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EDUCATION
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Anti-Kidnapping law fails to protect foreigners from being kidnapped

In the last five years 220 foreigners were kidnapped in Yemen by tribes demanding either money or the release of prisoners. Last year the Anti-Kidnapping law was legislated. It states that kidnapers and bandits are to receive the capital punishment. Since then, at least three kidnapping incidents have taken place. Yemen Times investigates the Anti-Kidnapping law in the following report.

By: Muazz Al-Maqtari
 For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Feb. 4 — It was twelve noon last Saturday when the Attorney General in Sana'a told the Yemen Times that he cannot reveal any information about applying the "anti-kidnapping law" issued in August 2008. "You can go to the Specialized Penal Prosecution," suggested the Attorney General, Abdullah Al-Ulufi. He pointed out that his office "is not allowed to reveal information of such kind [the transfer of crimes of kidnapping foreigners to the penal prosecution] to media outlets." The first article of the anti-kidnapping law stipulates that "those who lead gangs of kidnapping and set-up illegal roadblocks are to receive the death penalty. With regards to kidnapping foreigners, the Attorney General Office is authorized to file a case at the Penal Court specialized with the state security, according to the law that was established at this court. Head of the Penal Prosecution, Saeed Al-A'ael, said that he cannot reveal

any uncirculated information as he doesn't have authorization from the Attorney General to do so. However, he confirmed the information given to the Yemen Times that since the issuance of the law, the death penalty hasn't been carried out yet against kidnapers of foreigners. Al-A'ael confirmed that kidnapers who belong to gangs that escaped authorities were imprisoned under the same law. He pointed out that they will be imprisoned in Sana'a Central Prison for 10-15 years. In the Attorney General's Office in Sana'a, two young men - one from Hajja governorate and the other from Khawlan area of Sana'a - talked about cases relevant to anti-kidnapping and roadblock crimes. The two men, Sadeq Al-Sharafi and Abdul Mutaleb Al-Shami, held a court verdict which stipulates the death penalty against Mohammed Hashem Al-Luw'a of Hajja governorate. The latter has been put beyond bars since six years in Hajja Central Prison. Al-Luw'a participated in a tribal and security effort aimed to arrest the man who was behind the roadblocks and who escaped the prison only to begin threatening his hometown area. He had previously carried out a roadblock operation during which three people were injured. Al-Sharafi, who followed the case from the beginning, said that Al-Luw'a chased the man responsible for the roadblocks based on tribal authorization supervised by ex-head of Hajja security, Mohammed Tunbala. Al-Luw'a killed the bandit [influential tribesman from Hajja] by mistake. Now, carrying out the death penalty against Al-Luw'a is imminent.



Over seven percent of the Yemen's GDP is dedicated to military expenditure. Despite huge efforts by the government to ensure stability the security challenges are enormous and threaten Yemen's image as a safe country.

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Weak law vs. strong tribes
 Sheikh Zaid Erjash, one of most well-known tribal sheikhs of Hajja, confirmed this information and told the Yemen Times that the anti-kidnapping law is only applied against weak people and tribes that don't have influence in the government. Erjash, who is also the head of the JMP in Hajja, said that the majority of kidnapping crimes are solved outside the law's efficacy. In these cases, the government becomes a supervisor over the tribal negotiations to release hostages, particularly when those kidnapped are foreigners. The kidnapping of German tourists was repeated in Shabwa governorate, some 570 kilometers east of Sana'a. In December 2006, kidnapers released five German hostages. At that time, the state-run Saba News Agency reported

that the release of the Germans was carried out through negotiations between tribes and were headed by the Ex-Minister of Defense. Local sources told the Yemen Times that kidnapers attained various privileges and were never transferred to the judicial system. **State efforts**
 On the governmental level, crimes of kidnapping and setting up roadblocks, in addition to terrorism, received the most attention during the annual conference of Interior Ministry leaders, which concluded its activities the 26th of last month. The closing statement of the conference stressed arresting the fugitives wanted by security who committed kidnapping and roadblock crimes. However, the conference recommendations didn't indicate any assessment of the application of the new anti-kidnapping law. The conference approved a national strategy for civil defense and rescue. The strategy focused on the importance of complete coordination among security apparatuses and the importance of revealing anonymous crimes. In addition, kidnapping crimes topped the list of speeches from President Ali Abdullah Saleh. On multiple occasions, the President said that all legal proce-

dures will be taken to bring those involved in acts of kidnapping foreigners to justice. He pointed out that kidnapping foreigners is not due to the lack of a law which stipulates death penalty against kidnapers. Rather, it takes place "to repel oppression or bring interest to an area," he said. In such cases, tourists are used as bargaining chips in trying to broker deals with the government. Sheikh Erjash said that kidnapers who belong to tribes gain privileges and money to release foreign hostages, pointing out that in some cases tribal mediators who were nominated to negotiate with kidnapers were they themselves kidnapers in past cases. **History of Kidnapping**
 Although western governments deal strictly with kidnapping acts against their subjects in Yemen, they differentiate between kidnapping in Yemen and similar cases that take place in Iraq, Algeria, and other countries. According to the Crisis Management Center in Berlin - Germany armed tribal groups kidnapped 220 foreigners during the last five years. The majority of the hostages were released without being harmed, but the kidnapers weren't brought to trial.

Mass media closely followed the case of the German man who was kidnapped last January in Shabwa governorate. The German Foreign Affairs Ministry said that the German expert, 56, was in good condition. The man insisted to continue his work in Yemen according to Hawk Company, where he works as an engineer. The Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, confirmed in several statements to media outlets that kidnapping incidents against foreigners "hinder the government's efforts to achieve development and bring investment." "Kidnapping acts hinder the great efforts the government exerts to promote tourism in Yemen, which is a first rate tourist country," said Al-Qirbi. Both President Saleh and Al-Qirbi believe that the anti-kidnapping law is a step that will ensure the ending the phenomenon. It also confirms the will of the government to deal strictly with the issue. In an analytical research by Lawyer Ahmed Al-Wadie and other lawyers on the credibility of the Special Penal Court he provides that this law and many similar laws relevant to national security led to establishing a Penal Court which specializes in these issues.

The establishment of this court was based on an order from President Saleh. Terrorists were tried in Abyan for kidnapping 16 foreign tourists; the kidnapers used these hostages to protect themselves from the security forces fire. However, the trial of the militia of Aden-Abyan Islamic Army was conducted in Zunjubar Court, which belongs to the Judiciary system and not the Penal Court. At that time, Britain refused the Yemeni request to extradite Abu Hamza Al-Masri, who was charged in Yemen in absentia for plotting the kidnapping via satellite communication from London. And while UK did not deny the charges, yet it did not consider the evidence sufficient to hand him over to Yemen, mainly because the British government does not admit allowing interrupting satellite citizen's communication. Although another reason could be attributed to the fact that UK has abolished the capital punishment in its penalty system. Abu Hamza Al-Masri, who is currently living as a free man in UK, would be the only Yemeni who has a death sentence issued against him for kidnapping foreigners.

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Parliament votes on election law amendments again

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 4 — The ruling party is to return amendments concerning the election law to the Parliament for a vote on it for the second time. The law was approved by members of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) on August 18, 2008.

Parliament members affiliated with the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) considered this attempt by the GPC to be "playing with politics and elections." They confirmed that they "refuse the step as all other steps taken after the ruling party refused these amendments on August 18 of last year."

"This is one of the tricks by which the ruling party wants to mislead others into thinking that it has reached an agreement with the JMP with regard to

elections," said Sultan Al-Atwani, head of the JMP's Supreme Council, in a statement this week.

For his part, Zaid Al-Shami, head of the Islah Party's parliamentary block, said that the JMP and the ruling party had agreed upon many reforms related to the electoral process but that the latter broke the agreement during the Parliament session last August.

"If they now aim to vote on these amendments again, as circulated in the media outlets, without a national consensus and without canceling all one-sided procedures, such voting can only be to satisfy particular donors abroad who support the elections," said Al-Shami. "These donors had already confirmed the importance of carrying out the recommendations made by the European Union's Elections

Observation Mission."

Al-Shami reconfirmed the stand of the JMP in refusing such voting "which will lead only to an aggravation of the political crisis, as it doesn't recognize partners of the political life here in Yemen." He said that this procedure "confirms the continuation of the ruling party in preparing for the elections alone, particularly after the recent increase in mistakes and fraud in electoral registration."

Aidarous Al-Naqib, head of the parliament bloc of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), denied that the JMP and their parliament blocks know what the GPC's parliament block claimed about amendments on the election law, according to the GPC's website almotamar.net.

"The assumption that the GPC bloc

approved the amendments based on any agreement with the JMP and recommendations of the European observation mission is incorrect and baseless," Al-Naqib told the media. "We have not conducted any dialogue with the ruling party recently with regard to recommendations of the European mission."

"The JMP is following the recommendations of the mission after they became binding for both the JMP and the GPC when the two sides signed them in 2006," said Al-Naqib. He confirmed that there would not be any discussion about the upcoming elections unless there is a national consensus between all sides concerning this important and fateful issue.

"Any new amendments on an election law involve drafting laws either by

a member of the parliament or the government, which has not happened," said Al-Naqib. "I don't think that those who talk in such a way about amending the election law have no idea about the procedures that should be taken according to the constitution and regulations of the parliament."

"The most important points are using the proportional list system and canceling lateral procedures," Al-Naqib continued.

The online website almotamar.net had reported last Saturday a release issued by the head of the GPC parliament bloc.

The release included that the bloc "has approved the final voting on the draft of election law amendments, which the GPC had agreed upon with the JMP during dialogs, based on the

recommendations of the European Union's Elections Observation Mission which observed presidential and local elections in 2006."

For his part, Sultan Al-Barakani, the GPC's assistant secretary general for political affairs and head of the GPC parliament bloc, said that the bloc had discussed the parliament's program, notably because of the upcoming elections in a recent meeting.

