate women from a traditional structure.

The means for change lie within legislation and political decisions. Highlighting the importance of rights is also important in order to cope with human rights in the world. It should be noticed that political decisions cannot be effective if issued in a traditional environment where modernization is weak. This is because traditionalists believe that these decisions destruct their ideological construction. The cultural dimension is also a key point to consider in raising awareness and making a change that aims to achieve equality and overcome discrimination against women. To conclude, establishing a women's political party with the strong participation of men may destabilize the traditional construction with regard to women's issues. Because women have electoral power, they can construct effective political power.

A new party may contribute to exerting pressure on the traditional powers to respond to the fair demands of women. It may also lead the opposition parties to adopt a logical program that understands reality and copes with the era.

Source: Almotamar.net



SKETCHED OPINION

By: Samer

COMMON SENSE

Barack Hussein Obama's Inauguration A Refreshing Turn of the Page in US History



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Notwithstanding the long and churned eight year past history of the United States and the really tragic topping of the George W. Bush Presidency with the approved massacre in Gaza, if not the directed one by the Bush Administration, Barack Obama launched his Presidency of the United States with a very carefully constructed speech that said very little about how he would deal with the issues that confront his first term of office. On the other hand, it should be borne

in mind that Obama was now not compelled to give any promises, nor predict the outcomes of his tackling of the awesome tasks that lie before him, starting Wednesday morning. He was nevertheless unflinching at attempting to tie America's future with what was once an idyllic almost comprehensible past that had clearly almost predictable directions and understandable defined ideals. This was indeed a necessity after his predecessor had drowned the United States in failures both in the domestic front and in mesmerizing calamities in the foreign front. This was an effort to tie his campaign rhetoric with pragmatic appeals for Americans to get back to showing off what America is really all about, for that is the only way America could ever regain its leadership of the world. For people like Barack Obama and Bill Clinton their understanding of America is tied with a movement of people dedicated to doing good and righteous deeds rather than imposing ludicrous ideals that tended to bring prosperity to a select group, albeit at the expense of the overwhelming majority of the American people, and even if by bringing damage to any sort of international harmony that may have been achieved by previous American administrations.

President Barack Obama will be forced to bring about his vision of a rehabilitated America that will not only rebut the blunders of the G W Bush Administration, but seek to set America on a responsible superpower role, with its power relegated to the projection of an America as its founders had envisioned and which the remembered great leaders that followed sought to personify.

Leading big nations has not always been easy and successful as the former Soviet Union clearly has shown us. But failure and success are outcomes of human actions and efforts. Surely, Barack has personified the insurmountable capacities of man to harness his intellect and rapidly developed political intuitions to make an extraordinary success story, which one must admit can only happen in the United States. The ability to harness a well organized grass roots following by using the most modern developments in communications has certainly been at the root of his success to make it to the White House. Mind you this was done amidst the challenges presented by more experienced and refined political adversaries, who already had well established political machines, while Obama then at the start of his drive to the White House had not even been known beyond the streets of Chicago.

Many analysts and observers were rather perplexed by Obama not having made any statements about the recent situation in Gaza. Surely, one should not expect Obama to fall for the "test" that may have been put before him just to see how he would react, even though he has not even sat behind his Oval Office desk. The rather coincidental timing of the ending of the Gaza Assault with the beginning of the Obama Presidency may be a signal that the Israelis realize that Israel will simply not have same leeway that it had enjoyed over the last eight years, with its hands rendered free to unleash its deadly American weaponry anyway it likes as it continues to systematically pursue its sky is the limit Zionist agenda. One is not gullible to the point of believing that Washington will now be turning to Mecca rather than Jerusalem as Middle East policy is shaped and executed. However, at least Obama is free from the vice of the powerful Zionist lobby, although the lobby will work tirelessly to seek the points of penetration that will enable the lobby to exploit to the fullest its influence to ensure that Israel maintains its position of "alliance" with the United States. With the rather weak presence of a poor Arab lobby and a poor Arab regional regime in the Arab World, one would be foolish to think that Israel will have it tough over the next four years. However, Israel may be wise after being successfully challenged twice by relatively small organized anti-Israel resistance movements, when compared with the awesome force of the Israel "Defense" Forces (which has been mostly on the offensive in its sixty years of history) to begin thinking about pursuing a more resilient course that will reflect a more fervent desire to live peacefully with its neighbors, recognizing that they are worthy of being considered as civilized folk, with children who should be spared the frightful nights of screaming F-16s and heavily armed Apache helicopters and deadly drones.

For Obama the challenges are tremendous, but he is opting to enter the roll of America's finest Presidents. The observer is bound to believe that he just might make it against all these tremendous odds. With a name like Hussein in the middle there is a strong taint of goodwill that might make it to the Presidency. Imam Hussein was one of the most utopian and idealistic Moslem leaders in Moslem history (Seventh Century AD). A Christ-like figure, Hussein believed that freedom and civilized government are indeed worth sacrificing one's life for. Hussein and his few followers were ambushed by a force that was almost 30 times their number and armed to the teeth, which was under one of the most tyrannical rulers that came after the death of Hussein's father Ali Bin Abu Talib, cousin of the Prophet Mohammed (PABUH).

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

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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khaireldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor
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Mohamed bin Sallam

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Mahmoud Al-Assamiee
Mariem Al-Yameni
Ola Al-Shami

Offices

Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

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The failure of force: An alternative option

By: Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan

The Gaza crisis highlights the urgent need for an international agency to lead the region towards a long-term and sustainable peace, says Prince Hassan of Jordan.

The United Nations partition plan of 1947 in the middle east did not include an agenda for implementation. This and many subsequent failures have meant that during the subsequent sixty years, thousands have died needlessly in several wars involving Israel and its Arab neighbours. Today, once again the region rings with the cries of hatred, anger and violence and the land is soaked with the blood of the innocent dead. Fear and suffering, the misery of those who cannot even flee, and massive destruction burden the living. Now, in the third week of the latest war, over 1,000 Gazan Palestinians have been killed, and over 4,000 injured - approximately 40 percent of whom have been women and children. In some instances, entire families have been wiped out as they sheltered together in their homes. (November 2007)

The tragedy unfolding in Gaza today epitomises the failure of force to achieve solutions. It could have been different. Instead we are witnessing an humanitarian crisis of catastrophic proportions in a conflict with far-reaching

implications: first and foremost for the people of Palestine, but also for the immediate region and far, far beyond.

The challenge

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a woeful tale of missed opportunities, broken promises, moments of hope shattered by renewed acts of aggression and an entrenchment of polarised positions. At this precise moment, mutual suspicion, distrust and the pain of cumulative trauma on both sides, coupled with the need to satisfy the demands of domestic constituencies, drown rational discourse. In addition, the terrifying toll of recent days - human lives lost, infrastructure pulverised, and psyches destroyed by trauma - places a further block on all non-violent opportunities for creative solutions.

In the immediate days ahead, there is an urgent need to open up new channels for discussion with all parties to the conflict. The United Nations secretary-general's interventions are welcome; yet neither he nor anyone else seems to have any long-term proposals. While it is certain that united international pressure is urgently needed to halt the violence on both sides, a ceasefire in and of itself cannot win the peace.

The politics of fear must give way to the politics of hope. There is desperate need of a vision that offers powerful evidence of the immediate potential of

the peace dividend in terms of improvement in conditions on the ground. In the longer term, supranational issues - water, energy, the environment, arms control, economic refugees - issues often regarded as a source of conflict, should be transformed into sources of long-term stability. Peace should be consolidated through real economic empowerment.

However, any meaningful peace initiative must address the region as a whole (inclusive of Iran and Turkey). There must also be continuous engagement, the absence of which has caused past processes to founder. A new mechanism is needed that can withstand political volatility and ensure that no one party can jeopardise continued conversation or block the achievement of a negotiated settlement through dialogue. That is the challenge for all concerned.

The agency

Clearly, at this moment, neither Israel nor Hamas can themselves initiate this process. This, in the context of the present dire circumstances, raises the question: could a temporary international stabilisation agency take over formal, legal jurisdiction, to establish and oversee the development of provisional democratic self-governing institutions to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Palestine and Israel?

Such an agency would assume a temporary caretaking role in both the occupied territories and the disputed areas of Israel, simultaneously meeting the demand for an end to occupation and minimising internal fears of appearing to concede on political positions. Its primary responsibility would be to undertake effective and even-handed peace enforcement, inclusive of decisive action against any act of terror or violence. As such, the agency would be an international mediating force which could protect Arabs from Israelis, Arabs from Arabs, Israelis from Arabs, and Israelis from Israelis.

Gaza has been effectively destroyed. In the Gaza strip, therefore, the agency would instigate and supervise the restoration of basic services, the rebuilding of national institutions, and the training of the now-decimated police force. Throughout the occupied territories it would also assist in rehabilitating refugees, attracting and managing proper development funds and projects rather than mere aid, monitoring future elections, and facilitating final-status negotiations with the Israelis. Additionally, it should assist in the empowerment of the Palestinians through the promotion of national unity. This will require supporting forthcoming elections - including representatives of all parties, of current prisoners and refugees - so that the agency becomes

truly representative of the Palestinian people.

The moment

When all the factors of nationalism, ethnicity, religion and history are stripped away, what remains are the unresolved issues of sovereignty - both of Palestine and of Israel.

If this region is to develop an interdependence of sovereign states, we must first discuss issues of legitimacy, authority, and jurisdiction, and define these issues in terms of long-term goals. The carrot of economic cooperation cannot be held out as a substitute for political rights. Rather, a regional community for water and energy must be premised on its contribution to the human environment, dedicated to the preservation of human dignity, and beyond the reach of ideologues and corrupt politicians.

Such an initiative would require a carefully chosen "Track II" team of regional representatives, inclusive of civil society, academics, facilitators and others able to adopt a nuanced approach to the various issues. Their task would be twofold - to mediate, negotiate and facilitate with the necessary sensitivity, and to advance cooperation on the full range of trans-regional issues.

In brief, three steps are proposed. First, the implementation of an immediate ceasefire. Second, the establishment

of a temporary international stabilisation agency to monitor and mediate between all parties on the ground. Third, a long-term Track II team to facilitate and support a sustainable negotiated settlement on all issues.

Our mutual survival demands a long-term and sustainable peace, and a recognition of interdependent sovereignties across the entire region. To continue to depend on the rule of force and on power as a deterrent will merely be to foster greater extremism.

Today, large numbers of people are suffering. To allow the conflict in Gaza to continue will be nothing less than an indication of moral bankruptcy; of the failure of those involved - of both parties to the conflict, of regional players, of the Quartet, the European Union, the United States and of the international community as a whole - to seize the moment, and act before it is too late.

Is the fertile crescent to become a futile crescent? Or can we, collectively, wake up and find the moral courage and political vision for a quantum-leap in Palestine?

Prince Hassan is a senior member of the Jordanian royal family, and president of the Arab Thought Forum. His official website is www.elhassan.org Also by Prince Hassan in openDemocracy: Annapolis: a view from Amman" (26 November 2007).

Gaza solidarity ups street vending, changes fashion trends

Street vendors and shop owners in both Europe and the Arab world are making big gains as people rush to buy Palestinian Keffiyeh scarves, flags, and other symbolic items that demonstrate their support for the people of Gaza. In Beirut's Hamra district, the assault on Gaza has changed a previous popular fashion trend, vendors tell MENASSAT.

By: Alexandra Sandels

Ali has been selling various items from his car in Hamra for the past twenty-five years, including socks, umbrellas, and the traditional Palestinian scarves - known as the kiffiyeh.

But this year marks the first time Ali is ordering the white and black and the white and red in large quantities - the colors that are closely associated with Palestinian resistance. Obviously he says these particular scarves have been in high demand since the start of the Gaza crisis on December 27.

"It's really the first year that I'm selling these two colors exclusively. And ninety percent of the customers want these exact colors. You wouldn't imagine the demand," Ali told MENASSAT.

"Look at this," says Ali, pulling out a plastic bag stacked with black and white, and red and white keffiyehs. "They're all going to Canada. All sixteen of them. A man came by yesterday and bought them."

On the side of Ali's car keffiyehs hang

in all different colors - yellow and black, pink and black, purple - among other colors, which means they are not popular at the moment, he says.

"These are for artists and fashion for girls and boys. But those who care and who want to show a statement wear these," he says and holds up a black and white colored keffiyeh.

On a nearby street, Ali's statement is echoed by numerous shop owners

Majed works at Bronzini, a small store in the west Beirut district of Hamra selling keffiyehs and various kinds of plastic kitsch jewelry. He told MENASSAT that the fashion trend that swept through Hamra around six months ago has come to an end, since the start of the attacks on Gaza.

"The first six months, everyone was wearing keffiyehs in different colors. Now it's mainly black and white and red and white because of Gaza. And the black on black because of Ashoura," Majed explained.

Across the street from Majed, another vendor who goes by Hassan stands outside Bennetti Shoes where he works,

also in Hamra. He says that the increase in demand in keffiyehs, especially the black and white ones, has resulted in fierce competition that has forced vendors to knock down prices.

The cheapest, he says, is the Chinese made keffiyeh scarf which costs around 5,000 Lebanese Pounds (\$3.50 US). The Indian-made goes for a bit more, around LB 10,000 (\$7.00). Several shops sell their keffiyehs for LB 8,000 (\$5.50).

Even the popular retail clothing chain Jack and Jones in Hamra that caters to a European-style clientele, is now selling keffiyehs at high prices, says Hassan.

Two school students walk by, both wearing the black and white colored keffiyehs. "You see what I'm talking about," he says.

Coins, bracelets, and flags

Symbolic items such as bracelets with the Palestinian flag and a map of Palestine carved out in metal also appear to be high in demand.

At a small store towards the end of Hamra Street, the owner says that all his bracelets with Palestinian flags are sold out. Another popular item in his shop at the moment are also necklaces with gold metal coins with Palestine engraved on them.

Outside Dany Wool and Toys Store in west Beirut hang large Palestinian flags and keffiyeh style scarves written on them "El-Quds lina - Our Jerusalem." An



A display of kiffiyeh's on a vendor's car in the west Beirut district of Hamra. ' Alexandra Sandels.

employee at the store says that those scarves were taken in especially for Gaza and that more flags are on their way - "large enough to drape your car with."