This comes after the ruling party announced a step toward ending disagreements with the JMP about the parliamentary elections scheduled next April, including voting on the election law amendments for a second time.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the European Commission continues its visit to Yemen to observe preparations related to the upcoming elections.

Social welfare beneficiaries prefer white wheat to donated type

By: Mahmoud Assamiee & Salah Al-Warafy

SANA'A, Feb. 3 — Mohammed Assilwi is a beneficiary of the social welfare system in Yemen. His father regularly collects food rations from the Yemeni Economic Corporation (YEC). When the United Arab Emirates donated 70,000 tons of whole grain wheat, he, like other beneficiaries, rushed to the YEC to receive his family's share of 50 kilograms of wheat.

The wheat is to be distributed to one and half million poor families registered in the social security system across the country.

During the receiving ceremony on Jan. 10, the Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel, said that the aid reflects the warm brotherly relations between the people of Yemen and the UAE. He also confirmed that the wheat would be distributed to the less fortunate.

"The distribution will be supervised by the local authority to ensure that the UAE's aid is given out to the needy," he added.

The United Arab Emirates had committed to donating 500,000 tons of wheat to support Yemenis. However, since the start of distribution of the wheat to the beneficiaries, Yemenis have been complaining that the type of wheat donated was not desirable in Yemen.

Gradually, beneficiaries started selling their entitled shares to merchants at low prices. In turn, the merchants offered the wheat to buyers at a



Yemenis show preference to white wheat rather than the whole grain type donated by the UAE to support Yemeni people.

discounted price, especially considering that the price of popular wheat is much higher. 50 kilograms of white wheat costs YR 4600 in the market while whole grain wheat averages around YR 3000.

As a reaction to the word of mouth on the streets and to the reluctant people waiting for their entitlements of wheat, the YEC gave the social welfare beneficiaries the option of receiving a small cash compensation in addition to half their wheat entitlement of regular white wheat rather than the donated type from the UAE.

"Although in reality full grain wheat is much more nutritious than the regular white wheat popular in Yemen, the donated full grain wheat is not desirable to the average Yemeni. Consequently, we offer each beneficiary 25 kilos of American white wheat in addition to 600 Yemeni Riyals," said one of the officers responsible for distribution at the corporation.

Haitham Kamel, 25, a wholesaler merchant of foodstuffs in Al-Hasaba Market, said, "Some people come to us to sell their wheat they got for free from the UAE donation. They gave us two

sacks of wheat to bargain it for one of the white kind we sell.

"Sometimes we buy wheat from the welfare beneficiaries for YR 3000 then we sell it as chicken food," Kamel continued. "This kind of wheat is not suitable for making 'Khobz' (Yemeni bread) but it can be used for making soup and other things."

Many wholesale merchants stopped buying the beneficiaries' share of donated wheat because they found it difficult to market it. Some of the beneficiaries returned it to the YEC, who says they will be able to use it elsewhere, perhaps in military camps for soldiers.

However, some Yemenis realize the benefits of whole grain compared to white wheat. Juma'a Asurabi, 50, a widow and mother of five daughters and beneficiary, said, "This wheat is the best kind I've ever known. The most important thing is that such donations will continue in the future."

Ali Assalahi, 30, owner of a mill, says this kind of wheat is good if it is ground well. "Yemeni people always buy the white kind of wheat, which is expensive," he said. He continued to say that the best kind of wheat he sells is the one grown in Yemen which is very expensive. A 50-kilo grams sack of it is sold for YR 8,000, almost the most

expensive kind among all grains.

Ghailan Assoudi, 30, retailer and wholesaler foodstuffs merchant said one of the welfare beneficiaries gave him one sack of the donated wheat to sell it. "When I examined this wheat, I found it the worst kind (from the viewpoint of Yemeni people) ever entering the country," he stated.

YEC officials admitted that the UAE government through its embassy in Yemen did not approve of the fact that the donated wheat is being sold since it was meant as a donation for poor people in Yemen.

"However, it is the beneficiaries themselves who try to rid of the whole grain wheat without realizing what they are losing. It is quite embarrassing that some Yemenis did not appreciate the help they received," said an official from the YEC.

The UAE embassy declined to comment. The donation was prompted by UAE President Khalifah Bin Zaid Al-Nahyan in May of 2008 when Yemen was affected by the global food crisis that hit earlier last year. Al-Nahyan had committed to giving 500,000 tons of wheat to Yemen as a gift from his people to the Yemeni people.

The UAE has also started to donate one million tons of wheat to Egypt and

500,000 tons of wheat to Syria.

According to a recent assessment by the World Food Program, families in remote villages in Yemen are regularly skipping meals and spending over two-thirds of their income on food due to high international prices, forcing some families to pull children out of school because they cannot afford to keep them there.

In 2006, the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization reported that 37 percent of Yemen's population was undernourished, receiving less than 2,200 calories a day.

The price of a 50-kilo sack of wheat skyrocketed from YR 1,500 in 2007 to YR 7,000 over the summer of 2008. Despite settling to YR 4,500 this November, it has risen back up to over YR 5,600 in the new year. Yemeni markets are currently witnessing a slight drop in wheat prices after an unjustified increase in early January.

Four decades ago, Yemen could feed itself via millennia-old terraced farms irrigated by wells and rainwater, often channeled through canals. Since then, however, the population has increased more than fivefold, and population growth remains at an extremely high three percent per year.

Yemen now imports 90 percent of its wheat and all of its rice.

MPs demand the government not receive Abu Mazen

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Feb. 4 — Around 57 members of the Yemeni Parliament urged the government last Saturday not to acknowledge Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, and not to hand him the financial assistance donated by Yemen to reconstruct Gaza.

They say that his presidency expired on February 3 and that he deceived his people in Gaza during the last Israeli offensive on the Strip.

"During the session of Saturday, there were about 105 MPs who attended and we collected 57 MPs' signatures for a petition asking the government not to receive Abu Mazen on Yemeni land," MP Mohammed Al-Hazmi said.

"The MPs who signed the petition are from different political currents: 26 MPs from the General People Congress (GPC), the ruling party, four parliamentarians from the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and the rest are from the Islah Party," Al-Hazmi explained.

He added that those who attended the Saturday session and did not sign the petition did however verbally assault Abu Mazen. He also revealed that the MPs who did not sign wanted to, but were under pressure from their parties due to the upcoming elections.

"This is the Arab and Yemeni opinion of Abu Mazen who no longer represents his country or even his political faction Fatah," Al-Hazmi stressed.

"I challenge those who support Abu Mazen to hold a referendum in Palestine," he added. "From this let us gauge Palestinian acceptance of him and see the results."

"The petition doesn't target the Fatah movement," he stressed, explaining how the MPs move did not aim to affect the Palestinian reconciliation. "There are good men and resistant heroes in Fatah with whom the dia-



The MP conveyed the Yemenis support of Palestinians during the attacks on Gaza, especially the feelings that the Palestinian Liberation Organization has let the Palestinian people down.

logue will be fruitful, unlike Abu Mazen who abused the Palestinians' choice and proved through his statements that he is against the resistance and his country."

"We are not targeting a specific group of the Palestinians, but we would like to inform them that we support the resistance," he said.

Some Yemeni MPs who did not sign the petition said that they criticize Abu Mazen's policy but not receiving him.

"We are against Abu Mazen's actions but the matter could be better addressed through dialogue," said MP Shawqi Al-Qadi.

On the other hand, Fayeze Abduljawad, Charge d' Affaires at the Palestinian Embassy in Yemen, said that the petition represents some parliamentarians from certain currents, not the Yemeni parliament. He said that the move does not serve the national reconciliation and the Palestinian issue.

"The move does not represent either the Yemeni leaders' or people's stance

to make," he added. "The Yemeni stance is clear on the Palestinian issue: to consolidate Palestinian unification and defend the Palestinian issue."

"I'm sure that President Ali Abdullah Saleh will be steady on the Yemeni principle towards the Palestinian issue," he said.

The Yemeni MPs' step is not the first of its kind. Last January, Kuwaiti lawmakers urged the government to bar Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas from an Arab economic summit that took place in the Gulf state in protest at his stance over Israel's offensive in Gaza.

They said that he is obstructing the operations of a legitimate resistance against the aggression on occupied Arab land.

Similarly, in 2007, a group of the British MPs urged international engagement with Hamas movement after it helped free British journalist Alan Johnston who was kidnapped by the Army of Islam in Gaza.

British company threatens to disconnect Sana'a's power supply

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Feb. 3 — Aggreko British Energy Company started the partial cut-off of electricity last Tuesday in governorates the company supplies with electricity. The reason is overdue debts, said sources in the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Official sources in the Ministry stated that the company demands \$15 million from the Ministry for the cost of the electricity it provided. Aggreko had previously threatened to cut power to the cities it supplies with electricity if the Ministry did not payback its \$15 million debt.

To honor its threat, Aggreko cut 240 megawatts from the total energy it sells to the Ministry in order to fill the electricity shortage gap. The company had granted a respite to the Ministry to payback its debt, which officially ended last Tuesday. The sources said the Ministry paid \$7.5 million of its debt to Aggreko last week after repeated blackouts in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a. The sources added that the company distributed electric generators in seven cities in order to increase the output of electricity in these cities.

These generators, which are controlled by the company, are distributed in the main electric stations in each of the seven governorates. If a generator stops in one station, it will affect the output of the network of the six other cities.

The contract signed between the company and the Ministry stipulates that the General Corporation for Electricity



There is a power cut in Sana'a at least once a day for several hours. Officials attribute the blackouts to increasing load on the stations supplying the city with power.

is committed to freely providing quantities of fuel to generate energy for the company. The annual total cost of these fuels is \$120 million, which means that the corporation pays nearly \$200 million dollars annually to the company.

Yemen Times made several attempts to contact Aggreko but could not get any information. On Wednesday Yemen Times called the company number again, the call recipient scolded "Do not call this number again."

Last February, the company threatened to cut off its electricity supply to six cities after the General Corporation for Electricity owed the company around USD 75 million.

Aggreko entered service in Yemen in 2005 by supplying Hodeida city with electricity during the celebration of the 15th anniversary of Yemen's reunification. The company currently is under contract to supply six cities with electricity.

In Brief

Yemen officially joins WAHO
Yemen joined officially the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) after voting for accepting Yemen's joining request in the WAHO's conference on Monday in Mascot of Oman.

The WAHO General Assembly conference which was attended by 400 members from 50 countries has approved joining Yemen to the WAHO after presenting the request by the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports Hashid al-Hmar to the executive committee of WAHO to register the Arab origin horses in Yemen.

Yemen also reviewed the joining decision draft of Yemeni horses to be a new member in the WAHO.

The WAHO conference presented a recommendation that Yemen is qualified to join WAHO because of its ancient history with Arab horses, so its request was exceptionally accepted despite of the WAHO's already issued a decree to end joining application, Hashid said.

Hashid affirmed that Yemen is the Arab horses origin and the Yemeni Equestrian Federation and Camels cares for conserving the Arab horses dynasty.

Traffic accidents claim 250 lives last month

Traffic accidents claimed during the last month the lives of 250 people throughout the country.

Other 1654 people were injured, some seriously.

Traffic authorities recoded 1298 accidents that included 638 crashes, 463 running over accidents and 197 overturning accidents.

Main reasons for the accidents were mainly tied to high speed, drivers' negli-

gence, technical faults and chewing gat on duty in addition to other reasons.

AI-BAIDA

Archeological survey reveals six historical sites in al-Baida

Initial results of the archeological survey in Mukaras district of al-Baida governorate revealed six historical sites, which dated back to Sheba, Qatabn and Bronze ages, Director of General Organization for Antiquities and Museums office in the governorate Yahya al-Nosiri told Saba.

Al-Nosiri said that studies for these sites would disclose key information in the Yemeni history which would help researchers and who are interesting in ancient Yemeni civilizations.

The first phase of the survey includes process of registration and documentation as well as taking photos for discovered objects in addition to carry out digging works in some sites in order to determine age of these sites, he added.

Al-Nosiri also highlighted cooperation of the local council in the governorate and citizens to protect these sites.

A team of eight archeologists started to conduct the survey in mid of January, 2009 which would last for one month.

SANA'A

SCER, IFES discuss reinforcing women participation in election

Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) discussed here on Tuesday with the International Foundation for Election Systems cooperation to strengthening women participation in election.

Head of SCER Khaled al-Sharif and the director of IFES for Middle East and North African Programs Maji Salem held talks on the consultative, technical and logistic support the IFES could offer to SCER in areas of institutional construction and training.

The meeting discussed draft of the memorandum of understanding between SCER and IFES and the commission's notes on, reviewing the arrangements SCER has made in preparation for the coming parliamentary election to be held on April 27th.

Al-Sharif renewed Yemen's welcome of any international observation on the coming election noting that the SCER would present all the facilities to ease the observers' activities. He hailed the current partnership between the Commission and the Foundation, accenting the SCER's interest in continuing such cooperation.

The IFES official Salem asserted that the Foundation would continue its assistance to the SCER technically and consultatively praising the SCER's transparency in implementing all procedures related to the electoral process.

Yemeni-Indonesian Committee to hold 2nd round

The second round of the Joint Yemeni-Indonesian Committee meetings to be held in Sana'a soon.

The meetings will be co-chaired by the Undersecretary of Planning and International Cooperation Hisham Sharaf and the Indonesian Undersecretary of Foreign Ministry, according to 26Sep.net.

The two sides will sign a number of agreements to develop cooperation

between both countries in addition to discussing a number of topics related to mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Women's issues via media training course

A training course organized by Yemen Women Union (YWU) started on Monday in Sana'a on using media to serve women's issues.

Almost 25 female participants representing the YWU information and cultural branches from different governorates will receive during three days lectures on how to make use media outlets and electronic websites to serve women's issue.

They will learn how to design brochures and posters dealing with women's issues and will be trained on the direct communication skills and editing arts as well as preparing affective messages to the public.

Transport minister inspects new Sana'a airport works

Minister of Transport Khalid al-Wazir affirmed on Monday the importance of completing the project of the new Sana'a International Airport in the fixed time according to the designed and standards approved.

During a meeting with work committee on Monday in Sana'a, the minister said that 70% of the project has been done in the establishment aspects and 60% has been done in the constructional aspects and the overall percentage of works done is 43%. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$500 million.

The working committee reviewed works have been done and the periodi-

cal reports and approved the timetable for the project during the coming period.

DHAMAR

President visits Dhamar

President Ali Abdullah Saleh paid a visit on Monday to Dhamar governorate where he met members of the local councils and directors of executive offices in the governorate.

During his visit, president Saleh listened from officials of the governorate to reports about work process in several service and development projects as well as its needs for further development projects, especially in field of road.

He expressed his happiness to visit the governorate, asking the concerned bodies to response to the needs of the governorate within the general development plan and local council's plan as well.

President Saleh gave orders to pace works in al-Husiniyah road project and rehabilitate Dhamar Hospital by supplying it with modern medical equipment in order to offer good health services for citizens of the governorate.

Regarding the tribal revenge issue in the governorate, president Saleh called on tribes to hold conciliation in all districts over revenge to find out solutions tackling this social phenomenon. He also asked the local councils to take measures to reduce Qat cultivation in Jaharan agricultural lands.

On the other hand, president Saleh, higher commander of the armed forces visited training school for land forces of the Republican Guards Forces Camp.

He also opened a training center of the police in the governorate, which was set up at a total cost of YR 2.7 billion. He took around in different sections of the center.

He also paid visits to the 30th Brigade Camp of Republican Guards and Dhamar University and Rosaba Farms for Milk of the Yemeni Economic Corporation in the governorate.

TAIZ

Workshop on comprehensive education

Taiz governorate education office and UNCEF organize a special workshop on "comprehensive education" concept that began here on Sunday.

The workshop lasts for two days with a participation of 20 cadres, aiming at providing education opportunities for all children, establishing a comprehensive education database on children with special needs and activating the society participation's role for supporting the educational process improvement for children with special needs.

In the workshop opening, Governor of Taiz Hamud Khaled al-Soufi assured the significance of fixing the social principles which meet with the developmental planes and support the comprehensive education Program.

Two speeches were also delivered by UNCEF Representative and General Director of Education Office in the governorate reviewed the comprehensive education goals within the education office's plan in coordination with UNCEF, indicating to the importance of the local societies' participation in the comprehensive education program.

Their News

2009 Goi Peace Foundation - UNESCO International Essay Contest for Young People

Young people from around the world are again invited this year to enter the 2009

International Essay Contest organized by the Goi Peace Foundation and UNESCO.

The theme for this year's contest is "The role of science in building a better world". Scientific progress has brought many benefits to humanity, while some applications of science have had adverse impacts. What kind of science and technology do you think is needed for realizing a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable world for all?

Please express your vision for the future of science, including examples of studies or researches you wish to engage in.

The deadline for entry is June 30, 2009.

First prize winners will receive a cash award and a trip to Japan.

Please see the complete guidelines on

www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/0901.html

You can also find on the website above the 2009 Essay Contest flyer (PDF) in

English, French, Spanish, German and Japanese.

The 2009 International Essay Contest announcement is also prominently

highlighted on UNESCO website at <http://www.unesco.org/youth>

To read winning essays from last year's contest, please kindly visit the website

<http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/0802.html>

World Civic Forum 2009: BUILDING OUR HUMANITARIAN PLANET

The World Civic Forum (WCF), jointly initiated by Kyung Hee University and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), will hold its inaugural forum on May 5-8, 2009 at the COEX in Seoul, Korea under the main theme of "Building Our

Humanitarian Planet." The WCF 2009 emerges from the leading collaboration between the UN and institutions of higher learning, and aims to develop into an ongoing global institution with the partnership of like-minded actors such as NGOs, international organizations, governments, private enterprise, and the media. As a venue for global reflection and dialogue to enhance future civilizations, it will address the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from various perspectives of education, research, and practice. The WCF 2009, to be followed by succeeding ones biennially thereafter, will highlight the following themes.

MAIN THEME: BUILDING OUR HUMANITARIAN PLANET

Our Earth is calling for a humanitarian regeneration. Despite scientific and technological progress, today we are faced with global problems--in particular, national conflicts and insecurity, environmental destructions and climate change, global injustice

and underdevelopment, and alienation between civilizations--due to the loss of values of humanity in the course of modern civilization. Redeeming humanitarian values fully to our lives, however, is a daunting task. It requires integrative collaboration across sectors, disciplines, and nations. As much as damage to humanity has generated complicated ills in every corner of our Planet, we need a holistic initiative transcending conventional boundaries and scopes and reflecting planetary consciousness in order to cure the ills. This integrative, collaborative, and trans-boundary initiative would complement the existing efforts that have been made within a more bounded range of interests and concerns.

KEY THEMES: CIVIC VALUES, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND CIVIC ACTION

- Civic Values for Global Justice
- Civic Engagement in Public and Global Governance
- Civic Action for the Global Agenda, including Climate Change

The themes suggest a necessity for reflection and dialogue to address the global challenges facing humanity and future civilizations. Civic Values have to do with people's perception, understanding, belief, and judgment that typically promote but sometimes hamper a maturation of humanity and civilization. Civic Engagement refers to network, organization, alliance, and partnership in diverse levels and fashions that may contribute to public and global governance. Civic Action involves movement, campaign, and decision-making by a wide range of actors as a reflection of their endeavor to solve global problems including climate change.