Not far from the store stand two students who have just come back from a protest in solidarity with Gaza held nearby.

The two Palestinian flags they are

holding and the keffiyehs they are wearing were recently purchased, they told MENASSAT.

Meanwhile, the Gaza war has also helped to establish a market in other markets throughout Europe and in the Middle-East.

Black and white keffiyehs were seen on display in vendor huts in the squares from Paris to Stockholm's Sergels Torg

square.

In neighboring Cairo, street vendors are peddling keffiyehs to pedestrians and drivers, "selling whatever is popular or on demand at the time," in the Egyptian capital, the Daily News in Egypt reported.

Music revival

Music sales, at least in Hamra, also appear to have gone through a bit of a transformation since the start of Israel's war on Gaza.

Shadi, who works at Samer Music Shop in west Beirut, says he is now selling a lot of "Arab and Palestinian artists" such as Marcel Khalife, Fairuz, and Julia Boutros.

"Before I used to sell perhaps one Marcel Khalife album and one Fairuz CD per week. Now I'm selling four instead. So there has been a definite shift in demand," he told MENASSAT.

At C and C Music, employee Khaled says he's been selling significantly more music from Lebanon, Syria, the Gulf, and Palestine since the start of the war on Gaza.

Marcel Khalife is again a favorite along with Lebanese Julia Boutros, whose album Khaled cannot find. "I've run out of stock of that one," he says.

A display of kiffiyeh's on a vendor's car in the west Beirut district of Hamra. © Alexandra Sandels.

The Battleground at Home

By: Elayne Clift
Women's Feature Service

Two years ago, Sergeant Carlos Renteria, recently returned from his first tour in Iraq, began drinking heavily and arguing with his wife, Adriana. Then he became abusive, choking, beating and smothering her with a pillow. Arrested and charged with assault, Sgt. Renteria has yet to face any consequences. Instead he has been redeployed to Iraq twice.

About the same time, Army Special Forces trainee Richard Corcoran, who had served in Afghanistan, got mad at his estranged wife, Michele, and went to her home, gun in hand. Michele survived the wounds inflicted by Corcoran. He committed suicide. It was the sixth time he had created a "domestic disturbance," the local sheriff's office said. The military had taken no action.

Shalamar Franceschi died at the hands of her husband Damien at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 2002. He had already been accused of raping and kidnapping her. Prior to the 2002 murder, Franceschi's commanding officer had been notified of Damien's crimes against his wife but did nothing to restrict or punish him.

In fact, the Franceschi and Corcoran cases are among several involving Fort Bragg. This year, three female soldiers were killed at the base. One woman was seven months pregnant. Another had

been dismembered. In all three cases, the victim's boyfriend or husband was charged. Each suspect had served time in Iraq.

The overall statistics are sobering. In 2001, there were 18,000 reported cases of spouse abuse involving military personnel; 11,000 were substantiated. Eighty-five per cent of the abuse was physical. According to a written response from the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program (DoD FAP), domestic violence or "domestic abuse," as the military often calls it, has been steadily declining since then. The FAP figures reflect that 15,000 cases were reported in 2007, with 7,000 cases being substantiated.

However, that data includes only those incidents involving married individuals. Another 602 cases were reported in 2007 involving intimate partners. A significant caveat suggests that these numbers are low: In order to be counted by the FAP, an incident must involve "a person of the opposite sex with whom the victim shares a child in common" or with whom the victim has shared a common domicile. Further, "the data only reflects domestic abuse reported to the DoD FAP. It is not an estimate of the total amount of domestic abuse that occurred in the military."

Women most likely to be abused are civilians married to someone in the military for two years or less. On an average, they are under 25 years and more than 50 per cent of them live off base.

Fewer than seven per cent of spouse abuse cases are adjudicated by court martial. "Court martial is the most severe disciplinary action available," says Army Lt. Col. Lesh Melynk of DoD's Public Affairs office. "... Policy states that 'allegations of offenses should be disposed of in a timely manner at the lowest appropriate level of disposition listed.'"

Often, cultural and institutional barriers prevent individuals and families from getting help. Constant relocation serves to isolate victims from their support systems. Further, the only military personnel granted complete confidentiality in their communications with service people are chaplains. Victim advocates, social workers, therapists and health providers are generally required to report suspected domestic violence, usually to the perpetrator's boss. Victims are, therefore, reluctant to report abuse for fear of retaliation or negative career consequences for spouses.

The DoD says it offers "limited confidentiality" when a victim makes a restricted report seeking support, counselling and assistance. This policy is "intended to encourage victims to come forward and seek help..." However, "once the victim seeks to make an unrestricted report and potentially engage the judicial system in an effort to hold the offender criminally accountable, the military rules of evidence regarding privileged communication apply."

The DoD divides the severity of phys-

ical abuse into three categories: severe, moderate and mild. In order for the physical abuse associated with domestic violence to be considered severe it must involve major physical injury that requires inpatient medical treatment or that causes disability or disfigurement. So, Sgt. Renteria's attempts to strangle his wife could only be defined as mild or moderate abuse.

In a 2004 article, 'Post Traumatic Shock: Violence in Military Families Goes Untreated', psychologist Stephanie Mines pointed out that the rate of domestic violence in America's Armed Forces is more than double that of the civilian population - 3.1 incidents per 1,000 civilians compared to 6.5 incidents per 1,000 military people, with military incidents considered under-reported. The DoD claims these figures are spurious since they don't take into account the "differences in military and civilian contexts" and don't reflect similar research methodologies.

Mines suggests that "agitated and traumatised soldiers become violent because, paradoxically, this provides their halcyon moment. Battle is the environment that gives them identity, so they create a battleground at home." But the DoD says it has no data that shows a documented correlation between active duty service personnel returning from Iraq or Afghanistan and an increase in domestic violence in the military.

Still, the military began to realise the severity of the problem of domestic vio-

lence in the 1990s. The problem was especially visible after three soldiers stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky were charged with killing their wives or girlfriends. Congress took note and appointed a task force to investigate the problem and make recommendations for improvement.

In 2001, a report from the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence to then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld made it clear that services aimed at preventing the escalation of domestic violence were insufficient. Most often anger management classes or couples counselling were ordered, which experts feel, are woefully inadequate measures.

Following the 2001 Task Force report, Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz issued a 25-page memorandum stating DoD's policy toward domestic violence, which remains unchanged. "This policy," says Lt. Col. Melynk, "is implemented by the Services through a variety of written policies and local orders. Enforcement is conducted by military commanders, who are responsible for the well-being of the personnel under their command and their family members, using their usual formal and informal inspection authority and formal investigations initiated by inspectors general at different levels."

The U.S. military states on its website that "criminal conviction of even a misdemeanor involving domestic violence can end a service member's military

career." However, given the paucity of cases that go to court martial, few careers appear to be at risk. Further, military spokespeople seem reluctant to discuss the matter. The National Military Family Association, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of the U.S. DoD, DoD FAP and the Military Family Resource Center all failed to return phone calls during research for this article. In a brief conversation Lt. Col. Melynk declined to comment on the Renteria case. "It is inappropriate for us to comment about ongoing litigation," he said, adding that the DoD provides general policies to the Armed Services but leaves enforcement to them "in the spirit of the regulations."

While members of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence say the military is making progress on the issue, many of its recommendations, adopted in spirit, have yet to be implemented. "To eradicate domestic violence in the military will take a cultural shift that condemns violence as criminal behaviour and does not excuse it because of the compartment of the victims, the alcohol or drug abuse of the offender, the stress the offender is under, or even how sorry the offender is afterwards," a Task Force member told 'Mother Jones' magazine online.

Meanwhile, Adriana Renteria, now separated from her husband, told the 'New York Times', "I feel that nobody is in my corner. Because he wears a uniform, he is protected by everybody."

Yemen Country Report

Economic policy outlook 2009

By: Economist Intelligence Unit

Policy Trends

Rising public discontent will ensure that the government is slow to implement much-needed fiscal reforms, especially fuel-subsidy reductions, despite the pressing fiscal need. Instead, it will seek to maximize Yemen's remaining hydrocarbons reserves by accelerating the pace of oil and gas exploration, offering more generous contract terms to international oil companies. However, as oil reserves, which currently provide most of its fiscal and export income, are expected to be depleted in 10-15 years, the government will also seek to promote development of the non-oil sector. To support these efforts, at a conference in London in 2006, international donors pledged some US\$5bn (to be disbursed in 2007-10) to finance projects outlined in the government's five-year Development Plan for Poverty Reduction (DPPR). However, if the recent oil price fall is sustained, Yemen is unlikely to be able to afford its share of the projects in the DPPR, forcing it to turn to its international donors once more, especially those in the Gulf.

In 2009-10 the government plans to encourage local private enterprise and attract foreign investors by strengthening the financial sector, increasing the number of microfinance banks, modernizing the local commercial courts, reducing red tape and updating investment regulation. These efforts will continue to be hindered, however, by a poorly educated workforce and an unstable security climate, as well as by the increased risk aversion of banks in the wake of the global financial crisis.

Fiscal Policy

Yemen's fiscal account is set to deteriorate markedly over the outlook period, as oil prices fall steeply from their highs of mid-2008. The fall in oil prices and production is expected to push overall revenue down by some 22% in 2009, despite the coming on stream of Yemen's first liquefied natural gas (LNG)

project, known as Yemen LNG. In response, the government has proposed a relatively conservative budget for 2009, and has included a provision to cut back spending further if required. It should be assisted in this by the steep drop in oil prices, which will allow outlays on the fuel subsidy to fall significantly, although the decline in fuel import costs may also reduce the urgency of further subsidy cuts. This will be insufficient to prevent a sharp widening of the fiscal deficit in 2009, from an estimated YR352bn (US\$1.8bn), or 7.1% of GDP, in 2008 to YR747bn (13.7% of GDP), larger than the Economist Intelligence Unit's previous forecast, owing to a downward revision in our oil price projections.

In 2010 revenue will recover slightly, as oil prices pick up and the second LNG train comes on stream. Nevertheless, political concerns will prevent any major fiscal rationalization, such as the elimination of the fuel subsidy or a reduction in the public-sector workforce, and, as a result, the fiscal deficit should remain large, at around YR692bn. Financing this deficit may prove challenging. Although the Ministry of Finance can use Treasury-bill sales to the banking sector, local banks will struggle to absorb the entirety of the shortfalls, and thus the government will have to rely increasingly on concessional foreign lending (and, possibly, even assistance from the IMF).

Monetary policy

Yemen's financial system is highly underdeveloped, and the economy is largely cash-based. This is expected to limit the direct impact of the global financial crisis on the country. However, it also reduces the efficacy of interest rate adjustments, depriving the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) of an important monetary policy tool. As a result, the CBY's efforts to manage liquidity will remain primarily focused on the issuance of certificates of deposit and T-bills. Although this policy enjoyed considerable success in 2007, it was challenged by rising inflation in 2008, which halted an earlier fall in the T-bill rate. Over the outlook period, we expect interest rates to remain high, as difficult external conditions and rising government debt constrain the CBY's ability to lower rates.

Economic Forecast

We forecast that world economic growth (at purchasing power parity

Forecast summary (% unless otherwise indicated)				
	2007 ^a	2008 ^b	2009 ^c	2010 ^c
Real GDP growth	3.5 ^b	3.2	5.0	5.4
Oil production ('000 b/d)	339	307	290	268
Crude oil exports (US\$ m)	6,198 ^b	7,758	4,610	4,217
Consumer price inflation (av)	10.0	18.0	7.7	11.8
Deposit rate	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Government balance (% of GDP)	-6.1 ^b	-7.1	-13.7	-10.7
Exports of goods fob (US\$ bn)	7.1	8.8	6.3	7.1
Imports of goods fob (US\$ bn)	7.2	9.2	8.3	8.5
Current-account balance (US\$ bn)	-1.3	-2.6	-3.5	-2.8
Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-6.4 ^b	-10.3	-13.3	-9.2
External debt (year-end; US\$ bn)	6.1 ^b	6.5	6.7	6.9
Exchange rate YR:US\$ (av)	199.0	199.8	204.0	210.6
Exchange rate YR:¥100 (av)	168.9	192.8	210.3	219.3
Exchange rate YR:€ (av)	272.3	292.2	262.1	273.7
Exchange rate YR:SDR (av)	305.4	316.9	306.1	319.3

^a Actual. ^b Economist Intelligence Unit estimates. ^c Economist Intelligence Unit forecasts.

rates) will slow sharply in 2009, to just 2%, as the deepening recession in the EU and the US drags down non-OECD growth. Growth is expected to recover to around 3% in 2010, but there remain high downside risks. The gloomy outlook for global demand has led us to lower our forecasts for the price of the benchmark dated Brent Blend, which we project will decline from an estimated average of US\$98.4/barrel in 2008 to an annual average of US\$66.6/b in 2009-10, although there still remains considerable downside risk to this forecast.

Economic Growth

We estimate that real GDP growth will have slowed to 3.2% in 2008, as falling oil output in several of Yemen's larger oilfields and a slowdown in private consumption growth on the back of a sharp increase in the cost of living have been only partly offset by continued growth in government spending and sustained investment (as the construction of the new LNG plant nears completion).

In 2009-10 the continued decline in oil production, combined with lower oil prices, will force the government to rein in spending growth markedly, which will in turn help to depress private consumption. Over the same period, investment growth will slow, as work on the LNG facilities winds down and Gulf Arab companies rein in their outward investment plans in the wake of the global financial turmoil. More positively, however, the disbursement of monies pledged at the London donor conference in November 2006 should continue. Overall, we still expect real GDP growth to rise in 2009-10, to an annual average of 5.2%, lifted by increased export volumes as production at Yemen LNG commences in mid-2009.

Inflation

We expect inflation to fall steeply over

the outlook period, as the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities decline from 2008 levels. With Yemen heavily reliant on imported goods, it suffered from fast-rising global food prices, in particular, in 2008, which we estimate will have pushed consumer price inflation up to an average of 18%. However, the commodity price boom has begun to rapidly unwind, and we now expect the global price of foodstuffs and beverages, for example, to decline by over 25% in 2009 (and remain stable in 2010). With domestic demand also set to be restricted by weak investment and stagnating wages, and the Yemeni rial likely to remain relatively stable, we expect average inflation to slow to 7.7% in 2009, before rising to its trend rate of around 12% in 2010.