Along with keynote speeches by globally renowned figures, the WCF welcomes applications for papers and panels. In an effort to substantiate the main and key themes, the WCF will pay particular attention to papers and panels on the following issues:


- Climate Change (Global Warming)
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Environmental Protection and

- Sustainable Development
- Energy Shortage
- Economic Prosperity and Equality
- Poverty and Foreign Aid (ODA)
- Higher Education for Humane Purposes and Social Responsibility
- Global Justice and Social Harmony
- Political Development and Political Stability
- Human Rights Issues and Human Security
- Cultural Diversity and Tolerance
- Global Peace and Global Governance
- Dialogue Among Civilizations
- Humane Use of Technology
- Crisis Management such as Post-conflict and Disaster

The WCF invites and welcomes submissions for papers and panels on other related themes or topics so long as they emulate the main and key themes. The WCF will have preference for proposals that are interdisciplinary or have practical implications.

Date: May 5-8, 2009
Venue: COEX, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Vacancy Announcement



SIPC is a subsidiary of SINOPEC. SINOPEC is rated as the 19th largest Company in the world. SIPC has 3 exploring blocks as an operator & 1 development block as a partner in Yemen. SIPC invites you to apply for the position of

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4. Maintain GM's calendar.
5. Setup and coordinate meetings and conferences.
6. Create, transcribe, and distribute meeting agendas and minutes.
7. Answer telephones and handle them in appropriate manner.
8. Perform and maintain general clerical duties including photocopying, faxing, mailing, and filing.
9. Coordinate project-based work.
10. Supervise support staff.


Qualifications and professional requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree is required.
2. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and telephone protocol.
3. Duties require professional verbal and written communication skills and the ability to type 60 wpm.
4. Visibility of work requires attention to detail.
5. Excellent organizational skills, and discretion with confidential information.
6. At least two to three years of secretarial experience.

Interested, please send your C.Vs and covering letter to:
The following e-mail: Recruitment@sipcyemen.com.ye
Note (only Short listed will be contacted for the interview)
Deadline for applying is 30 / 02 / 2009

UNDP PROJECT

Terms of Reference – National Recovery Assistant



Location: Seyoun, Yemen
Type of Contract: SSA
Duration: 3 months

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Under the overall guidance of UNDP Programme Officer, the Recovery Assistant will play an administrative and supporting role as a team member of a small team led by an International Recovery Coordinator.
- The Recovery Assistant will be responsible for performing the administrative/financial support functions following UNDP rules and regulations, which may include clerical and administrative work in the fields of personnel, finance, registry, supply, logistics, translation and any other supporting work necessary to achieve the outputs above.
- Process entitlements (daily subsistence allowance, remuneration) and follow-up on contracts of the project staff and national/international consultants (extensions, renewals etc), and maintain various personnel records and files;
- Maintain appropriate inventory records of office material and equipment and prepare the corresponding reports;
- Assist in the logistics preparation and implementation of data collection, needs assessment, training, workshops, meetings and any other activities within the scope of the project;
- Assist International/National Recovery Coordinators in drafting financial, progress and other reports;
- Assist in assembling briefing material, documentation and correspondence for the use in official meetings or missions;
- Provide translation and interpretation when necessary (Arabic/English);


Qualification requirements:

- Yemeni National;
- University degree in accounting, financial management, business administration or other relevant areas or equivalent experience;
- Good Knowledge of accounting and budget handling;
- Organized and pay attention to detail;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Arabic

Application should be filled at
<http://www.undp.org.ye/procurement.php?do=preapply>
Deadline of this post is 9 March 2009

UNDP PROJECT

Terms of Reference – National Recovery Coordinator



Location: Seyoun, Yemen
Type of Contract: SSA
Duration: 3 months

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the overall guidance of UNDP Programme Officer, the National Recovery Coordinator will work as a team member of a small team led by an International Recovery Coordinator to accomplish the following:

1. Initiate activities under output 1 of the planned UNDP Early Recovery Programme aimed at increasing the capacity of the Administration of Hadramout Governorate and local councils to lead the early recovery, including:
 - Assist in advising/coordinate with the Operations Committee of the Administration of Hadramout Governorate (or its successor for the recovery phase) and provide further
 - Assist in advising on the planned relocation of affected families, including technical assistance to the sub-committee in charge of the relocation of affected families; facilitation of coordination with local councils and affected families; prepare a vulnerability assessment Assist in advising on issues of lost land registration documents and farm boundary disputes, Assist in advising the local councils on the planning and management of the recovery process,
 - Undertake a needs assessment of the situation in Sahel Hadramout and Al-Mahra;
 - Analyze collected data and develop comprehensive presentation of analysis in the area of socio-economics, livelihood and land issues.
2. Coordinate for effective disaster prevention planning in order to mitigate the future impact from disasters such as floods.

Competencies

- Advanced university degree in economics, social sciences or related field;
- Demonstrated strong coordination and facilitation skills;
- Familiarity in the local context in Hadramout governorate;
- Experience in data collection/analysis, needs assessment.

Application should be filled at
<http://www.undp.org.ye/procurement.php?do=preapply>
Deadline of this post is 9 March 2009



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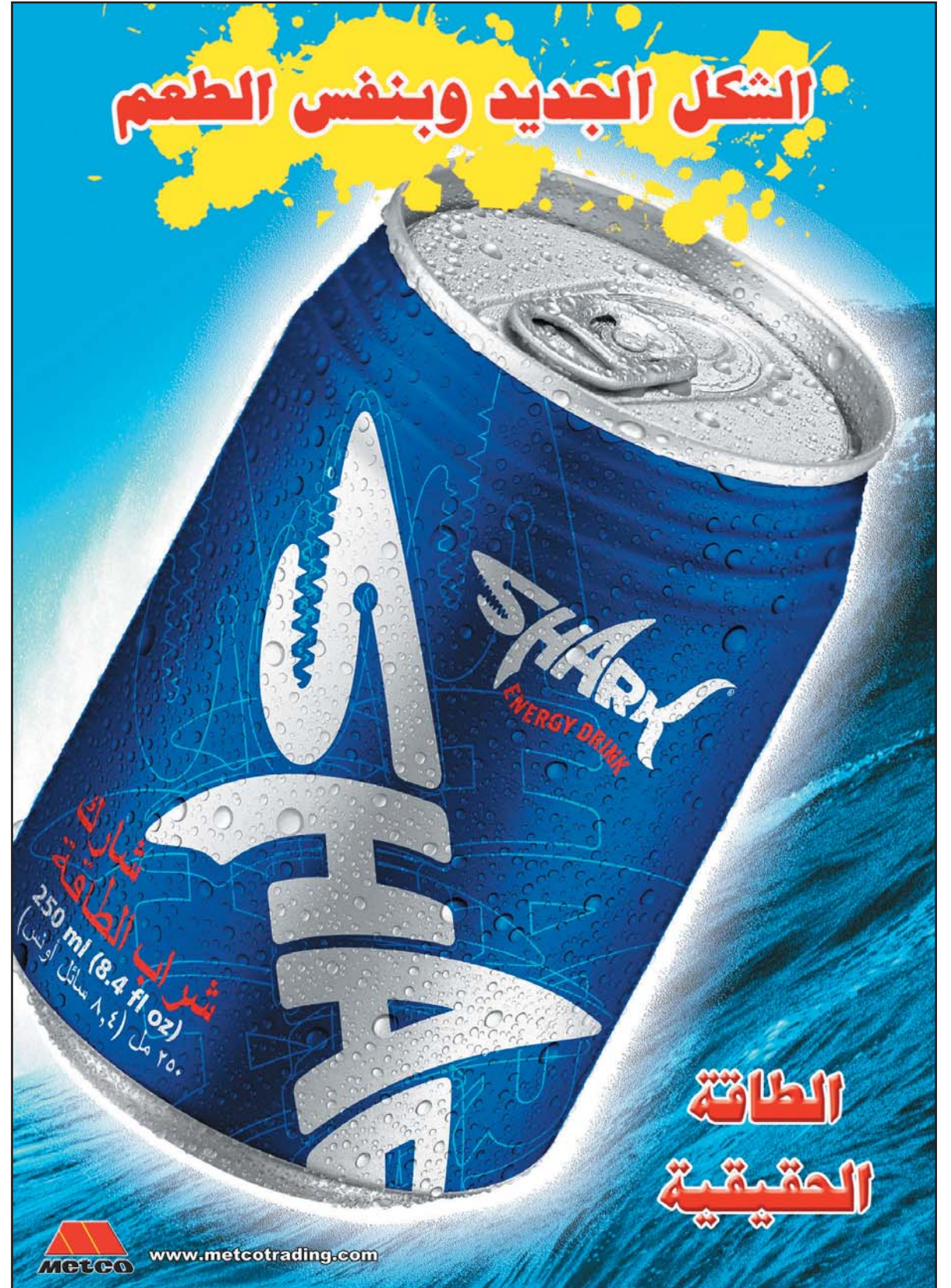
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UN Assistant Secretary General Powell to the Yemen Times: “The priority is always to save lives.”

John M Powell, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and WFP Deputy Executive Director, visited Yemen from 26-30 January and signed an agreement with the government to provide food aid for 500,000 of the poorest Yemenis with 30,000 metric tons of assorted food commodities. Nationwide WFP is feeding 43,500 Somali refugees. Salma Ismail of the Yemen Times met with Powell and interviewed him.

What were the general outcomes of your visit to Aden and Lahj?

The visit to Aden and the camp at Kharaz was an opportunity to see the support provided by the government of Yemen, the governorate and the partnership between the UNHCR, WFP and NGO partners in providing support to 11,000 refugees from mainly Somalia. It was an opportunity to see firsthand the way the camp was working with the opportunity to talk to partners and to some recipients of the assistance.

You donated a large amount of food that will be distributed over a period of six months in Yemen. When will you start distributing it?

If you were to go to the camp today, you would find a warehouse which has all the commodities to provide the food. What we have in effect is a pipeline of food and we keep replenishing the storehouse with a couple of months supply in position. As the food is used, we bring in more.

Which countries is the wheat going to be coming from?

That is a very much a function of the price and availability of the commodities. Typically what WFP does is to issue a tender either for purchase within Yemen, if commodities of this kind are available, and in countries in the broader region. We may in some cases also let the tender internationally; that means anybody from anywhere in the world can respond to the invitation to supply.

We take the best price. That is the price of the commodity plus transport.

designed for pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children, they are the only people who receive the food.

If the program is school feeding, the people who receive the food are the children who are attending the school.

So by the word targeting, what we mean is we identify a particular group of people and it is them and them alone who receive the food.

If for example we are talking about school feeding, we identify which governorate, which district, which school and which children. And there is a requirement that the child goes and participates in school for 20 days a month. So we can tell you down to the name of the individual student. That's what we mean by targeting.

If you were to go to the refugee camps, every single refugee has a card which identifies [him or her] by name with a photo and how many family members [he or she has]. And this card is witness to who they are and therefore entitles [them] to the ration.

The reason we do that is the assistance is provided with an objective to helping a certain group of people and that's the method by which we do it.

The emphasis on women and children is as follows. In all of our humanitarian operations worldwide, last year we will have provided food assistance to something like 94 million people. Eighty percent of those people are women and children. Why? Because women and children are always the most vulnerable in times of natural disasters and conflict. What we know is that providing food - or food assistance - into the hands of the female head of household is the best assurance



John M Powell, center, at Kharaz refugees camp, where 19,000 refugees receive food aid through WFP.

provided to the people and government of Yemen and that will hopefully extend the reach of food assistance to those who really need it.

Does the WFP provide local farmers with help in terms of how to manage their resources so they actually yield more crops and not much foreign food assistance is needed?

WFP is able to provide some measure of support to small farmers through the mechanism we spoke of earlier in terms of the local purchase of food. We spent USD 1 billion buying food in developing countries last year, so that's a big boost to the economy.

We have recently launched a pilot program [Purchase for Progress] to see if we can find a better way to connect very small farmers to markets.

Under this program, we are working with the national governments of 21 countries, nineteen in Africa and two in Latin America. The national government, the FAO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Howard G. Buffet Foundation and others work on the supply with very small farmers and they help them with advice, pesticides, seeds, fertilizers and all things necessary for small farmers to be able to produce.

For WFP's part, we typically buy food in fairly large quantities. [In the new pilot program] we will break our contract, for example of 10,000 tons, into 20 contracts of 500 tons. We will let those contracts to -preferably- farmers' associations to help small farmers. We will offer to buy a certain quantity of food commodity for a certain price for three years, [providing them with] a guaranteed market as this process takes away all the uncertainty about where they will sell their produce and if they can find a market.

With the contract we sign with the small farmer, the farmers can go to the bank and get credit to buy the seeds, pesticides, fertilizers to grow food that they now know that they can sell.

This scheme is a pilot program and we estimate that over the next 3-5 years we will reach 310,000 small farmers. The idea is then that of course a scheme such as this isn't only applicable to an agency such as the WFP.

Has Yemen been included in this project?

Not in Yemen, but we have identified the 21 pilot countries. The implementation is just underway so we expect to start getting the true results somewhere in the next 3-5 years. It will take us that long to get the whole process worked through so we can see the effects.

Could Yemen and other countries be included in the 'Purchase for Progress' scheme?

The idea is to extend that experience - what works, what doesn't, what works best at what pace - to as many countries as we are able. It's really important to be able to think [precisely] with commercial enterprise. A large producer of, for example biscuits, in the developing countries might be able to enter into long-term contracts with very small farmers.

Is this an alternative to food aid?

It is a specific measure designed to connect farmers with markets and to expand agriculture supply to the extent that this process increases the incomes of small farmers, because most of the world's hungry are in fact small farmers. Then less people would need food assistance and that would be a good thing.

Do you expect the year 2009 to pose more challenges in terms of food supply for developing countries or can we see some progress compared to last year?

For WFP, we began 2008 with the expectation that we would need to reach about 69 million people. The reality turned out to be 94 million people because there were a whole series of humanitarian crisis, especially in the Horn of Africa.

For 2009, our best estimate is we will need to reach 100 million people. The important thing to keep in mind is the way we do our counting. In other words, what are the programs that we now have and how are they going to run to 2009?

It's done on the basis that nothing else is happening. So if there's a drought, a civil war, the 100 million soars. The 100 million is the minimum number of people likely to need food assistance in 2009.

The international community was extraordinarily generous in providing support to the WFP last year to help us reach the 94 million, and they are going to have to be just as generous in 2009 if we are going to provide that support to a large number of people.

In the WFP plans to address the ongoing crisis in global food security, it needs to feed 100 million in 77 countries in 2009 and has appealed for USD 5.2 billion dollars. How much of that amount has the WFP secured so far?

The numbers so far are relatively low, but if you were to look at the pattern of donations this is not an issue of concern. The real issue is to find ways to ensure that the 96 countries that provided support - so much support - last year provide just as much help again this year. And perhaps we can find new ways to encourage new donors to also come forward. Many of the donors are from developing countries like India, Malawi, and Bangladesh.

Do some countries determine where their donations are going?

Ninety percent of the time, typically it would be the donors who decide which countries and operations they choose to support. So if Yemen were to be a donor, Yemen would be able to say one of two things. "Here are some funds we would like you to use this for the most urgent humanitarian operations" They could equally say, "Here is the same sum of money, use it for Sudan." That's where we will use it. For most of the funds - 90 percent of food that we get - donors ask us to provide assistance to certain countries. For 80 percent of the time, donors provide cash.

Does this mean that politically unpopular countries receive less food aid and support?

Any donor, every donor has the choice whether we will make the allocation decision or if they will. If you look historically at the level of support provided to countries which are for some reason not politically popular, you will still find that those programs are remarkably well-funded.

The international community is generally well able to distinguish between humanitarian needs and political sides. So if you look at countries like Congo, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan - including during the Taliban years, and North Korea, you will find that those countries that are most critical of their governments have been extraordinarily generous to the

humanitarian operations. They separate those two things.

Is any of the food donated to Yemen bio-engineered or genetically modified (GM)?

Our rules on GMO are very simple and clear. Any donation of food provided to WFP needs to have a certificate of good health, which is a joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO certification, [saying,] this is a food fit for Yemen consumption.

We do not touch any commodity anywhere in the world that does not have that international acceptance. Secondly, when a country provides us with a commodity, GMO or otherwise, we will only accept it if it is consumed in the donor country. So governments cannot grow the food, give it to someone else and not have their citizens eating it.

For those donors who do produce GMO foods - South Africa, the United States and others, if this is commodity consumed by Americans or South Africans, then it is acceptable to us.

The third element is full disclosure to beneficiary countries. We go to every country saying, "These are the specific qualifications. It does or does not have GMO content." The country itself chooses if they will or will not accept GMO commodities. If they say no, that is the end of the story and we will do our best to find another source for them. But, in the way I explained, that may or may not be possible.

With the extraordinary rise in the number of malnourished people, does it seem like the first Millennium Development Goal will be met by 2015?

It is increasingly difficult to reach Millennium Development Goal number one. There are a 115 million more chronically hungry people today than there was a year ago.

We have a major challenge. The whole international community - all member countries whether developed or underdeveloped - and international agencies need to help bring those numbers down if we are going to reach that goal.

Some countries that have made very good examples are Indonesia and China, while others not so much and others have gone dramatically in

deal with that is to ensure that pregnant and nursing mothers receive adequate food and nutritional support and their children particularly in the first 24 months of life have access to an adequate quantity of nutritious food.

The second intervention is education, particularly for girls. If we can get girls to school, then we know what is going to happen. Typically the number of children she's going to have will drop from something like 6-8 to a little over 3. The nutritional status of those girls' household will double and the chances of that girl contracting HIV halves. In every sense, the education of girls leads to a healthier, more active, and more productive society.

So tackling those two issues first we break the inter-generational reach of hunger.

We [also] promote the educational well-being of future generations by having the girl child educated. The link between this and food security is that most children don't go to school because they are too hungry, their labor is needed and a hungry child won't learn in school even if he/she can get there.

We have found that the most powerful method to get a child to school is a meal at school. We do that 20 million times a day including in Yemen. Since the introduction of school feeding in Yemen in various locations the increase and continued participation of girls has increased 40-50 percent.

How long do you expect the global food crisis will last?

Most of the world experts expect high and volatile food prices for the next 4-5 years. All of those concerned with food security, whether International Food Policy Research Institute, the World Bank, FAO are much less clear about what will happen in future years.

If, for example, the international community is strongly supportive on the two legs of the Secretary General's Comprehensive Framework for Action that is helping small farmers to produce the food and ensuring that immediate hunger needs are met for those most vulnerable, that will give the world the time to invest in agriculture, reform international trade rules, and put in place all the other elements to ensure sustainable agricultural production and food security for a much longer time.



Worldwide, the WFP feeds 20 million schoolchildren every day.

reverse. We have a very big challenge ahead of us.

I am not pessimistic that we can be successful, because had we had this conversation in 1969 that we would have the world's hungry in the next 25 years you would have probably laughed.

The truth is that the world halved the percentage of those chronically hungry from 36 percent to something like 16 percent by the turn of the millennium. And that's against a growing population, so it is possible. But we are going to have to work together

It seems there is such a huge focus on bringing down the rate of population growth, providing cheaper contraceptives, yet the numbers are rising?

Two of the most simple and direct interventions will make the greatest progress towards achieving not only MDG 1 but all the rest are first improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and children under two.

An underweight mother almost certainly gives birth to an underweight child. And without the proper nutrition and vitamins, that child is simply preordained to live a shorter, less healthy, less active life and [not] achieve [his or her] potential. We call it the inheritance of hunger. The way to

Where are the most vulnerable in the world right now?