Exchange rates

The CBY is expected to allow the Yemeni rial to depreciate against the US dollar over the outlook period, as it seeks to balance the aims of controlling inflation and protecting investor confidence against the need to maintain the competitiveness of non-oil exports. As inflation moderates and the dollar strengthens, the rial, which we estimate will have depreciated to around YR200:US\$1 by end-2008, is expected to fall to YR212:US\$1 at end-2010.

External sector

We have revised up our forecast for Yemen's current-account deficit, reflecting a lowering of our oil price projections and the deteriorating outlook for workers' remittances inflows. However, with Yemen also importing some 60,000 barrels/day of refined fuel products, and global non-oil commodity prices also set to decline steeply, we export the import bill to contract by some 10% in 2009, to US\$8.3bn, before remaining largely stable in 2010 as global commodity prices remain relatively stable

International assumptions summary

International assumptions summary (% unless otherwise indicated)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
Real GDP growth				
World	4.8	3.6	2.0	3.0
OECD	2.6	1.4	-0.1	1.1
EU27	2.9	1.3	-0.3	0.8
Exchange rates				
¥:US\$	117.8	103.6	97.0	96.0
US\$:€	1.369	1.463	1.285	1.300
SDR:US\$	0.651	0.630	0.666	0.660
Financial indicators				
€ 3-month interbank rate	4.27	4.77	3.95	3.60
US\$ 3-month Libor	5.30	2.51	2.36	3.03
Commodity prices				
Oil (Brent; US\$/b)	72.7	98.4	65.0	68.3
Gold (US\$/troy oz)	696.7	863.2	707.5	625.0
Food, feedstuffs & beverages (% change in US\$ terms)	30.9	30.2	-26.4	0.8
Industrial raw materials (% change in US\$ terms)	11.2	-1.0	-20.4	-0.5

Note. Regional GDP growth rates weighted using purchasing power parity exchange rates.

and the LNG project reaches completion. Despite the start of LNG sales, export revenue is forecast to decline to US\$6.3bn in 2009, as oil prices and production both drop, although earnings should partly rebound the following year, as oil prices begin to recover and the second LNG train comes on stream. As a result, the trade deficit, which we estimate will have reached US\$463m in 2008, is expected to grow to US\$2bn in 2009, or 7.4% of GDP, before narrowing to US\$1.4bn in 2010.

This impact of the trade deficit on the current-account position will be compounded by Yemen's large non-merchandise deficit. However, this is now expected to narrow over the outlook period, as services debits dip, in line with the fall in the import bill in 2009, and income debits decrease as oil firms' profit repatriation declines in the wake of falling oil prices. The country's main non-merchandise inflow, foreign transfers, is likely to stagnate, however, as workers' remittances from abroad slow. We now expect the current-account deficit to widen from an estimated

US\$2.6bn (10.3% of GDP) in 2008 to US\$3.5bn in 2009, which, at 13.3% of GDP, would be the largest deficit since 1993. In 2010 the deficit will narrow, however, to US\$2.8bn, as LNG exports are ramped up.

The Economist Intelligence Unit

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business developments, economic and political trends, government regulations and corporate practice worldwide.

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EMBASSY OF INDIA
SANA'A

REPUBLIC DAY 2009

The Embassy of India, Sana'a cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of the 60th Republic Day of India on Monday, the 26th January, 2009 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy by 0845 hours.

[Cameras/ Mobile Phones/ Bags etc. are not allowed inside the premises.]

CONSULTANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its Community Based Health Development Programme (CBHD).
Post title: Livelihood and food Security Consultant for the CBHDP.

General responsibilities

The livelihood consultant will be responsible for the following elements:

1. prepare the livelihood and food security plan for 2009 for the CBHDP including a base line survey
2. help in putting the implementation system for the livelihood and food security component of the programme
3. Prepare a job description to the livelihood and food security officer working for the CBHDP.

Technical qualifications

- Agricultural / Horticulture academic background, preferably a PhD degree.
- Substantial working experience with community based development / livelihood of food security projects.
- Proven experience of programme development and implementation through needs assessment, community involvement and volunteers' participation
- Fluent in Arabic and English.
- Excellent computer skills (excel, word, access, power point).
- Committed to consultancy working schedules.
- Reporting to the health delegate on a weekly basis

Duration: 4 weeks

If you meet the above requirements please send your motivated application including your CV to:

IFRC Yemen office, Sana'a P.O.Box: 5456

You can also submit your application by fax: 01-293228

or by mail: mahbshii@yahoo.com, or shafik.mahbashi@ifre.org

The deadline for receiving applications is 8th of February 2009
Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

The Red Cross/Red Crescent expects its employees to show an attitude in line with the principles of the Organization and to have appropriate behaviour at all times and in all places. The Red Cross /Red Crescent principles are: neutrality, universality, independence, impartiality, humanity, unity and volunteerism.



Announcement

Ministry of Industry & Trade, the general department of agencies and foreign companies branches announces for the general managers of working foreign companies branches in Yemen, which are not registered or have not renewed their licenses to present to the general department of agencies and foreign companies branches for registration or renewal of their licenses within 60 days from the date of this announcement in accordance to law No. (23) 1997.

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AED
Academy for Educational Development

Student Councils Project, Yemen

The Academy for Educational Development, an independent, nonprofit organization, is seeking candidates for MEPI Student Councils project, based in Sana'a, as follows: **2 Educational Trainers: 1 Female Trainer and 1 Male Trainer**

Duties
Working under the direct supervision of the Project Director, trainers' duties will include

- Studying the current status of student councils in targeted schools in four governorates (Sana'a governorate, Amran, Mareb, Shabwah)
- Identifying needs of student and parent councils
- Designing guidelines for activities of student and parent councils in schools based on national regulations
- Designing training manuals for student and parent councils at the classroom and school levels
- Designing tools to assist schools in implementing student and parent councils
- Visiting project school on a regular basis
- Facilitating collaboration between school and community
- Supporting student and parent councils in the development of action plans
- Carrying out training duties
- Reporting regularly on the progress of the training activities
- Other responsibilities, as required

Essential skills

- Minimum BA in education or related field
- Five years experience in training
- Experience in writing educational training manuals (in the subject areas of community participation, mothers and fathers councils, and student councils in particular)
- Experience in designing evaluation tools
- Experience in the analysis of school-based data
- Readiness to work regularly in Amran, Mareb, Shabwa and Sana'a City
- Spoken and written English is highly required

Duration: Six months with possible renewal
Submission Guidelines

أحمد التهامي وأطيب التبركات للأستاذ/
عبد الحكيم عبد الرحمن العمري
رئيس مجلس إدارة مجموعة العمري
بمناسبة ارتقاها المولودة الجديدة والتي اسمها
ناعمة
جعلها الله قره عيه والديها وانبتها نباتاً حسناً

الاهلئون جميع موظفي مجموعة العمري وجميع الاهل والأصدقاء
وهي خاصة جداً من أ/ مروان السعاف

unicef

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02/09

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

Title: **Admin Assistant** Level: **GS-5**
Type of Contract: **Fixed Term (one year)** IMIS #: **18501**
Duty station: **Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**

Under the supervision of the Admin/HR Officer, (NOA), the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

- Reviews all request for travel, requests price quotations from travel agent, determines applicable class of travel, calculates number of days in travel status and ensure security clearances are granted.
- Upon approval authorizes travel agent to issue tickets or draft cables, emails to other UN offices authorizing issuance of tickets and daily subsistence allowance.
- Briefs international personnel, consultants and staff on mission on general administrative matters relating to travel, visas, licenses, security clearances; provides advice and ensure administrative support as required
- Provide support to staff in the area of office management. Arranges for and/or attends meeting son day- to- day administrative matters; participates in discussion of new or revised procedures and practices; interprets and assesses the impact of changes; makes recommendations for follow up actions.
- Assist in the preparation of correspondence, reports, evaluations and justification, as required on general administrative or specialized tasks which may be of a confidential nature with the assigned area of responsibility.
- Assists in the preparation of office budgets applicable to staff and servicing costs, and maintains necessary budgetary control records.
- Verifies travel claims against authorized travel, with regard to actual routing and duration of stay. Provides interpretation of administrative rules, regulations and procedures.
- Maintains files and records related to travel and security clearances.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University Degree in Business Administration or related field is desirable.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required
- Six years progressively responsible clerical or administrative work, of which at least one year is closely related to support of programme activities.
- Ability to research, analyzes, evaluate and synthesize information.
- Ability to express clearly and concisely, ideas and concepts in written and oral form.
- Proven skills in communication, networking, advocacy and negotiation, especially at the community level.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to - yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after **04 February 2009** will not be considered.

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

EI. Eradah CSOs Governorate network in Aden Governorate is an implementation partner for the Good Governance Project of Oxfam GB Yemen. Comprising of 10 member organizations, the network works in partnership with the Local Government Authorities, in monitoring the implementation of district plans for mainstreaming priorities of the poor. The Network announces a vacancy for the post of Development Worker, within the activities of Good Governance Project - Oxfam GB, Yemen.

Job Title: Development Worker in Aden Governorate

Main roles:

- Coordinate with the Project Manager, Project team and the network chairperson to develop and implement project strategies and plans at governorate and district levels
- Coordinate and communicate with relevant stakeholders to enhance partnerships with the CSOs networks.
- Provide intensive and continuous technical support to the networks through appropriate mechanisms such as training, on-job training, accompaniment, etc.
- Support CSOs networks in the areas of organizational development, working with poor people and communities, local councils and media.
- Supervise and monitor the implementation of plan and activities, by the networks, in the target governorate.
- Contribute to documentation of project experiences in the target governorate.

Qualifications:

- University degree social sciences or any other relevant field.
- Minimum of 3 years work experience with civil society organizations; work experience with INGOs will be added advantage.
- Good understanding and practical experience in development field, especially issues of poverty and gender.
- Strong abilities in coordination, especially coordination between civil society, and government/donor/ private sector.
- Ability to work with others as part of a team and with little supervision.
- Experience in training and facilitation of workshops.
- Good monitoring and supervising skills.
- Good reporting skills.
- Fluency in Arabic and English.
- Computer knowledge.
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time.

To apply
Please send your CV to the following:
The chairperson of Aden network
Fax: 02 246 488
Email: saechild_2@yahoo.com

The deadline for receiving applications is 30 January 2009

Hamas and Israel, a severe confrontation, a new phase

Dr. Murad Alazzany
murad_alazzany@yahoo.com

The grinding battle in the besieged Gaza strip is a stigmatic spot in the front head of the whole Islamic Nation. This war has not merely revealed the weakness of Muslims leaders but even their disloyalty to the Palestinian issue. In fact, it shows that the soul of defeatism has really dominated the Arab mentality to leave them helpless and indecisive. This defeated soul and pretentious weakness of Arab regimes have given Israel a great chance to conduct massacres against noncombatant Palestinians with every lethal weapon and tricks. Yet, in spite of the ferocity of Israeli offensive against those civilians, the position of Islamic country leaders was the weakest since 1948. Their stand against the war or their helpless denunciation did not even reach the minimum of what is expected from them.

Palestinians have been under a fierce attack for the past three weeks. Thousands of people have been killed and more thousands were wounded in a non-balanced and unfair war. However, this war has happened to change a lot of traditional conventions and to reveal new facts about the current situation. By this war, it becomes clear that the Arab regimes are not really weak, but they pretend to be deficient to do any thing for Gazan people. Arabic leaders with their regimes have lost their last card pertaining to the Palestinian issue after they have shown a really humiliated and disgraceful position in confronting the Israeli offensive that violently harvests the souls of Gazan children and women. The Arab street has lost all hopes in these leaders; and rather considers them as real obstacle in their way to achieve a victory in their battle against Israel. On the other hand, this battle has stirred the sentiments of Muslims with Hamas and creates a hope in their hearts that there are still faithful, patient and brave people who have the will to fight on behalf of them in such critical and serious battles. In fact, those people are currently seeing in Hamas a charisma that can fill the vacuum of the Islamic leadership that has been absent from their memory for long. For the first time, the people have found people who fight their battles, speak their minds and express their views while confronting the arrogant Israeli invaders. In addition, this war has revealed the fake mask worn by Arabic leaders nudging them in front of the common people. It showed that their support for the Palestinians' issue was never a priority in their agendas, rather was used as propaganda to accommodate the views and expectations of their people. They are proved to be real hypocrites who have no concern more than protecting their thrones and self-interests. It is really proved that such leaders can never bear the ambition of the nation and can never to bring any interest for it. Rather, their existence is a curse for the nation and a main reason behind its weakness and constant defeats. The war has revealed that those leaders see in Hamas a real enemy that represents a menacing threat for their thrones. They consider Hamas ideology as a thing that should be fought and if possible eradicated even if it is at the hand of their traditional enemy, Israel. They see in Hamas resistance, their weakness for that they definitely do not want to see the

stronger on land.

Hamas has been really betrayed by those leaders who left it alone confronting the Israeli army creating panic circumstances that are utilized well by Israel in this battle. In spite of these circumstances, Hamas is not really in a bad situation. Though a lot of Palestinians have been murdered by the ferocity of the Israeli weaponry machines that have crossed all the human lines, this war is still an ultimate defeat for the organized Israeli army and its allies in the area. Though the Israeli Tank and artillery fire pounded Gaza all night and day, with plumes of black smoke showing no mercy or respite to harvest the Palestinians souls and to destroy their homes, the war is still a triumph for all Muslims in general and Palestinians in particular. Right now, Israel never gets close to achieving the goals it set for itself which is to stop all rocket firing into the southern Israeli territories and to block smuggling tunnels into Gaza to stop a resupply of Hamas.