It is not possible to say that someone with not enough to eat in Niger is needier than the same woman in Afghanistan, North Korea or Zimbabwe. For WFP, how we decide how we will allocate the support is we target those people who are entirely dependant on the international community.

That's a kind of dilemma we face, because first we need to save lives. The priority is always to save lives.



Yemeni high school girls receiving food rations through the WFP initiative to encourage girls' education in rural areas.

Because by doing that, we pay the least cost to get the food and have more food for the beneficiaries. WFP food aid to Yemen comes mainly from Italy, Norway, Saudi Arabia and the USA.

Isn't it costly to transport the food? If you were to buy it locally it would be faster, cheaper and help to boost the local market.

That depends entirely on the price of the commodity in the local economy. We purchased more than 2,000 tons of commodities in Yemen in 2008. We purchased more than 4,000 tons in commodities in 2007 - things like wheat, pulses, and high energy biscuits. But there are cases - for example vegetables - where we need to purchase in another country.

Our objective is to provide the maximum amount of food for the Yemeni Riyal - or the yen or dollar - we are given. That's why we advertise the invitation to people to provide the food.

And when we see which is cheaper, we see how much the cost of the commodity plus the transport is. We take into account both of those.

WFP says, food aid has "limited effect" if it doesn't reach the target population. How can you make sure that the food is reaching the target?

Let me take half a step back: What WFP says is that all of the programs and operations are targeted to particular populations. If it's a nutritional program

we will have that the food will be consumed within the family and will have the nutritional impact that it is intended to have. That's why the emphasis on this group, because they are less advantaged and the most vulnerable.

And we know that food security in any society is the function of the female head of household.

Some countries give direct food aid like the recent United Arab Emirates (UAE) wheat donation? Was the WFP involved in any way with that in terms of logistics or distribution?

WFP mobilizes the food or the cash to buy the food largely from member states - ninety-six governments provided food cash or services last year - and also from the private sector and individuals. We raise the funds and those funds are deployed to the various countries and refugees, victims of drought, conflict in Afghanistan and so on.

This is never sufficient, never. There has been a single operation in WFP's history which was fully funded and that was the tsunami in 2004. Otherwise what we are talking about is typically 80-90 percent of funding. Turn it around another way, 10-20 percent of people who desperately need the help don't get it.

We are delighted that we had nothing to do with the UAE donation of 500,000 tons. We are delighted that the UAE has

The road to New Yemen

By: Ahmad Ghalib Al-Mughales

Whenever we have been engaged in building state institutions, developing society, and reinforcing law and order, we face tribal violence, supportive chaos, and transgressions against public safety, social peace, and coexistence. Such opposition harms the status of the modern Yemeni state.

Justice and all that the word implies is a system that is legally and constitutionally integrated. It is also morally and socially binding. It is impossible for anybody to separate the components of justice from each other or to isolate them from the everyday life of citizens in any governorate, area, or tribe.

Likewise, it is impossible for the government to work outside of the autonomous real and institutional existence of justice. In case there is a lack of justice and security institutions, social life will be infected with unprecedented deterioration. Justice necessitates equal treatment of citizens in terms of rights, duties, peaceful and honest living, and the requisite protection of human values, businesses, and development.

Any society converting security and peace into deals that favor certain individuals, preventing others from the enjoyment of justice, is labeled to have shaped citizenship and its rights according to the powers of individuals or the influences of tribes. This type of society is labeled as fragile and backward as well as unable to make change and update itself.

It cannot develop into a civil society that respects law and order, abides by laws, respects human dignity, or has a strong central government government.

The road to New Yemen and its required social development starts with the power and autonomy of the judicial system and the honesty of social discipline and security agencies. An independent and effective judiciary necessitates the effective presence of the state in increasing awareness among citizens and protecting them from tribal violence and arrogance, as well as fighting the culture of arms-bearing among influential persons.

The foundation of New Yemen and its social development requires that all the security, judicial, and health institutions live up to their responsibility and do their duties to the fullest. These institutions

must be constitutionally held accountable if they prove to be remiss or careless toward their jobs. They must also be held accountable if they abandon the nation for under-the-table deals that serve particular parties while simultaneously hurting the national interest and the sovereignty of the modern state.

Influential individuals control citizens' awareness

The carelessness of governmental security and judicial institutions makes citizens lose their trust in the state, its agencies, and its executive offices as well as lose faith in the government's ability to maintain peace, coexistence, and social development. The carelessness of these institutions makes society vulnerable to influential individuals and interlopers who become an alternative to governmental institutions in terms of organizing citizens' awareness and culture according to their own desires. Such influential individuals are extremely competent in establishing relations with the government at the expense of law and order.

The numerous barbaric incidents of kidnappings that targeted both Yemeni citizens and foreigners were on the increase due to a lack of preventative

measures by the state to impose tough sanctions against abductors and put a stop to the negative phenomenon. Unexpectedly, abductors found influential tribal figures to protect them from being referred to justice. Social peace and stability was then affected by such violations and infringements that grow overtime at the expense of the security, stability, and solidarity of the social fabric.

The intensive care unit's victim

What happened to the late Dr. Derham Al-Qadasi, a physician working for the University of Science & Technology Hospital in Sana'a, is shameful and unacceptable since it hurts both the state and its citizens. The victim was attacked by tribesmen inside the intensive care unit of the hospital, which is incidentally located in the vicinity of Justice and Interior Ministries. The victim died just days following his attack.

Such an incident must be strongly denounced in order for life here in Yemen not to be like that of beasts in a jungle. Likewise, the government must reinforce its laws to put a stop to the phenomenon of kidnapping foreigners.

Source: *Algomhariah.net*

COMMON SENSE

The ticking is louder

This observer continues to watch events in the region unfold with scaring overtones that the forces of evil in the region and overseas are adamant in keeping the flames of conflict burning until someone decides it is time for a full fledged conflict to flare up. The slaying of Imad Mughaniya, the military genius of Hizbullah is surely an incident that confirms this notion and it is not surprising that all the eyes now are turned towards Southern Lebanon. After the resounding speech by Hassan Nasrullah late last week, the indefatigable leader of Hizbullah, one is convinced that the course of events in the region is heading for an explosive up turn that will indeed "change the picture of the region for generations to come", as Nasrullah said. What the Israeli Mossad undertook in Damascus by the killing of Haj Ridhwan, as Mughnia is sometimes called, was either a grave miscalculation or an act that emanates from a naive notion that the arithmetic can be shifted to the Israeli side as both sides (Hizbullah and Israel) continue to outdo each other in an unusually disproportionate balance of power, in which the guts and the tact have been slipped away from the Israelis and taken over by the cunning and impassioned gusto of the wily and astute (as well as respectfully prudent) Sayyid Hassan Nasrullah. If the Israelis mistakenly assumed that Nasrullah would not exceed his limitations, as he is now busy with the not yet untangled complex quagmire that the political forum in Lebanon has taken, they surely are entering the snare that Hizbullah is best at arranging. Hizbullah always seems to go ahead of the clock, being fully aware of how the powers in the region are shifting and for whom the hot wind is blowing. In all likelihood, Hizbullah has been meticulously arranging for the big moment when the elements of power will have their tests again and the Israelis certainly have not been doing their arithmetic properly. For all the apparently lopsided arrangement in Lebanon and the poor stance of the "moderate Arab regimes, as they continue to hedge on American sheer physical power and the strong display of "tough talk" by an obviously incapable war machine that has been shown to be prone to defeat, just as all Goliaths are bound to meet their Davids, Hizbullah is bound to come out of this seemingly intricate mumble jumble of political intrigue and dangerous play with fire in Lebanon with an outstanding display of its own cunning and courageous weighing of the risks involved. The tip-off here will come from the strong preparations that the deceased Mughnia was preparing for. According to Nasrullah these preparations have approached their "final touches" before the ill fated assassination of the former and one should never discount the ability of the general population in Lebanon to seize the moment when they once again will show that it is not always might that makes right. Anyone who believes that the Lebanese will not be able to understand what Nasrullah is driving at is mistaken. The beautiful display of national cohesion and solidarity when Lebanon fended off the most serious threat to its national well-being during the Summer War of 2006 is strong evidence of the clever sensibility of the Lebanese in standing strongly behind the real effective national leaders of Lebanon, who achieve astounding results and continue to make Lebanon and the Lebanese people a nation to be reckoned with, notwithstanding its rather minute physical attributes. It is really time for the Lebanese leaders on both sides of the ongoing senseless current political squabbling to remember where their real strengths lie and who are the phony stooges that are continuing to serve the real enemies of Lebanon and the Arab World at large. In Nasrullah's well chosen words, maybe it is time for the former to pack up their bags and let the Lebanese people and real Lebanese national leadership, who do not confront the enemy with tears, prove once again that from Lebanon will come the salvation of all the Arab Nation, God willing.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

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

Is Yemen really in political crisis?

By: Abdul-Slam Al-Qarari

Media pundits and leading opposition politicians have offered no shortage of comments about the political status quo, portraying the dispute between the governing party, the General People Congress (GPC) and the opposition coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) as a political crisis. Meanwhile, senior leaders of the GPC continued to claim that everything is all right and that the crisis is only in the eye of the beholder.

It is obvious that the disagreement between the ruling party and opposition over certain crucial issues, over the very characteristics of democracy, has been widely perceived as a political crisis.

Is Yemen in a political crisis? No, at

least not until now. True, the country has been facing numerous formidable challenges, the current regime has been piling up problems for years and Yemen is classified as a fragile state. But no state of emergency has been declared, people haven't yet taken to streets to demand that Mujawer's government to resign or the president to step down, and there is no constitutional vacuum.

So, what about the frequent public demonstrations in the southern governorates, the opposition's boycotting the elections of governors, and the process of reviewing and modifying voter rolls? The GPC has argued that these simply are strong signs that the country is still committed to democracy, where people have the right to stage demonstrations to protest peacefully against the government's unfair policies. People also are free to take part in the elections or to boy-

cott them. Yet, the truth is quite different.

Is Yemen heading toward a political crisis? Sure. The nation has been chafed under the yoke of a highly corrupted regime, with dysfunctional institutions, mismanagement and poor resources. This is not to create a sense of desperation but an ostrich-like style will never help here. It is time to tell the regime a few home truths: the GPC should resist the temptation to go to the April 27 general vote unilaterally. Because such a move, regardless if it will be constitutionally right, will only precipitate the country's slipping toward a political meltdown. The regime also should no longer ignore the deep resentment in the southern governorates since it poses a risk to national unity.

There is a persisting need to bring about a national alignment to enable the country to cope with the impending

threats which risk its future. An open and constructive dialogue among all political forces in the country has become imperative to reach to a common ground about the political reforms need to be made. Politicians on both sides, governing party and opposition, ought to raise up to the challenges and put Yemen's interest first.

The regime should not bet on the streets continuing to be silent forever, even though the JMP is unable to lead people and inspire them to make sacrifices. We do remember how the pensioners and retirees could stage huge demonstrations in 2007 in the southern provinces. Similarly, there is large army of unemployed youth and disadvantaged people who can trigger a nationwide uprising any time.

Deputy Editor -In-Chief of *Afak Gadidah* magazine.

Industrial Estates as one of the National Economy's pillars

Industrial Estates are areas thought to accommodate industrial enterprises (workshops, factories, slaughterhouses) and to provide adequate infrastructure and services away from housing areas of towns and cities.

Constructing Industrial Estates has lots of advantages such as:

1- Getting rid of health hazards and damages of buildings which may be caused by accidents occurring in factories and workshops.

2- Reducing noise pollution caused by factories and workshops.

3- Industrial Estates contribute to maintain cities clean. In the absence of well organized industrial areas lots of wadis (so called Salla), streets and footpaths suffer from pollution with oils, lubricants and industrial rubbish. Reducing noise and clean cities have positive effects on tourism.

Collection, transport, and disposal of normal and hazardous waste in the Industrial Estate (solid waste management) take place according to laws issued by the government and under the supervision of the responsible authority.

4- The development of Industrial Estates aims also at limiting environmental pollution caused by factories, workshops and slaughterhouses especially the pollution of groundwater.

5- Industrial Estates enable the responsible authorities to better supervise factories, workshops and slaughterhouses.

6- Industrial Estates have among other things their own water supply, water networks, sanitation networks, electric power connection and distribution system and standby generator, thereby decreasing

noteworthy the load for the cities' supply, distribution and disposal networks.

7- Due to the high population growth rate in developing countries sewage treatment plants are often overloaded. The extension of these plants is hardly possible because there is no additional area or because of the high cost for the extension. Constructing Industrial Estates, that have their own sewage treatment plant, decreases the load for the cities sewage treatment plant and ease the operation. As factories and workshops in developing countries usually don't have pretreatment plants, oils and lubricants used for repair and maintenance of transportation vehicles, industrial waste water and waste water from slaughterhouses complicate the operation of sewage treatment plants. Each tenant at the Industrial Estate is required to pre-treat his industrial waste water to agreed standards prior to conveying it to the Industrial Estate's sewage treatment plant. Treated waste water can then more easily meet international standards for the reuse in agriculture and as such the treated effluent can be used by farmers in nearby agricultural areas.

8- Constructing Industrial Estates encourages local investors and foreign companies to invest in this country. The existence of Industrial Estates means, investors are not forced to go through a complicated process that can last years in developing countries (searching a suitable land, getting the necessary permissions from the concerning authorities, constructing infrastructure and get necessary services).

9- Encouraging investors through the construction of Industrial Estates contributes to create sustainable jobs,

decrease unemployment and reduce poverty. In addition to the direct employment at the industrial estate, big number of indirect jobs are created. Workers' skills enhancement is also a noteworthy advantage.

10- Investors contribute to the development of the national economy through paying rent for the lot or buying the lot, taxes paid by themselves and by their employees, producing goods not existing at the local market and as such reducing the import rate, production of products at competitive costs which can be exported to foreign markets.

The choice of the location for an industrial estate has to comply with the approved general city map (Land Use Map) and has to take a lot of factors into consideration such as the availability of land, supply with water and electricity, accessibility through highways and roads. Priority is given to areas with high poverty rate.

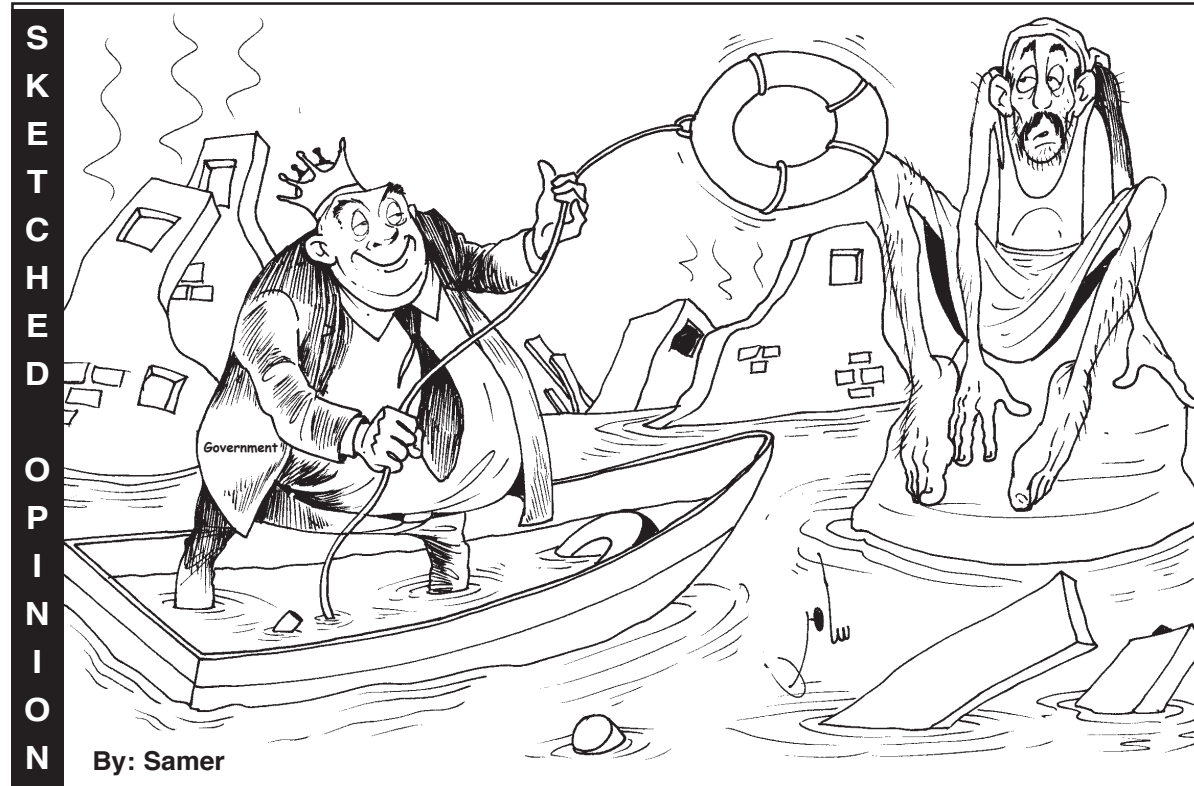
In order to encourage investors the government can relieve taxes and give other advantages to companies, which use existing natural resources or products from local factories or produce materials or machines which otherwise must be imported.

Constructing Industrial Estates achieves lots of goals supported by donors (avoiding the pollution of groundwater, decrease the load at the often overloaded sewage treatment plants and improve the effluent's quality, reduce the poverty, contribution to private sector development. Therefore it would not be difficult to get technical and financial support from donors for the development of Industrial Estates and move industrial

enterprises from housing areas to Industrial Estates and provide additional lots for investors.

Last but not least constructing Industrial Estates needs also safety and clear legal and regulatory framework showing investors' rights and duties in order to achieve the desired goals.

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By: Samer

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Wombs on hire: Searching for the right law

By: Imrana Qadeer and Mary E. John
Women's Feature Service

Surrogacy is suddenly front-page news. First there was the uncertain future of baby Manji, following the divorce of her Japanese commissioning parents; then the happy pictures of an Israeli gay couple with their son born to a Bombay-based surrogate mother. India is becoming a cheap location for foreigners wanting to use 'assisted reproductive technologies' (ART) and local clinics are promoting surrogacy arrangements because they are seen as lucrative ventures. While there is hardly any public debate on the ethical, social, epidemiological and medical questions around infertility and surrogacy, the extremely problematic ART Regulatory Bill (2008) is being hurried through. It barely addresses important concerns and ignores national health and population norms. It permits, for instance, three surrogate pregnancies to a woman.

To understand surrogacy in the Indian context, one must begin with the fact that while the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 banned sale of human organs, organ loaning - equally difficult and risky - is being promoted through paid surrogacy. This is due to a medical industry that welcomes all profitable ventures like 'reproductive tourism', even when infertility constitutes a small segment of local priorities.

Total infertility is estimated at about eight to 10 per cent, and for the vast majority of Indian women it is preventable as it is caused by poor health, nutri-

tion, maternity services and high levels of infections. Only about two per cent of the cases are because of 'primary' infertility amenable to ART alone.

Because ART amplifies deep-seated notions of "blood", now bolstered by genetics, it tends to overshadow safer, cheaper and more progressive options like adoption. ART clinics do not provide reliable information about low rates of success, the probability of multiple pregnancies and the high possibility of fetal abnormalities.

The starting point for tackling the question of surrogacy is in recognizing that this new technology splits up older notions of natural reproduction into three parts - 'social' parents, a gestational mother, and the genetic matter that links the first two. The 'stakeholders' thus created often have conflicting interests - the "commissioning" parents; the surrogate mother; her family, if any; the new baby; and the commercial sperm banks and ART clinics.