From another perspective, if you trace the history of Muslims-Israeli conflict back and you consider its events and stages with a more deep and farsighted vision, you would really feel optimistic this time. For the first time in the history of the Israeli-Muslims conflicts, the resistance that counter the Israeli arrogance is purely Islamic. For the past four centuries, all the movements that come out from the womb of Islam have been playing secondary role in the battlefields, Taliban is an exception in this equation. Now, Hamas is playing the role that was never played by all Arabic regimes backed up with organized armies, tanks, missiles and aircrafts that cost billion of dollars. All the wars against Israeli were always managed and lead by parties of people who have either a social or national ideology at other times. These ideologies were never a real threat to Israeli and were also far to reach the expectation of Muslims pertaining to their conflict with Israel. Probably, these previous movements were more concerned to look for peace rather than to go in ongoing battles with Israel. They showed a will to negotiate with Israel for trivial political gains which never came true. However, though of the humble and traditional potentialities Hamas has, it showed a strong will and determination to fight Israel as invaders of the lands. They saved no effort to make whatever sacrifice to resist the Israeli invaders with new techniques, quick adaptation and lethal tricks. This made out of it a movement worth enough to be trusted by all Muslims. It becomes a movement that all Muslims can hang on the hope of restoring and gaining back their lost pride and torn out dignity. This movement has gained recently a wide sympathy and support by the majority of Arabs and Muslims all over the world due to that war and now it becomes preferred to them than the Arab regimes. This becomes clear as the other movements, which do not come from the Islamic womb, decide to join the war against Israel under the leadership of Hamas. This is a great advantage for Hamas and yet considered as a millstone in the history of Islamic movements and the history of Muslims-Israelis conflict.

Without any doubt, this war has changed the rules that govern the Middle East politics. But it is now, Hamas which designs these rules and imposes them. Hamas, though a small movement, has

drawn the carpet from under the feet of the regimes of Egypt and Saudi Arabia to impose whatever it sees suitable for the Palestinian issue. It proves to America that it's traditional and so called moderate camp represented in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia can not play any role in this conflict. Hamas chose the resistance as the only way to restore the Palestinian rights. In this, the myth of peace between Israelis and Palestinians has been sentenced to death and never to get its way back after such a fatal loss of souls and properties. Hamas might not be a winner in this war, but it won't be a loser either. Israel will be a loser as it was so concerned and desperate to get supported by the Arab moderate camp which happened to play a major role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hamas is the only entity now which decides the alphabet of negotiation with Israeli. Egypt and Saudi Arabia would not be at the side of Hamas, but they would be cursed by the people for ever. Most importantly, this war comes to chatter the myth that it says 'Israel army can never be defeated'. In fact, if the countries that have borders with Israel had the will to erase Israel from the map, they could have done that along time ago. They could have achieved a victory which can be doted in history books with a golden ink. However, history teaches us that victory is not achieved by strong armies and fatal weapons. Rather, it is won and made by strong and noble ideology. The ideology is supposed to create a consensus among people and to bring them together. That is the ideology which Hams has and Arabic regimes really lack. This is the ideology of Islam which is invulnerable to any worldly interests and low gains. Its emancipators fight while their souls are in heaven and their bodies on earth. They fight while they are looking forward for a dingy life or a noble death.

Because of the perpetuality and spirituality of this ideology, Hamas will win their war against Israel. It will defeat it, and probably will erase it from the map. This might not happen soon but the spark of victory starts to emerge and it becomes stronger this time. History is replete with great powers that were unable to defeat their weaker adversaries. Military history teaches us that, in a symmetrical combat, the side with the greatest power cannot always complete the smallest task. As the historian Aric Hobsbawm puts it: In almost thirty years Great Britain has been unable to eliminate an army like the IRA, which whilst not winning, has neither been vanquished.

Attacking the Palestinians in such a severe offensive neither will make Israel safer nor will constitute a solution to the problem. It will never eliminate or uproot the resistance.

On the contrary, it will lead to even more regrettable events and the birth of more martyrs and supporters who are willing to sacrifice their souls for the sake of the land, dignity and for the pain left by the phosphorus bombs. A withdrawal from Gaza and making and end to its siege might not be late now and it is so for the benefit of Israel. If Israel chooses, however, to continue its offensive, the resistance will surely find new techniques, will recruit more people and will win more supporters. At the end Israel will never be safe and might never be known as a Middle Eastern Jewish state any more.

Eighth, some countries are arresting protesters who stand against the war on Gaza. Even *doa'a* (praying) for the Palestinians in the mosque was not allowed.

Ninth, crossings have been closed which has caused a pressing shortage of food in Gaza; what is more pathetic is that foreigners - not Arabs - took the initiative for breaking the siege.

I ask the Arab regimes who are collaborating in the siege: don't the people in Gaza have the entitlement to live? Don't they have entitlement to protection?

Having mentioned the above attitudes, isn't it high time to admit that we have traitorous leaders who help the Israeli army to kill unarmed children, women, and the elderly? Isn't it a shame on them to see Venezuela expelling the Israeli ambassador, whereas our leaders negotiate with the antagonist?

In conclusion, I hope our leaders wake up from their deep coma to rescue their Arab and Muslim brothers from potential collapse, represented by Israel, the real terrorist in the world, because no one can live in peace with people who kill innocent children.

Through The Mind's Eye

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



Arab leaders: Isn't it time for change?

A word of thanks is to be sent only to some of the Arab leaders. A word of shame, on the other hand, is to be sent to the others. The aggressive and disproportionate war on Gaza was launched with a green light from some of these so-called Arab leaders. They have watched the daily results of the Israeli attacks on the civilians in Gaza, but have done nothing. Worse still, they have supported Israeli forces firstly in implementing the siege on Gaza and then in killing the children, women and defenseless civilians.

For a week, the Emir of Qatar was calling Arabs for a summit in any country. Such a summit was called the "Urgent Gaza Summit" and since it was urgent, it was expected that all Arab countries would participate. What happened was actually shameful. Only some welcomed the summit, while most of the others hesitated and ignored the call as if they were not part of the Arab world at all. Some Arab leaders were shy to participate as if they were going to commit an immoral mistake. In fact, it was not a matter of shyness, but a matter of following the commands of their "senior masters".

In a press conference, the Qatari prime minister has shed light on who commands the Arab Leaders. In his words, he said: "They would run to America or anywhere else in the world, if the American president called them for a meeting". Yes, this is the current status of the Arab leaders who seem blind to see their indignity. They receive commands from the masters who gave them the posts as presidents, kings and princes. They have different names, but they are not more than slaves.

Actually, a lot of thanks should be given to Qatar for its efforts in this summit. A lot of thanks also should be given to Venezuela, Iran and other non-

Arab countries for participating in the summit. Thanks to Arab countries which participated in the summit. Though they should not be thanked because it is their duty to do this, they are thanked because they are much better than the other Arab countries. What surprised the world was the careless response of the so-called Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas.

Mahmoud Abbas refused to participate in the summit though it was held urgently only for the Israeli attacks on Gaza, which is supposed to be a part of Palestine. According to the Qatari prime minister, Abbas did not participate because he did not receive permission. To tell the truth, I am confused by the meaning of the word "permission" here. Was it a permission to participate in the summit or a permission to leave his homeland for Gaza? Whether it is the first or the second, both indicate the real status of the "Unauthorized Palestinian Authority".

Hamas and other resistance movements have been responding to the Israeli attacks with their simple and disproportionate weapons. Their faith, their dignity and their sense of patriotism were the best weapons they had to fight the cowardly Israeli soldiers. They fought and faced the Israeli forces without giving up their principles, without surrendering to America or Israel as has happened to most, if not all the Arab leaders. Thanks to Hamas and all the other resistance movements because they do really resist not only to save the dignity of Palestine, but to save the dignity of all the Muslims and Arabs around the world.

It really is a shame. We see Hamas and other Palestinian movements fighting to show the world that Arabs and Muslims are still there with dignity and freedom, but the Arabs leaders themselves say "we are not there". The Arab leaders turned a cold shoulder on such movements when they asked them

for help. In reality, such Arab leaders share in the fighting - not with the movements of resistance, but against them.

That is what happened and, I think, a clear example of it is the role played by "The Mother of the World", Egypt. Really it hurts when we hear that Egypt shouldered Israel in its siege on Gaza. Egypt not only stopped the weapons from reaching Gaza, but it also closed all the borders to stop medicine, food, and other essential materials of life from entering the Gaza Strip. Actually, the latter is not Egypt's doing - I am sure that it is a free and revolutionary nation - but that of respectful and moderate President Husni Mubarak, as he is smoothly called by his masters.

Gaza has paid with the price of about 1,500 martyrs till now. Arab leaders paid nothing. They did not devote even a little time to attend the summit so that there might be hope to find out a solution. They cannot devote any time, and will not devote any time because they are worried about their positions and because they have problems among themselves. It is shameful to have leaders like these. One hopes that they have learned the lesson. The reconciliation between some Arab leaders at the summit in Kuwait was really a positive step. One hopes that there will be no more problems among them, and that together they will step towards Arab unity.

Finally, I would like to say long life to our dear brothers, resistant fighters of the whole world, and I would like to extend my best heartfelt greetings and limitless respect to every man, woman and child martyred or injured in these inhuman attacks on Gaza.

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

Friendship: A real divine gift

By: Ammar AL-Hawi
ammaralhawi@gmail.com

I really do miss you all, dear countrymen. I miss my family, my friends, and my students so much. My mind is overcrowded with my unforgettable memories with all of them in the land of brotherhood and friendship; my heart is throbbing with feelings of their love and gratitude; my eyes are filled up with sad tears for being soon separated from them; my ears are obsessed with the echoes of their words; my tongue is silenced by their compassion and kindness; my hands are addicted to writing volumes of memorials about our togetherness in the castle of knowledge; my feet are exhausted by aimlessly snuggling into the desert of loneliness without their company --- all my body is always dying to its lost part in you!!!

I wish I could have wings to fly over to Taiz, have a long look at all of my dear friends, and then come back to my lonely dwelling in the U.S. I wish I had the magic carpet to take me over to the place where I really belong to. I wish I could open my eyes once in the early morning to find myself in the place where I long used to be. Wishes are

scattering down into my thought, nurturing the innocence of my imagination and provoking the muse of sensation to crump along in the silence of my selfhood. I would keep on wishing and wishing however long that would take me. I would stipple my wish in the silky light of the early rising sun, weave it in the brightness of the half-moon sky, inscribe it in the depth of my words, and enliven it with my hopefulness.

Once I felt quite homesick. I had none to relieve my loneliness. Suddenly, something from a far distant place flashed on the horizon, evoking some relief inside my aching soul. It was the vision of my experience as a teaching assistant in Taiz University. I smiled with delight at the sight of many of my dear students, sitting on the armchairs before me and lending the place some kind of vitality with vigor with their attendance. The place was the same all over; it was the classroom that gathered us all long ago. Boys and girls with different faces and different names shared oneness with their teacher under the roof of knowledge and illumination. There came the pioneers of knowledge --- our respected professors and doctors --- following one another in lines. Their presence

made me feel more and more comfortable. With books in their hands, they began telling us stories about the meaning of our life, lecturing us on the values of learning, inspiring us with their determination and good will, and above all passing over to us the clues to success. We listened carefully to their own whispers of wisdom and enjoyed looking with wonder and appreciation at them.

Time passed by very quickly. I did not want to leave them but I had nothing to do. Had I had the ability to prolong the time of our coming together, I would have done it soon and without any hesitation. The vision gradually began to vanish away. How painful it is to bid them goodbye! I kept on watching the vision till it became almost invisible. I could not stand keeping silent any longer. I loudly shouted to them in order to wait for me but it seemed as if no one were hearing me! I screamed and screamed but all in vain. Nothing more than scary echoes got back into my ears! I threw my face between my weak knees and went in deep cry. I cried hot tears till I suddenly woke up to discover that all was but a dream!!! Some may call it a nightmare but for me it was the sweetest dream I have ever had in my life.

Gaza between Invasion and Treason

By: Saleh al-Batati
Faculty of Arts&Humanities
Al-Ahghaff University-Mukalla
Albatati99@yahoo.com

The war on Gaza is coming to the end of its third week. Meanwhile, the Arab regimes still appear to be in a deep coma, making the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip feel a deep sense of betrayal.

The catastrophe in Gaza is a dire calamity: Israel is attacking Gaza by air, sea, and land. It uses missiles, cannons, and tanks, to say nothing of using illegal weapons such as cluster bombs that have resulted in hundreds of civilian victims and thousands of serious casualties.

So far, the land invasion has not made any progress; on the contrary, it has encountered strong and stubborn resistance which made Israel lose a lot of its power in addition to killing its soldiers and officers.

However, the Gaza Strip has not surrendered, and will not as long as it has its brave fighters. These fighters, possessing little and primitive weapons, are resisting a seemingly

invincible army holding sophisticated weapons. Yet they do not give up.

During the war on Gaza, some of the Arab regimes have adopted negative and hostile attitudes against Hamas.

First, they hold Hamas accountable for the war on Gaza which is being waged by the Israeli army.

Second, these Arab regimes are supporting the old adversary of Israel just to eradicate the Hamas movement.

Third, tacit collusion with Israel is taking place in order to achieve particular purposes. Fourth, dead and absolute silences are giving the colonizer Israel freedom to continue launching their barbarian invasion.

Fifth, Arabs have closed the border in front of the public who are aspiring to help the vulnerable people in Gaza.

Sixth, the Palestinians have a glimmer of peace with the success of Arab summit but some are trying to hinder or impede it by demanding that it be held by other leaders.

Seventh, the act of collecting donations in favor of the powerless people in Gaza while America is devoting of all her energy to war criminals is focusing on the wrong area.

Exotic Fashion

By: Suleiman Raise Bauzer
Faculty of Arts&Humanities
Al-Ahghaff University-Mukalla
Al-aml-institute@hotmail.com

Fashion is the only principal aim that most Arab teenagers are looking for and are chasing.

In other words, the clothes which they prefer and love have become one of the most important things to them.

In spite of what kind of clothes are available, they are insisting on dressing in popular fashions. The most important thing is that the designs are strange.

I mean clothes that contain some words - words that have been specifically chosen to be written on our clothes by our enemies. Some of these words support their religions or political beliefs, such as Christianity or Zionism.

Moreover, bad words are used, like Son of Bitch and so on. I'm telling you about these kinds of words just so that you are not deceived. This kind of clothing is usually soft and high quality, but nevertheless, it contains immoral words and messages.

I know there is no specific Islamic dress that you must follow or be ordered to put on, but this is a message for you to boycott this kind of dress.

The main idea is that most teenagers they don't know what has been written on their shirts, T-shirts and caps. Moreover, they don't know the proper meaning of these words. Surely if these words written in their mother tongue, they wouldn't wear them any more.

In spite of a wide range and quantity of this kind of clothing in the market, we still have the finest substitutes consisting of plain clothes for all ages.

These plain clothes come from different Islamic countries or other countries; there are even local products.

So by this kind of boycotting we will support our brothers in Gaza and we will make a great triumph.

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 للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤١٦٤٠٠
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 • البيع: جهاز كمبيوتر محمول - شركة دل موديل ٦٠٠ - هارد ١٠ جيجا - رام ٥١٢ - سوقا ديفيدي - ناسخ أقراص - كرت الشاشة ٣٢ - في حالة جيدة جداً - مستخدم نظيف - سعر نهائي ٢٥٠\$

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وظائف شاعرة

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 • مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١/٤٣١٨١
 • المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠٠/٢٠٠٠٠٠
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 • فندق موفيك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
 • فندق سيا ت: ٠١-٣٣٣٧٣
 • فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٣٩٨٧١
 • فندق واجحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٣٥٠-٦٠٣٣٥٠/١

مكاتب ترجمة

• الشهاب للخدمات الترجمة (عربي- إنجليزي) (إنجليزي-عربي) تلفون: ٧٧٧٦٢٠٢ أو ٧٣٣٠٠٠٨١٦ - فاكس: ٧٣٣٠٠٠٠٠٠
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• معهد بالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٧-٣٧ فاكس: ٤٤٥٤٨٣/٣٧٤-٤٤٨٠٣٧
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 • هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
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Yemeni sea heroes tell their tale

By: Alice Hackman

In 1956, seventeen year-old Abdu Ahmad Obeya, from Ibb, set sail from Aden with a brand new British passport to join his father and grandfather in South Shields, England. After several jobs in British Steel factories and over three grueling years shoveling coal in the engine rooms of a British merchant navy ship, he was promoted to crew on a deep sea ship and his exploration of the world began. Fifty three years and five continents later, he still lives in Britain.

My life is like the 1,001 Nights, says Obeya, is full of stories.

Obeya's stories, along with those of 13 other Yemeni sailors from South Shields, are on display as part of an exhibition entitled Last of the Dictionary Men at the National Museum in Sana'a. Produced by Iranian-born filmmaker Tina Gharavi and featuring the artwork of Egyptian artist Youssef Nabil, the exhibition is an interactive one. Visitors are invited to move between 14 televisions and don earphones to listen, one by one, to these elderly men recount the tale of their extraordinary lives.

Since 1890, Yemenis have traveled to the port town of South Shields in the north-east of England to work on the merchant ships there. These hard workers were popular with ship masters — notably because they had the good reputation of being reliable and sober and their work took them all over the world on merchant navy ships.

Obeya traveled the seas of the globe in company of British, Somali and other Yemeni sailors. He shared a room with three to six other sailors, and was in turn responsible for the stores and preparing food for the ship's Muslim crew in Ramadan.

sailed to America, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Philippines, Africa, and all of Arabia, says Obeya. went to Peru, Trinidad, Jamaica — crazy people down there.

Told in their own words and recorded for posterity, these men's stories are tender, funny, moving and, at times, epic. They tell of travel, war, love, poetry, religion, pensions, and even qat. But, first and foremost, they are stories of successful integration. Many of these



Four generations of the Obeya family: Abdu Ahmad Obeya, center, stands with his sons and grandchildren below a shot of his father, Ahmad Mohammad Obeya, above center left, during a demonstration in South Shields in the 1930s.

Yemeni sailors arrived in Britain as young men and some married local English girls with whom they settled and had children.

Tina Gharavi, affectionately called Princess Tina by Obeya, worked with the remaining first-generation Yemenis of South Shields over the course of three years to produce both the exhibition and documentary of the same name. It all started when she moved to the small Tyneside coastal town a few years ago and heard that her childhood hero, boxing legend Muhammad Ali, was married in its mosque. As she set out to produce a documentary to commemorate the event, she met some of the elderly Yemenis living in town and learnt of their stories.

It started a huge sense of responsibility, huge guilt, she says. I couldn't turn my back on it. Here was a story of

contribution to British colonial history, a story of integration of Muslims in Britain that was really successful.

Historically, integration has happened, she adds. Recent hysteria about Islam is unjustified.

Arabs have successfully integrated in Britain since the Roman era, explains Gharavi. The Roman fort in South Shields bears the name of Arabeia, which means Land of the Arabs in Arameic. In the fourth century AD, the Romans brought skilled bargemen over from Mesopotamia to Britain to patrol the river Tyne and supply the garrisons at Hadrian's Wall, an important military line of defense, upstream. These men, later called the Tigris Bargemen, probably never left Britain, but founding families on

English soil.

The project was motivated by a desire to rectify a distorted image of the Muslim community in Britain, one exacerbated by black and white social photographs and local literature that do not depict its members in their true light. Through the medium of scarcely-edited interviews, Gharavi chose to privilege the voices of the last of the South Shields Yemeni sailors to produce a positive representation of men that she describes as sea heroes.

During the Second World war, about 700 men of those who died on the navy ships were Yemenis from South Shields, she says, describing the figures as staggering.

To give the last of these Yemeni sailors the noble status they deserve, Gharavi commissioned Egyptian artist

Youssef Nabil to produce portraits of them. The result is a series of 13 monumental hand-painted images on show at the exhibition. All but one of the dictionary men appear magnificent in an eclectic mixture of traditional Yemeni dress and British jumpers. A small navy identity picture represents the fourteenth story-teller, who unfortunately passed away before the project was completed.

The show is also about identity: as a Yemeni, as a Muslim and as a British citizen.

Obeya, for example, continues to this day to pray in the South Shields Al-Azhar mosque that his father, Ahmad Mohammad Obeya, helped build in 1971 and where Mohammad Ali has his wedding blessed in 1977. And he is, in his own words, the very best man at making aseed, a traditional Yemeni porridge. But, although Obeya, now retired, still visits his family in Sana'a and Ibb every year, when asked whether he is Yemeni or British, he proudly states he is British. And, perhaps surprisingly, he is particularly impressed with the country's tax system.

In England, you have poll tax. The country builds itself. That is democracy, he explains. If there are more taxes for the government [in Yemen], we will build Yemen. I believe it myself.

You don't get any country like this, he adds. No matter British-born, Yemeni or African, [you get] your pension.

Although the events of 9/11 triggered unprecedented hostility against Muslims in the community of South Shields, Obeya says that he is happy living on in

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Britain.

Some people do [the attacks], but we get the blame. People make it like Irish stew, he says. Now it is better.

In a modest effort to raise the profile of a religion that has come under attack since the beginning of the decade, Gharavi hopes to get permission to inaugurate a plaque outside South Shields Al-Azhar mosque to commemorate Mohammad Ali's visit there in 1977. She also hopes in this way to protect the mosque from any further attacks by local arsonists.

We hope, with the backing of the Foreign Secretary, to put it up on July 17, she says, admitting with a smile that it has been a struggle to persuade the mosque's elders to put the plaque up outside the building where the non-Muslim world can see it, not inside on the wall of an office.

Last of the Dictionary Men is on until February 12 at the National Museum on Tahrir in Sana'a. Opening times are from 9:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 from Saturday to Wednesday and from 9:00 to 13:00 on Thursday.

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Education

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Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
Department of English
Faculty of Administrative
and Human Sciences,
University of Science
and Technology, Sana'a
Tel: (01) 311117
Mobile: 733523970
P. O. Box 14533,
Sana'a



ramakantasahu@yahoo.com

Lesson planning



Peter Lucantoni,
Director, Response
peter@response-education.com.cy
Cyprus

This is the first of two articles about Lesson Planning. In this first part, we will look at lesson planning and the use of a cover sheet to identify general areas for planning.

example a more detailed analysis or breakdown of a specific language area, or a deeper consideration of skills to be developed.

Lesson aims

These are what you as a teacher need to aspire to in order to provide your learners with the tools to be able to do something by the end of the lesson which they could not do at the start – a learner outcome. Aims are therefore key to lesson planning – without them, lesson planning is impossible. Make sure that aims are student-based, linguistically-based, and verifiable. *Students will use the present continuous* is not a satisfactory aim because it does not identify in what way the language will be used (introduced? revised? heard or read? spoken or written? etc) and it is not verifiable. Much better might be: *learners will practise, both in oral and written dialogues, the present continuous tense for actions happening now.* Here it is clear exactly what the learners will be doing with the language point, and it is verifiable through the dialogue activities.

Activity 1: Think of a number of lesson aims which you have recently devised. Could they have been clearer or more verifiable?

Assumed learner knowledge

It is important to think about the knowledge that is expected of learners

before the lesson. Think of assumed knowledge as the foundations of a house – without the foundations it is impossible to build the walls of the house. Similarly, in language learning, if learners are not familiar with the past simple tense, we are unlikely to introduce the past perfect tense. Thinking back to the example aim in **Lesson aims** above, a teacher would assume that learners are familiar with the present simple verb *to be* before introducing the present continuous tense.

Anticipated learner problems & solutions

If we can anticipate some of the problems that we think learners may have with the lesson, we can use this information to plan a more effective lesson through identifying solutions. For example, if we think that learners may have difficulty in pronouncing the weak form of 'been', ie, /bɪn/, we could include a stage in the lesson which specifically deals with this. Or, if we anticipate that our learners may be confused by "he's" = "he has" and "he is" = "he is" and even perhaps "his", we can identify an appropriate activity (ie, a solution) to remedy this particular problem.

Resources to be used

There is nothing worse than going in to a lesson and realising that something has been forgotten! Simply writing a list of resources (eg, handouts, pictures, cassette, etc) on the

cover sheet can remind us not to forget the key items for the lesson.

Areas for personal development

Even the most experienced teachers are still developing, and I believe it is vital for any teacher who is concerned about their own professional development to consider areas for improvement. Self-reflection is not easy, and it is certainly time-consuming, but looking back and trying to identify areas for improvement is a commendable act. Furthermore, identifying areas which were successful in a previous lesson is also important. If teachers can make a habit of reflecting on lessons taught, even if there seem to be no areas of weakness, the simple act of thinking about what went on is extremely valuable.

Activity 2: Think back to a recent lesson or lessons. Make a short list of areas in your teaching which (a) you wish to improve on, (b) you were particularly pleased about. Which of the areas in (a) will you focus on for improvement when you next teach?

In the second part we will consider the lesson plan itself, the procedure and exactly what a teacher does during the lesson.

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10th Anniversary of *Education*: Message

A special Thank You

Dear Dr. Sahu

Although it's been several years since I left the Yemen Times, I still remember your brilliant smile, tenderness, professionalism and solid love for Yemen. Over the years, you have proven yourself to be a national treasure. Your ongoing and steadfast dedication to your students on campus and through the Yemen Times has shown how lucky we are to have you in Yemen for so long.

The bond you created with me as an individual and with thousands of your students is one that we shall cherish forever.

I still remember the good old times when we used to talk about how to connect with students and encourage them to read the newspaper so as to improve their language. After the launch of *'Improve Your English'*, I recall how delighted I was when we had excellent reviews and feedback from students and readers alike.

It is amazing how ten years have passed so quickly and yet your section continues to educate and help students improve their English language.

I recall the day I attended one of celebrations at Faculty of Education, Mahweet and could tell how fond the students were of you. The unique connection you made with your students was a reflection of your noble and humble personality and was proof of your determination to help students make something out of their lives as you knew that English language was -and still remains- extremely important for their career opportunities. Those students who improved their English and succeeded in their careers with your help will



Walid Al-Saqqaf, M.A.
walid.alsaqqaf@yemenportal.net

forever be grateful to your warmth and dedication. Your lessons turned out to be quite valuable for their successful lives.

On this occasion, I want to assure you that although I no longer am the Editor, I will remain supportive to the efforts you make through your section in Yemen Times for I consider you as a source of inspiration not only to hundreds of Yemeni students, but also to me.

I know words may not be enough to express to you my gratitude for what you have done and continue to do. But on behalf of Yemen Times, your students and the whole country, let me say one more time: 'Thank you Dr. Sahu'. (Walid Al-Saqqaf)

Education owes its genesis to Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf's pathbreaking stewardship. When Education crosses the ten-year milestone, in the fitness of things, the Education team is beholden to him and recalls with the deepest sense of gratitude his valuable contributions for the nourishment of this venture.

Walid Al-Saqqaf, former Editor-in-Chief, is presently a Ph.D. Student,rebro University Envis:gen 16:404,rebro 702 34, Sweden.

Vocabulary acquisition

I remember when I began reading Yemen Times, I used to spend one week to read it. Now, I do this in hours. I also used to check new vocabularies in the dictionary more often during my undergraduate study. Now, my students ask me to explain new words for them. It is a matter of common experience for learners of EFL and ESL to encounter new words during their study. This can slow down the rate and efficiency of their reading comprehension. Lack of adequate vocabulary affects negatively their speaking and writing which are productive skills.

Dr. Kalyani Samantaray in her article entitled *Teaching Speaking* which was published on 28 August, 2008



Mohammed A. Khoshafah
khoshafah22@yahoo.com
Assistant teacher
Ibb University

attracted my attention to the importance of spoken English skill. I would like to say to Dr. Kalyani Samantaray that if English learners have sufficient number of words, they can express

their thoughts and feelings clearly. If not, they are bound to face problems in speaking. I sometimes face this problem as a teacher when I lose the appropriate words or expressions during my teaching.

Language consists of words listed in a good dictionary. It is highly impossible for anyone to know or use all those words. Language experts state that learners of English should master on an average about 3,000 words at least. These words are introduced step by step at school and university. To be fluent in any skill, a good vocabulary is essential. Written or oral communication is best done with the knowledge and understanding of the use of vocabulary.

In fact, learners can get new vocab-

ularies not only from teachers and textbooks, but by listening to radio programs or recordings, watching television films and news, reading books, magazines newspapers, journals, novels, dramas and English stories, exposure to the English language by interacting with colleagues, parents and so on. All these are good methods for them to improve their English vocabulary. Not only that, but if the parents are well educated they may supervise their children's study and also help them in solving their problems in meaning, spelling and usage of words that are new.

Continued on page 3

The native speaker myth

Not even a month ago, one of the native speakers – Mr. Peter Lucantoni – the Resource Person in a workshop for the teachers of English held at Hodeidah University in collaboration with the British Council, Sana'a, openly declared that "the native speaker and the BBC models are not good models". He is not alone in making such comments. Linguists all over the world have started exploding the native speaker myth. There was a time when the ESL and the EFL parts of the world were looking for 'the King's English' and later 'the Queen's English' but it is history; there is no shortage of kings and queens of English in the ESL and EFL



Farhaan Abdullah
farhanutt@yahoo.com
M.A. scholar, Hodeidah Univ.

worlds. Every community of English users is proud to have its own variety of English, hence the term 'world Englishes', given by Brij Kachru, a well known linguist.

Where are we now? Still asking for the native speakers to teach us English? The majority of English classes are taught in the world by non-native speakers, as there are not enough trained native speakers to teach English. Don't we hear about history and geography graduate native speakers teaching English in a few sophisticated anglophilic schools in Yemen just because they are born to English speaking parents? Do we want to be taught English by graduates of 'arid crops and agrophysics', because they speak English with a native accent?

In these days of global English, it is surprising that students of English are not out of the native speaker myth; this only proves the apprehension of lin-

guists like Pennycook that English may colonize the young minds when the English have failed to do so. Let's not be misled by the myth. As long as the English we hear is intelligible and understandable, let's accept it. We have our funny Yemeni accent and pronunciation of English with which we bombard out teachers of English from India; they tolerate it. Let's be grateful to them for the painstaking efforts they make to teach English to our 'unteachable Yemeni learners' patiently and with a lot of concern. There may be problems of understanding a few teachers, but we cope with it and make them out in a few months, don't we?

Continued on page 3

The secret of success Winners make goals, losers make excuses



Rashad Ali Qaed Almagrebi
rashadHSE@gmail.com
Level 3
Taiz University

All people strive for and seek success. Their goals and motivation may differ, but they have all agreed upon the desirability of the attainment they aspire for. Success does not mean getting high scores in examinations or getting good reputation. But the real success is an inner feeling to achieve what you are planning for, to increase your confidence and to develop your potential. Life is what we make of it. Life itself cannot give you joy, unless you will it. Life just gives you time and space; it's up to you to fill it. Fix your eyes on perfection and you make almost everything speed towards it.

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anyone expects of you. Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible. We only learn our limits by going beyond them. The most miserable person is he who prevents himself from all the chances of success.

Good education and public culture are considered to be the main bases of success. That means, a student should choose the best school, institute, college or university, which will enable him to get a good opportunity for good education. After choosing the school, institute or university, a student should leave no stones unturned to get to the top. He should not neglect his assignments and should not waste his time for silly things. Success is one of the best habits that should be developed continuously. We always hear students talking about the eagerness for study. Some of them say that they lack a certain kind of quality and therefore they are not successful in their studies. Some other students say that they have nothing to push or encourage them towards study. So, here are some points that will help them to get rid of such useless thoughts, and help them to be men of action.

Continued on page 3

ELT Panorama

Shakespeare's Macbeth: A challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence (Part 1)



By: Anil K Prasad, Ph.D. aniljo@yahoo.com

I would like to begin the discussion of my paper with two quotations. The first one is by Frank Kermode who in his article *Writing about Shakespeare* in *London Review of Books* published in 1999 ruefully predicts:

It seemed to me that academic Shakespeareans would now attend to almost anything rather than to the words. And to persist in this neglect might mean, in the long run, the disappearance not only of Shakespeare as anything but a document like any other historical document ...

The second one is from Jonathan Culler who in 1997 in his book *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* writ-

Abstract
Keith Sagar (2004) in his recent book, *Literature and the Crime against Nature* has referred to Ted Hughes' argument concerning the role of creative imagination as an essential part of our biological survival gear. He further says that "great literature, of any age, already embodies the holistic, biocentric vision now advocated by deep ecology". Recent developments in ecocriticism have witnessed a debate with reference to anthropocentric and biocentric world-views and a shift towards a biocentric world-view which is in chime with what Keith Sagar calls, "the healing power of the imaginative atonement". There is no dearth of books and papers that concentrate on the representation of natural environments in Shakespeare (see Heise 1997: 29n). The present paper is neither a formalist attempt to thematically taxonomize the various elements of biosphere nor a venture in abstract theoretical nihilism. On the contrary, looking at Shakespeare's creative imagination from the present day changing perspective when there is a healthy emergent trend to revalidate literature with an ethical, interdisciplinary earth-centered approach (Prasad: 2004) in which language and literature transmit values with profound ecological implications (Glotfelty: 1994), the paper will discuss how Shakespeare's *Macbeth* questions and resists the anthropocentric constructions of environment (Branch: 1994) by challenging the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence in the midst of Renaissance humanism that believed in the central position of human beings in the universe (Abrams 1999: 116).

Key terms
ecocriticism, deep ecology, metaphysics of anthropocentric presence.

ing about the charge made against cultural studies as a devourer of literary studies puts this question: "Have the soaps replaced Shakespeare and, if so, is cultural studies to blame?" Responding to a similar charge made against theory "when it encouraged the reading of philosophical and psychological texts along with literary works" which "took the students away from the classics" he comes out with encouraging observations:

But the theory has reinvigorated the traditional literary canon, opening the door to more ways of reading

the 'great works' of English and American literature. Never has so much been written about Shakespeare; he is studied from every angle conceivable, interpreted in feminist, Marxist, psychoanalytic, historicist, and deconstructive vocabularies. (47)

Undoubtedly, instead of becoming a neglected forgotten 'historical document' in the sense Kermode has referred to, Shakespeare breathes new life every moment and is very much alive and relevant in the contemporary politics and

poetics of literary studies and to quote William Carlos Williams from the *Foreword to The Globe Illustrated Shakespeare* (1979) "Shakespeare is the greatest university of all", and "surely this is the highest compliment one can pay to any man" (xi).

The paper will explore how Shakespeare, the greatest university of all, who has always been ahead of his time, is our contemporary in his environmental educational programme which ecophilosophically propounds a world-view in *Macbeth*, according to which "the political and the environmental issues are interwoven and inter-related" (see *Macbeth*: the development of understanding of environmental issues through the study of literary and media texts (i) – a world-view with a significant paradigm shift from anthropocentricism to biocentricism – from "What a piece of work is a man...the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals" (*Hamlet* Act II. 2: 303-307) to "now a wood/ comes toward Dunsinane" (*Macbeth* Act IV. 4: 45-46) to "be planted newly with the time" (*Ibid* Act V. 3: 65).

Dr Anil K Prasad worked (1991-2008) as Associate Professor & Chair, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University, Ibb, Republic of Yemen.

A letter to the learners of English: 17 Welcome, new entrants to university

Dear student friends,



Dr M N K Bose sulobose@gmail.com Professor of English Faculty of Education Hodeidah University

After celebrating the Eid with your kith and kin, it is time you think of your studies as the next academic year is knocking at our doors. You will be moving to new classes having passed your examinations. New class, new teacher, new books and may be new classmates, if you are moving to a new school or college.

Some of you will be entering the university portals after having completed your twelfth class; you will choose a professional course such as engineering or medicine or agriculture or paramedicine or teaching. Are you surprised that I'm including teaching in the list of professions? Yes, teaching is as good a profession as engineering or medicine is, though the society does not give it its due place. That's why you see all kinds of misfits teaching in schools, especially the privately-run institutions; the teaching of English is the worst casualty, as the authorities think that anyone who can speak some English, correctly or not, can teach English without worrying about the competence of the people (yes, I've heard of teachers without a degree in English from the Faculty of Education/Arts teaching English in schools).

Though the number of students entering the universities is not very attractive (according to the statistics, less than 20% of those who pass out of secondary schools), it is satisfying that this percentage is on the increase over the years. Remember, you are one of the lucky people, if you are able to enter the university, because many of your classmates who passed out with good marks are not able to do so, for various reasons, the most common of which is the non-affordability. Most of them are compelled to find jobs to fend for their families and girls get married to start new lives, according to the report I've read in the *Yemen Times* long ago.

The lucky ones, you should feel proud that you are able to enter the portals of the university, where a new world is awaiting, new friends, new teachers, new life style; you could have heard from your friends about it, but nothing like experiencing it. I've seen many students getting excited about it in their first year in the university. Those who join professional courses where the medium of instruction is completely English, the excitement is mixed with fear and worry. Some of them feel lost; some of them feel nervous and some others feel like quitting. All these are initial shocks, 'birth pangs', as they are called. You can come over them gradually, but enjoy the thrill of them for sometime.

Don't forget, intertwined with all these fun and frolic, you have greater responsibilities now that you are a university student. Yes, it is not just your family that expects greater things from you, but the entire nation does; the future rulers, executives, managers, administrators, educationists, scientists, architects, policy makers and medicos are among you. You are the builders of this nation and you have entered the universities with that responsibility on your weak shoulders. Let me continue my welcoming in the next letter. Good luck.

The essence of human life is in love and charity (Kural)

Yours affectionately, Dr M N K Bose.

Take the milk and leave the water



Nashwan Ahmed Al Khawlani nashwan336@yahoo.com

"Take the milk and leave the water" that was one of Prof. M.N.K. Bose's precious words in 2005 before his

moving from Ibb to Taiz university. However, it bears profound meaning in the field of reading. Also it sounds a magical way of picking up the milk, leaving the water. It is something impossible. But this milk absorbing way does not belong to human beings, it goes to a unique kind of birds as the legend says. This bird which has the ability to absorb the milk, leaving the water as it is at the bottom of the jar is called Swan (like a duck). Likewise, Prof. Bose taught us a very skilled way to get the essence of a passage, a story or an article in order that a good summary will be made.

Giving a précis for a passage is not an easy task particularly for those who do not practice reading regularly. It

needs an adequate concentration to grasp the core of the passage. In other words, it requires three basic steps: skimming, scanning and selecting. To give a general idea about these steps is to provide a brief definition. Skimming means to read quickly in order to know what the passage is about. Scanning means reading to extract specific details which are related to the questions that one is required to answer. As a consequence for scanning, the semantic words that convey the meaning will be picked up for getting the gist. After selecting the relevant points which one is intended to use for making a summary, the other unimportant things will be left as they are. Taking these words into account, a

large number of words will be left in the passage. A reader is confused about the function these words are supposed to fulfill. In fact, they are used for clarity of expression and understanding the passage easily.

Therefore, we as students can adopt the same strategy as the bird, Swan which absorbs only the milk from the pot and leaves the water. Similarly students can take the semantic words that convey the meaning and the main points that convey the essence of the passage, leaving the rest. Consequently, minimum time and effort is expended but maximum information we get. So let us take the milk and leave the water as we go on reading more passages.

Translation: The meaning and the message (Part 4)

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

Contrastive Analysis (CA) proposes to carry out a contrast between the system of the SL or L1 and the TL or L2 so as to identify structural divergences which are likely to militate against and impede the smooth acquisition of the SL/FL. In analyzing these structural divergences for CA the concept of clause/sentence-related equivalence is very useful. Hence, interlingual contrastive linguistics emphasizes the value of translation in the foreign language pedagogy for the following reasons:

i) Inter-lingual transfer difficulties from the SL to the TL occur whenever there is no lexical, syntactic or pragmatic one-to-one correlation between the two languages. In such cases, the language learner compulsively resorts to shifts of expression ranging from morphemic to textual dimension. The structural and other recurrent differences can be brought to the notice of the language learner through translation.

ii) Context-sensitive, socio-culturally determined discourse stereotypes in any language constitute a potentially rich source of interference for a learner learning that language as a second or foreign language. In this context, specially designed capsule translation courses comprising linguistic, cultural, anthropological or social determinations can prove very effective for inter-lingual acculturation.

Moreover the scope and area of SL/FL teaching can be further widened to

inculcate into the learners an extra dimension in the form of a certain level of transfer capability for achieving efficient communicative competence in inter-lingual contact situations. This capability can be consolidated so that translation can acquire the status of an autonomous learning target, facilitating on the one hand, acquisition of foreign language competence as a means to an end and effecting on the other, a communicative bridge between the members of different language communities as an end in itself.

Within the framework of Krashen's Monitor Model postulating an Acquired System (AS) and a Learnt System (LS), with the Learnt System monitoring or editing the output from the Acquired System for a communicatively efficient, fluent performance in the second or foreign language, translation can serve as a powerful tool to facilitate transformation from the Learnt System to the Acquired System. It can be an excellent spring board to create in the translating process, a new text in the target language and eventually give the learner confidence to manipulate and play with the TL.

As a review and repair activity, translation can play an important role in remedial teaching. If self-monitoring is employed as a form of optional remediation, the learner output is an essential factor which can be best facilitated by requiring the learner to initiate and produce his own utterance by way of free composition, ensuring learners' involvement. However, if the learner is asked to translate from the first language into the target language, a high degree of learner involvement may be implied in so far as

the translator sees himself as the successful creator of an artifact – the target language text. The first language text would subserve the purpose of a convenient frame of references. As Krashen's Monitor Model suggests, communicative activity is augmented and facilitated when it is embedded in here-and-now. In other words, the presence of the context of communication enables the learner to get extra linguistic support from the situation resulting in efficiency in communication. Conversely, detachment from the here-and-now context of communication makes second language acquisition more difficult. In case of translation, the availability of the text in the source language fulfills the need for the context of communication.

As Das (1983) suggests, translation is eminently usable as a review-and-repair activity in remedial teaching. We know from experience that the output in the TL for many second language learners remains primarily a process of translation with self-monitoring, particularly in the initial stages. The learner's progressive acquisition of competence in the second language is indeed his continuing endeavor to refine his translation so as to make it more acceptable. The more successfully he monitors his own translation, the more efficiency and fluency he gains in translating until he gains optimal proficiency in the language. Hence despite some commonplace criticism that translation reduces the amount of exposure to the target language and that translation forces the learners to adhere to the first language rules and system at the syntactic and semantic lev-

els, thereby inhibiting the learner from taking risks for acquiring the TL system, efforts should be made for a systematic use for the translation process to enable the SL/FL learners to gain greater control over their self monitoring strategies as well as to concentrate on the form and meaning of the TL simultaneously.

Besides, translation from mother tongue literature used in a second language context enables learners to improve or recreate the given translation that helps them in learning language skills in a holistic rather than an isolated manner.

One of the consequences of translation from mother tongue into the Target Language is that it enables the learners to recognize the difference in word order, inflections and socio-cultural milieu as far as the SL and TL are concerned. The FL/SL instructor can hope to measure the learners' linguistic competence by means of the TL product.

To conclude, the fact that translation studies are gaining momentum is a happy indicator of the major role that these studies are going to play in the SL/FL classroom. It is a small wonder that most language departments are going ahead diversifying the graduate and postgraduate curricula to include translation as an essential component. Now experimental projects are being mounted to study the role and relevance of translation in error analysis, contrastive analysis, discourse analysis, designing bridge courses for college freshmen and so forth. All these undoubtedly promise a rich output to significantly transform the foreign language pedagogy scenario. (Concluded)

ANY GUESSES?

1. How to use the word **acquiesce**?
2. What is the meaning of **sendee**?
3. What is the distinction between **fingers** and **toes**?
4. What does the speaker mean when he asks someone, **What's eating you?**
5. What is meant by **watershed**?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **Doublespeak** is the kind of language that is ambiguous or obscure. The purpose of doublespeak is to only pretend to communicate, whereas it actually doesn't. It aims at making things sound impressive so as to make the bad appear good, the simple appear complex, the unpleasant attractive. Politicians, bureaucrats, advertisers make use of doublespeak. Some examples of doublespeak:
 - i. When the US invaded Grenada in the 1980s, it didn't call it an invasion. The government announced that there had been a **pre-dawn vertical insertion**.
 - ii. Teachers are called **learning facilitators** or **classroom educators**.
 - iii. A tooth prick is referred to as **wood interdental stimulator**.
 - iv. A pencil is called **a portable, handheld communications inscriber**.
 - v. Poor people are described as **fiscal underachievers** or **economically non-affluent**.
 - vi. Potholes are called **pavement deficiencies**.
 - vii. The doctor can refer to a patient who didn't respond to treatment as follows: **It was a diagnostic misadventure of a high magnitude because (the patient) merely failed to fulfill his wellness potential**.
 - viii. The servant who wants to sweep the room is described as **Environmental technician**.
2. **Circumlocution** means the use of many words where fewer would do. In ordinary conversation, we tend to use a lot of unnecessary words. Some tend to say in a roundabout way what can be said in a simple, straightforward way. Careful writers and speakers don't waste words. They are very precise.

Examples of circumlocution:

 - i. **The reason for his failure is due to carelessness.** He failed due to carelessness.
 - ii. **With a view to going to station, I engaged a taxi.** I took a taxi to go to the station.
3. **Referral** is a formal word. It is an act or instance of being referred, especially to another person or organization for consideration, treatment, etc.

Ex: This is not a general hospital. It is a referral hospital.
4. **Vertically challenged** means short. Similarly, a person who wears glasses is called **visually challenged**. These expressions are becoming popular in America.
5. Way back in the 9th century, the Danes imposed a poll tax on the Irish. This poll tax became known as the **nose tax**. Any Irishman who refused to pay the poll tax had his nose cut off. So the poor Irishman literally paid through his nose!

Some difficulties in studying literature



Mofeed Mohammed Al-Gaad
mofeed336@yahoo.com
Faculty of Arts
Ibb university

that goes with study of literature.

With a view to helping students to understand the importance of studying literature, I mention here some objectives of studying literature:

- 1) Literature enriches students' vocabulary and refines their sense of literary appreciation.
- 2) It inspires them to think over painful or beautiful aspects of life.
- 3) It gives students a chance to reflect his ideas, beliefs and emotions through analyzing literary texts.
- 4) Studying literature develops emotional and intellectual capacity of learners.
- 5) Improving one's literary sensibility, better understanding of life, culture are all reasons for studying literature.

Use of inappropriate methods of teaching.

The difficulty in understanding and appreciating literature is due to the fact that some teachers of literature don't pay attention to the appropriate methods of teaching literature, which would enable them to transfer the information to students easily. To put it differently, some teachers neither prepare questions for discussion nor give students a chance to respond to the literary texts. Thus instead of deriving pleasure and entertainment out of studying literature, students feel burdened with its implications for the exam a thing that makes them take the study of the literary work as a difficult task to accomplish.

Teaching literature requires adoption of special methods of teaching including screening of the play or the novel, or using the body language on the part of the lecturer himself to animate the students to the appropriate environment of the play or the novel. Yet, most of lecturers in Yemeni universities never utilize such methods to help their students to grasp the real meaning of the literary text.

Random selection of texts

Choice of texts play a crucial role in hindering or enhancing the processes of studying literature. It hinders the process of making sense of the text to students' age, interest, culture and level of study. On the contrary, an appropriate text that is in harmony with students' age, interest and so on will help them to understand and appreciate the literary work clearly. Unfortunately, some teachers select texts from an alien culture, written in incomprehensible language which obviously is beyond students' socio cultural background. As a result, students struggle hard and face a tough time to get the meaning of the text. For example, selecting Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is rather a wrong choice of text, because *Macbeth* is a heroic play written in old English language. For this reason students are obliged to translate the old English words into contemporary English words to get the meaning of the play, a thing that kills the sense of enjoyment of studying this literary text (*Macbeth*).

Lack of background knowledge about the author's life and the prevailing social climate

Another problem is the background information that is related to the author's life. It is an established fact that background information paves the way for personal involvement. Yet most of literature students concentrate merely on the content and ignore the background of author's life and the literary characteristics which distinguish him from his contemporary writers. Consequently, they face a serious difficulty in the process of analyses and assessment and they may misinterpret the literary text. To get red of this problem students have to get as much as necessary information about the author's life and the background of the literary text. For example, to analyze critically John Donne's poems, we ought to search through internet websites about his life and literary characteristics in order to get an adequate background information that would enable us to analyze and evaluate his works properly.

Teachers here also must play a crucial role to guide students how to use the appropriate strategies for studying literature.

To conclude, both teachers and students should find the appropriate solution for the problems mentioned above so as to derive the sense of pleasure and entertainment embedded in studying literature and grasp the real meaning of the literary work.

Guidelines for fresh school teachers



Abu Talib Al Kadi
Yemen_talib@yahoo.com
English Department
Center of languages
Ibb University

For school teachers, the first teaching year is unforgettable. It is the year that many teachers like to laugh about and tell the tale. However, many others don't like to recall it for they had horrendous experiences that made them feel so inept and ineffective. In fact, the first teaching year with all of its emotional upheavals is so crucial for fresh teachers to find their place and zone, and simply to know who they are. Here is a bunch of guidelines that may help new teachers to start out the career.

During the first day and week a newly appointed teacher needs to practice routines and procedures, and to talk about rules right away. It is usually advisable for new teachers to know their students' names and to let the students feel valued, and help develop a community in classroom. Starting the year off strict is also recommended in order not to allow things to get out of hand early. New teachers do not have to be friends for students to get respect. In fact, the opposite usually happens. Such fresh teachers will lighten up as the year goes by.

An important step that new teachers need to work on from the beginning is discipline and motivating the kids to learn. This requires handling classroom management in an easy-going, and amusing manner. This may work with some students, but many others will take advantage of it, chew you up and spit you out. The students want to like you, and they can, but they also need very clear behavior limits. That means being consistent and no-nonsense firm. Sometimes, finding out what's beneath the roguish behavior of the students is necessary. Many misbehaviors are squelched when you call the parent and express concern, especially if the behavior is a recent change. Many parents will respond positively when you tell them that you care about their children and that you want to succeed in your class. Detention, corporal punishment, oust

and isolation are not as effective as working closely with the parents.

It is also important to plan your days. Don't go to class with vague ideas. In almost all cases those shoot-from-the-hip "lessons" fail. You end up cheating your students. Therefore, know what you are going to do before hand, have it written down, even write an agenda on the board so when the students come in, they see what is going to be covered that day. Get the students accustomed immediately to coming into the classroom on time and having a short "assignment" perhaps daily oral language or amusing activities that lead to the new lesson. A good strategy for new teachers is to borrow one of the senior teacher's lesson plans to see how they plan their lessons.

It goes without saying that you are supposed to look at the things you do and say everyday when you are with your students. Try to video-tape yourself while teaching. It perhaps gives you feedback about your voice inflections, movements and gestures that you didn't know you were making. Aside from that, it is interesting to be able to actually see the whole class. It certainly gives you ideas for the next time you teach the lesson if you are focusing on certain student while others are sitting around, off task. You can ask some teachers to video-tape your teaching and critique the lesson using a rubric that they design. This helps you to be quite used to being observed and not to be shy!

You also need to have a mentor that you can call at any time when you face difficulties. Choose the mentor who is willing to let you call her/him when you have a problem, who can email you and observe your class, and who can create a lesson for you out of a lesson. In other words, seek out a teacher you trust, who is there for the children, and ask him/her to observe you and offer suggestions and strategies to be compatible with your teaching career.

To sum up, the first year gives one the legs to stand on and it empowers one as a teacher. It really is akin to being an intern in an emergency room. The key to success is the mutual trust, sharing and consistency. Opening practice to this kind of scrutiny is very empowering. The focus on one thing at a time should help to make things more manageable. However, I would say that it is the talking, the venting, the questioning and finding like-minded colleagues and even those that stretch your thinking that helps so much in having a rich experience in the world of teaching. It gets better as long as you continue what you are doing, and your teaching style emerges and grows.

Spare the rod and spoil the child (2)

How to discipline and win the hearts of our students



Mohammed Alfadhel
mafaz@yahoo.com
M.A. in English Literature
Alandalus University

In the first part of the article, we mentioned some strategies on the part of the teacher to maintain discipline and at the same time endear the students to him/her. Here are some more.

The types of disruptive students can fall under four major categories: Firstly, *argumentative* students, who tend to argue whenever they have the chance. To deal with them, the teacher should use common sense and try to convince them using all his/her powers of persuasion. Secondly, *dominant* students who wish to brag in front of their classmates and show their superiority. A good solution is to make them understand that they should let other students participate. It is important to

give them a feeling that you are not prejudiced against anyone and treat all of them equally. Thirdly, *weak* students, who avoid participating and try to distract other students for fear of being asked questions by the teacher. A good solution is to keep them engaged those students all the time. Try to pair a weak student with a strong one in pair work. *Students who seek personal attention*, is the fourth type. In this case, they should be aware that it is almost impossible for the teacher to do

so, since you have other students, not to mention the limited amount of time. Assign them some tasks like handing over the exam sheets or even ask for their opinions on some issues that might interest them. Last but not the least; the teacher can divide the class into groups to run competitions among them. The winning team gets extra marks or even some presents. This activity can be repeated once in a while. Consequently, the class will be more enjoyable and less boring.

The above-mentioned techniques can contribute to the success of any class, make students' hearts leap, keep students' spirit high, and make the teacher feel like a knight in his shining armour fighting all evils and sufferings that may befall his/her students.

Continued from page 1

Vocabulary acquisition

The socio-economic status of parents may also be a factor which contributes to the students' vocabulary development. The parents of high and middle socio-economic status affect their children positively, but children of lower status of society usually are not proficient in vocabulary. They have lesser capacity for sustained attention - with an empty stomach or weak health they can't keep their minds focused on what is going on in the class. They probably have limited opportunity to listen to radio or television. They don't associate themselves with urban children. Their parents can't afford to buy reading materials. The deprived child is physically restricted by his lack of

familiarity with a number of things he has seen, heard, touched and tasted. This deprives him of building a sound background knowledge that triggers efficient learning because the child learns by active contact with things.

A child's personal characteristics seem to affect his learning of English vocabulary. Intelligence may be a major factor in the acquisition of English words. Children of high intelligence have the capacity to learn more.

In the rural schools the teachers complain that the children are very irregular to school because they go for agricultural work. So inability to attend school either due to ill-health

or any other reason, interrupts the children's learning.

Leisure time activities contribute directly or indirectly to the development of the vocabulary of the pupils, such as playing vocabulary games, singing or listening to English songs, acting in simple skits or watching them and so on.

The attitudes, interests, and emotional state of the student affect vocabulary learning. Some children seem to be frightened of the English period and the English teacher. This fear builds up a negative attitude towards the subject. Such students will face the English period as if it were a big burden. This feeling hinders the progress of their learning

English words.

To sum up, special attention must be given to the development of an adequate vocabulary base. It's valuable to look into the factors that influence the development of English vocabulary. Adequate vocabulary is necessary for many reasons: to understand English with ease when spoken at normal speed, to speak English correctly and fluently with proper stress and intonation, to read English with comprehension and reasonable speed, to write neatly and correctly, to enjoy simple poems in English and finally to acquire knowledge of the elements of English for practical command of the language.

The native speaker myth

Answering the question 'Who is a native speaker?' Graddol, in his recent book *English Next* (2006) categorically states "The distinctions between 'native speaker', 'second-language speaker' and 'foreign language user' have become blurred." The distinction now is between highly proficient speakers of English and those who have 'functional native-ness' regardless of how they learned

or use the language. Andy Kirkpatrick, Professor at Hong Kong Institute of Education, quoted in the same book, says "In today's complex and globalizing world, well-trained, multilingual and culturally sophisticated teachers are needed to teach learners of English. Graddol goes on to emphasize that "Lack of a native speaker accent is not a sign of poor competence" because "as English

becomes more widely used as a global language, it will become expected that speakers will signal their nationality and other aspects of identity, through English".

Let's aim at global English, not the native speaker English. Let's get away from the native speaker myth. Let's remember Yemen needs English as Lingua Franca not EFL anymore.

Winners make goals, losers make excuses

First, determine your short-term and long-term goals. It is very important to make your goal obvious. Then you should try to move heaven and earth to achieve it. Your short-term aim should take a short period (few weeks or months). For example, a student may say, 'I shall get 'excellent' this semester.' But the long-term aim should be like saying 'I should graduate from the university with an excellent degree so that I can go abroad and complete my higher studies'. This way, you get your aim achieved. On the other hand, if you don't know what's the aim that you want to achieve, then you can go through these points realistically and practically, attend sermons that are concerned with such topics and try to join special courses.

Second, work hard to develop a positive character. No doubt, a positive character attracts all the positive people which eventually will lead to build up good mutual cooperation.

Third, be confident enough of your potential. Confidence is one of the best requirements of success.

Fourth, try to have special skills that will make you unique in the society.

Fifth, try to solve your personal problems since it is difficult for everybody to focus on the person who can not solve his own problems even if he is skillful and excellent.

Sixth, be patient and remember that after a storm comes a calm. And remember also that so many successful people have denied themselves of the glory and excitement of success because of losing patience.

Seventh, carefully choose your friends. It is said that your friend is your mirror. And to highlight the importance of this point, it is worth mentioning a very touching story that shows how a real friend can risk his life for the sake of his friend. One day, there was a battle which caused so many deaths. One of the survived soldiers remembered one of his best friends and wanted to make a search for him, so he asked his boss to allow him to go and look for him. His boss refused the request and said, "I don't want you to take such an adventure for a man who might be dead. The soldier ignored the refusal of his boss and went searching for his friend. After some time, he came back carrying the dead body of his friend on his shoulder.

Extremely Short Story Competition 2008 Arabian Peninsula (Essc)

Dr. Nemah Al-Zabidy
namaedu222@hotmail.com
Head of the Eng. Dept.
Faculty of Education
University of Hodeidah



The ESSC is an annual online 50-word story writing competition, http://50words.org which was started 4 years ago by Peter Hassall at Zayed University. In previous years the competition was only open to tertiary level Emirati students but this year it's been expanded to include secondary level students and is being run throughout the Gulf region.

Extremely Short Story Competition [ESSC] is run by the British Council in association with Zayed University [UAE] in the countries of the Arabian Peninsula at both Secondary (High School) and Tertiary (University/College Level). In

Yemen, the competition is only open to Yemenis and GCC nationals and the closing date for submitting stories was Thursday 22 May 2008.

The theme for this year's competition was 'Our Memories, Dreams & Futures.' The best (or possibly all) entries will be published in an anthology later this year, and there will be some big prizes for the winners.

ESSC was publicly announced in the English Department, Faculty of Education - Hodeidah, at the initiative of the HOD, Dr. Nemah Al-Zabidy, who is in constant contact with the British Council, Sana'a. Students of the English Department of English were invited and encouraged to contribute to this competition so as to promote their fertile imagina-

tion and creativity.

Many students of the English Department contributed. They first registered their names online, got their codes and ultimately sent their short stories themselves to Peter Hassall in Zayed University, UAE.

The Yemen tertiary winner was Ms. Sahar Muneer Farouq Al-Dobai, one of the fourth-year students of the English Department in the Faculty of Education at Hodeidah University. Sahar submitted two short stories: *A Good Man* and *The Rose*. The story captioned *The Rose*, luckily, made Sahar the winner of this competition. Her stories are as follows:

The Rose

It was on the ground, wilted and sad. It

remembers when it looks lovely on that branch. But when it longs for another life, far from its branch, it means nothing. It wishes to back to its glory. It wishes to die with its honour on that branch.

A Good Man

A good man, who lives objectively, faces many problems because he can not compliment and deceive others. But, no one makes friendship with him. He becomes so frustrated. He knows that he should not be like them. So, he decides to die, although he is alive!!

Sahar was honoured by the ELT Manager of the British Council, Dr. Julia Cave Smith, who gave her a certificate and a Prize on the second day (16th Nov. 2008) of the two-day workshops that were held in the Meeting Hall of the Faculty of Education.

Mr. Peter Hassall, from Zayed University, will be putting Sahar's story in an exhibition, then he will send it to the South to Abu Dhabi shortly and may possibly be able to send the exhibition onto Yemen somehow. It will be published in a book that consists of about 45 A2 (or A1) art boards - on each one there is a picture or a photograph and a story (including Sahar's story) both printed out in colour and laminated.

We, HOD and the staff members of the English department, are very proud of Sahar and send her our warmest congratulations. Also, we wish to have the exhibition here in Hodeidah.

YOUTH FORUM

Learning English

Don't judge a book by its cover. Thus goes a well known proverb about how people judge by appearance or reputation without going deep into an issue or without having sufficient information or knowledge about something. Very often we hear people complain that learning English is hard, without even trying. One should at least give it a try and see its outcome before they make this judgment. If they do this they will certainly know that it is worth a try. Learning English or any foreign language for that matter cannot be any means be described as easy; with systematic work and perseverance one can succeed, and also enjoy learning English.

Despite the fact that English is a foreign language to us. It is considered to be the most important medium of global communications, especially as the language of the Net. Now that the world has become a small village, we need English to communicate across continents and keep up with the world. English opens to us a window to the different cultures and heritages of various nations.

People don't plan to fail but fail to plan, thus we should try our level best and plan how we can improve our language in terms of speaking, reading, writing and understanding, for they all complement each other. If one lags behind in one of these skills, you aren't considered to be a proficient user of the language. This of course is not something particular to

English but all foreign languages learners have to put in more effort in their studies for all round development of their abilities.

Learning is a skill and it can be improved, hence if we work hard we can accomplish our goals and achieve our aims. However, if we quit from the very beginning, we would come out, gain less and feel desperate that we failed. We as learners ought to go wrong now and then, but this shouldn't stop us; In fact, we should learn through our mistakes. It's not shameful to fall down, however shame is to be unable to rise up again.

It's going to be difficult and we will face problems but we will overcome the difficulties. The path is ahead of us and the journey of a thousand miles starts with a step. Although the first step is always the hardest, when we believe that nothing is impossible we can surround that. There will be hardships and obstacles but through hard work and endurance we can succeed, for success is a ladder on which you can't climb with your hands in your pocket, you ought to put in your full effort, have confidence in yourself and most of all practice a lot; for practice makes a man perfect.

Fatma Ahmed Basharahil
Level - 1, Department of English
Hadhramout University of Science & Technology
Faculty of Education,
Al-Mahra

My heart aches

My happiness is gone with the wind
Since every door is closed for me
I cry Yeah I cry bitterly
With no language but a cry
Only my heart knows the pangs
Only my heart sheds tears
Alone
No one knows
No one feels
No one No one
Wipes the tears
Night comes
Day goes
And No one knows
Only me and my tears
All the time
I suffer silently

When I stand
Sit and even
When I'm laughing
No one knows
Except my Lord, the most generous
and the most compassionate
Allah
To Him I pray
Compassionately He listens
To heart's pulsating
His mercy removes
My sadness
And gives me solace
Which no one knows

Hanan Fouad Lardhi
Business Administration
International College, UST, Sana'a

POETRY CORNER

Years in love

Rania Hagag

Spending years in love was a dream
And when that dream finished I screamed
Asking Time to return to where we began
Our love was shining like a sun.
Today I can say that I am dizzy
Because everything finished in a moment of fantasy

I still can't cry however I saw
everything die
Imagine I am alone starting a new
life by my own
Everyone is going to suffer his fate
Forgetting our love as we met in a date
Goodbye, my lover, what I will say
Everything died by the end of that day.

READERS WRITE

Dear Dr. Sahu,
You are really my own teacher
whom I want to meet face to face.
You are a gift for all Yemeni students.
I won't forget your pieces of advice at all. Thanks a lot.

Mohammed Ameen
Level 3
Faculty of Arts
Thamar University

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (104):
Money and monetary transactions (I)

Money is a key element in our lives. It is the single most decisive determinant of success at both micro and macro levels, that is at the individual as well as national and global levels. Possessing a good amount of money is one thing, but its efficient management is another because as George Buchanan puts it "fool and his money are soon parted." Therefore, it is important that we are aware of some basic concepts related to money and monetary transactions.

Mode of payment: Cash/cheque/credit card
Hard currency: It is any currency which is reliable and stable.

Unearned income: Rents from property; winnings from gambling; interest from investments.

Interest: Money chargeable on a loan

Mortgage: A loan to purchase property

An over drawn account: A bank account with minus money in it.

Savings account: An account that is used mainly for keeping money

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct grammatical or idiomatic errors, if any, in the following sentences

- The plan is to go for the cinema and then have dinner.
- All one can conclude from his various exploits are that he is a fool-hardy person.
- Cricket has become so popular that even elderly people are discussing the game when they meet.
- Ordinarily, when in difficulty Nada prefers keeping her counsel than running about taking advice.
- People have a right to criticize but at the same time each of them have to remember their duty also.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- We must not complain that roses have thorns but (we) should rather be grateful that thorns have flower.
- She wrote an essay so well that her teacher was exceedingly pleased with her.
- On my request, Qaid introduced me to his friend who is both a singer and a scientist.
- Mohammed's habit of delaying his work put his colleagues into a lot of trouble.
- Moin arrives at the office as fresh as he had started from home even though he commutes a long distance.

III. Increase Your Word Power

- A) How to express it in one word**
- State of enthusiastic admiration.
 - Body of an aircraft to which the engine(s), wings and tail are fitted.
 - Mixing or uniting of different things into one.
 - Unnecessary nervous excitement about unimportant things.
 - Movement in art (early 29th C) marked by violent departure from tradition.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

Improve Your English: 324

- Designed to have functions: **functional** (adj)
- Those which must be learnt first and on which everything that follows depends: **fundamental** (adj)
- Burial of a dead person with the usual religious ceremonies: **funeral** (n)
- Eighth of a mile: **furlong** (n)
- Enclosed fire place for heating buildings with hot water or steam: **furnace** (n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- regard, regards
- journey, voyage
- ice, snow
- illuminate, illumine
- high way, highway

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- functionary** (n) (person who has unimportant or unnecessary official duties): He is a mere functionary, but has the airs of a dignitary.

functional (adj) (made for or concerned with practical use): The workers were given functional training to operate the new machine.

happily (adv) (archaic) (by chance, perhaps): Happily did I meet my friend after twenty years.

happily (adv) (in a happy manner, fortunately): The lovers are happily married.

marshal (n) (officer of highest rank-one who arranges things or is responsible for important public events or ceremonies): The Air-Marshal was given a guard of honor.

martial (adj) (concerning war, warlike, brave): Many tribals are masters of martial arts.

sceptic (n) (a person who doubts things and does not give his judgment): Sceptics are not easily convinced.

septic (adj) (infected): Take care, your wound might turn septic.

seasonal (adj) (dependent upon the seasons; changing with the seasons): Many seasonal fruits and vegetables are available during the winter.

seasonable (adj) (of the kind of the weather to be expected at the time of the year. Suitable for the seasons): The flowering of roses in February is seasonable in North India.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms
Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one in bold in the following sentences

- Sky is only the limit for a **diligent** person.
a. obedient b. meticulous
c. hardworking d. conscientious

- I request you for an **expeditious** disposal of the matter.
a. prompt b. slow
c. elaborate d. exact

- Students should not feel **intimidated**.
a. persuaded b. attached
c. informed d. threatened
- The accused was **exonerated** by the High Court.
a. forgiven b. suspended
c. declared innocent d. warned
- The lovers selected the lonely corner of the garden as their **rendezvous**.
a. assembly b. camping ground
c. picnic spot d. meeting place

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. implicated | involved |
| 2. accomplice | companion |
| 3. lucrative | profitable |
| 4. judicious | sensible |
| 5. adequate | sufficient |

(ii) Antonyms
Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given in bold in the following sentences

- The seriousness of his disease has been **aggravated** due to his negligence.
a. advocated b. appreciated
c. alleviated d. abbreviated

No softness towards women can be expected from a **misogynist**.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| a. philanthropist | b. philologist |
| c. philogynst | d. philanderer |

I had a **delicious** slumber after a heavy dinner.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| a. bitter | b. repulsive |
| c. strange | d. unpalatable |

The **elegance** of his manners makes him loved by all.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. awkwardness | b. indelicacy |
| c. clumsiness | d. savagery |

I can't forget the horrible experience of that **dreary** day.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a. drab | b. dangerous |
| c. beautiful | d. bright |

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. radical | conservative |
| 2. humorous | dejected |
| 3. vivacity | apathy |
| 4. indignation | happiness |
| 5. unscrupulous | conscientious |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. afraid b. afred
c. afreid d. afried
- a. agensi b. agency
c. agensee d. agansi

The letter won't arrive on time. It ...

- There's a chance they'll arrest him if he tries to leave the country.
He ...

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- He must be told - *It is essential that someone tells him.*
- He must have been told - *I'm absolutely sure that someone told him.*
- He should be told - *Someone ought to tell him.*
- He should have been told - *It's wrong that nobody told him.*
- He should have been told - *It's wrong that nobody told him.*
- He can't be told - *It isn't possible to tell him.*
- He might be told - *It's possible to tell him.*
- He might have been told - *Perhaps someone told him.*
- He shouldn't be told - *It's wrong to tell him.*
- He can be told - *Perhaps somebody will tell him.*

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

142: WORK BRINGS ITS OWN RELIEF

Topic 141

ARS LONGA, VITA BREVIS
Goethe, the renowned philosopher, has pronounced these illuminating words which mean "Art is long, life short." The highest goal of every art is, by means of appearances, to produce the illusion of a loftier reality. The English poet Longfellow has said, "Art is a revelation of man." To Amy Lowell Art is the desire of man to express himself, to record the reactions of his personality to the world he lives in. Life itself has assumed the shape of artistic form in which the conscious and unconscious are poles. Between them human thought makes a swing. All beings and all worlds hang there. Myriad beings exist there. Myriad ages pass and the swing goes on. Infinite swings. Infinite is the realm of art which depicts life as growth. The artist doesn't portray the shapes of nature itself. Earth's life-blood streams through the members of the figures and gives them form. In the perceptions of Stella Kramrisch, art is an interpreter. An artist is engaged in chiseling out "monuments of unaging intellect" that represent the glory of "the edifice of eternity." So, an artist immortalizes himself through his creation. He leaves his footprints on the sands of time. He lives everywhere, at all times and in all climes. His physical form returns to the grave, but his vision and creativity continue to inspire and instruct the mankind for ever. Age cannot wither art, nor custom stale.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Call on your Lord with humility and in private: for Allah loveth not those who trespass beyond bounds." -S7:A55

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Peace is not the absence of conflict from life, but the ability to cope with it." -Sun Dial

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Rewrite each of the following sentences without changing the meaning, using one of the modal verbs mentioned below must be, must have been, should be, should have been, can't be, can't have been, might be, might have been, shouldn't be, can be

- I'm afraid that your car is beyond repair. I'm afraid that your car ...
- Perhaps someone has handed your cheque book in at the bank. Your cheque book ...
- I'm sure someone disturbed the burglars - they didn't take the video. The burglars ...
- The letter won't arrive on time. It was posted too late.