Ethical practice must take its cue from the experiences of surrogate mothers, who - motivated primarily by a shortage of personal income - often endure the social stigma associated with surrogacy. They may leave their homes, lie about the parentage and claim the death of the baby after it has been handed over.

Given this situation, the State must strive to help create an environment free of secrecy and anonymity. As equality and volunteerism may be rare in surrogacy agreements, arrangements to ensure informed consent, proper counseling and legal assistance for drawing up contracts for safe procedures, as well



as total health care insurance and compensation, must be ensured through the state regulatory institutions proposed in the Bill.

A surrogate mother should not only have the right to abortion but also to keep the baby if she cannot part with it. Her name should be on the baby's birth certificate and parentage legally transferred to the new parents later. Her family should be aware of the contracting parents and be included in health care arrangements.

Today, ART markets as well as the State emphasize relationships of blood and the genetic basis of paternity, marginalizing the essential social and biological contribution of nurturing children in an enabling environment. Is it ethical to use prevailing social constraints that prevent open surrogacy arrangements, to promote the business of surrogacy and ART? The amount of compensation given to the surrogate mother is another particularly difficult aspect when what is involved is the creation of life - a baby no less. It is telling that in the West up to 50 per cent of the total cost goes to the surrogate mother while in India most of the money is appropriated by sperm banks, ART clinics and lawyers.

There is also an in-built bias against the newborn baby as the surrogate mother is constrained to underplay her bond with the growing baby from the beginning. Early separation is at the cost of the baby's immunological and psychological health. The baby is denied the right to breastfeeding even for three months. This aspect is completely

ignored with the burden of surrogacy being shifted to one who cannot protest. Every child born through ART, whether disabled or one of a multiple pregnancy must have the same rights of survival and care as any other child. The proposed right of social parents to ask for "pregnancy reduction" goes against this.

The social parents, too, must not simply be commissioning agents, but participants in the custody and nurturing of the baby. There is the opportunity here of involving both parents equally and early - whether heterosexual, gay or lesbian - and, therefore, of challenging patriarchal and biologicistic notions of mothering. Same sex couples and single parents in India must be beneficiaries of surrogacy. Adoption laws need to be improved or amended, so that all religious groups can promote adoption.

ART is widely canvassed for its scientific potential - stem cell research and cloning. The proposed Bill, too, defines surrogacy as "a pregnancy achieved in furtherance of ART" and, therefore, does not address unethical practices and exploitation sufficiently. The State and the public must debate the issue: How are the interests of the baby to be best protected? What are the rights of the surrogate mother? What should the role of the adopting parents be? All these three actors should converge within an ethical framework.

In an age of science and globalization, surrogacy should be seen as an opportunity to question patriarchal conceptions of the family and social perceptions of infertility, not deepen ties of blood and inequality.

Banking on mother's milk

By: Surekha Kadapa-Bose
Women's Feature Service

Sheila Pawar delivered her baby after a difficult Caesarian. Her family panicked: how would she breastfeed the newborn, considering the time it was taking Sheila to regain consciousness.

One-day-old Baby S was found abandoned by the roadside. The pitiable cries were heart rendering as the tiny infant screamed with hunger.

In a tiny hut in the Dharavi slum, two-month-old Munna suffered severe burns when boiling hot 'dal' (lentil) fell on him accidentally. Admitted to the local municipal hospital, injured Munna didn't have the strength to suckle at his mother's breast.

"There are at least 10,000 babies born every year in our hospital. For at least 35 to 45 per cent of these cases (around 3,000 babies) direct breastfeeding is impossible due to several medical or physical reasons," explains Dr Jayashree Mondkar, Head of the Department (HOD), Neonatology, at Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital, Mumbai, popularly known as Sion Hospital.

In such situations babies require milk from other sources but not "from other species such as cows, buffaloes and goats. We all know that there is no substitute for

a mother's milk for a newborn baby and infant," explains Dr Bela Verma, acting HOD, Pediatrics, J.J. Hospital, Mumbai.

This medical predicament resulted in the setting up of a white bank or a human milk bank to help hapless newborns in the city. In countries such as the UK, Sweden, Norway, and USA, the services of human milk banks have been routinely available for many decades now. Indian hospitals only understood the importance of such banks in 1987, when Dr Armida Fernandez, then Dean of Sion Hospital, founded the first human milk bank of the country and, in fact, Asia.

At a human milk bank, a lactating woman's breast milk is collected, pasteurized, tested for any microbes of diseases and then stored in a freezer at -20 degrees centigrade. A strict procedure is adhered to in the collection and dissemination of the milk. The donor mother has to be healthy and off any medication except for health supplements such as iron and calcium tablets. A donor must express milk by using mechanical or electrical pumps that cost about Rs 1,200 and Rs 50,000 (US\$1=Rs 48.7) per set, respectively.

The expressed milk is pasteurized at 62.5 degree centigrade for 30 minutes. It is never boiled. Once pasteurized, the milk is rapidly cooled and poured into an autoclave stainless steel container measuring 150cc, 250cc and 300cc and then

preserved at minus 20 degree centigrade.

From each of the three containers, a sample measuring two cubic centimeters is sent for culture and microbiological testing for HIV, history of jaundice, venereal disease for research lab to test, and so on. Based on the sample results, disease-free stock is stored and used when required within the subsequent six months.

"Annually, we collect anywhere between 700 liters to 900 liters of mother's milk - about three liters a day. The in-house new mothers are the donors of the bank. Depending on the birth weight, a baby needs 40 cc to 120 cc of milk a day. We can cater to 25 to 30 babies in NICU (Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit) every day," explains Dr Mondkar.

"The nurses and doctors attached to our departments inform each and every lactating mother admitted to the hospital about the milk bank. They help dispel doubts and misgivings about the process. Our nurses always manage to convince mothers to donate milk during their stay in the hospital," comments Dr Sujit Jagtap, pediatrician, attached to Cama and Albless Hospital and J.J. Hospital.

Despite Dr Jagtap and others stating that milk banks are neither difficult nor expensive to run, the initiative has found few takers amongst the medical fraternity. India currently has around seven such

banks, four of which are located in Mumbai at Cama and Albless Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital and, of course, Sion and J.J. hospitals.

Dr Fernandez, now retired, observes, "There are several reasons as to why no one had thought of such banks in India. Firstly, in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's women in the Western countries had discovered bottle feeding. The advertisers of these milk products had touched a chord and suddenly breastfeeding went out of fashion. Our own educated and working women who love to copy the West followed suit. Even mothers who could breastfeed preferred to feed babies with top milk (powdered milk or fresh milk)."

She elaborates, "The nuclear family system also put a strain on the quantity of milk produced by the mother. The stress of looking after a newborn and working, forced her to feed the baby with top milk."

Until the importance of breastfeeding was understood and gained universal popularity, the need for the human milk bank was not felt. Every time a newborn or infant was in distress, the easily available 'dabba' (powdered milk or cow's milk) milk was resorted to. Even today there are many hospitals, doctors, nurses and working mothers who prefer the easy way out and opt for bottle feeding their babies.

In the villages, among the economical-

ly lower strata or in large joint families, a new mother rarely lacks a donor, as wet nursing is quite a common practice among such groups. At any given time, there are always three to four new deliveries, which means that if a woman is unable to breast feed, the other lactating mothers won't hesitate to nurse the child. The milk bank is an advanced form of wet nursing, adds Dr Fernandez.

The bank assumes importance in the light of breast milk being the best nutrient for an infant. The other most popular food supplement - cow's milk - doesn't suit a newborn baby and Dr Mondkar explains why: "One has to just see the size of a calf [to understand]. Cow's milk has that much extra proteins, carbohydrates, hormones and so on to suit the size of its calf. The size of a human baby is at least ten times smaller."

"The good thing about Indian mothers is that they can't bear to see a hungry child. So once they are convinced that their own child won't suffer, or their own milk flow won't reduce, they quite willingly donate their milk," says Dr Verma.

This belief has been reinforced by research conducted by the nurses at Sion hospital under the supervision of Dr Fernandez, titled: "Willingness to Donate, Willingness to Accept Milk", in 1992. It showed that out of 400 mothers, 399 mothers willingly donated milk - a purely

honorary service for both donor and recipient.

Sometimes depending on the demand, three different types of breast milk are collected from a newly lactating mother, during the course of her post-partum stay in the hospital. During the first few days of delivery, colostrum is expressed and stored separately through the specified procedure. This is given to babies suffering from diarrhea, malnutrition and burn injuries. Breast milk expressed over the next five to ten days, referred to as 'transitional milk', is also stored separately. The milk expressed, and stored, thereafter, is called 'mature milk', and contains a comparatively lower protein content.

Most of the time, the supply barely manages to meet the demand within the hospital. Yet, Sion Hospital has responded to an external demand. Dr Mondkar recalls that the hospital bank had supplied stock to an adult patient suffering from a brain injury, and medically prescribed mother's milk. "According to his doctors, there was a remarkable improvement in the condition of the patient but I don't know the medical explanation to it," she says.

As long as there are good, willing Samaritans - donor mothers - doctors and hospitals, even the private concerns, it should make an effort to ensure that no newborn is deprived of mother's milk.

So is a woman's place still in the kitchen?

By: Kalindi Sheth
Women's Feature Service

Nidhi Modi is just 21 but she already knows the recipe for becoming the perfect bride: Learning how to cook. "You may not know anything in the world but if you can cook even one fancy dish, it'll work like magic with your husband and in-laws," states the young woman with certainty.

Modi isn't your stereotypical, coy bride-in-waiting. She is a Mumbai girl, armed with a management degree, who is currently assisting her father in the family business. And yet, she subscribes to the traditional notion of woman-as-homemaker with alarming ease. "In our entire family, it is necessary for girls to know how to cook even though we have hired cooks. My dad doesn't eat food made by a cook. If you are from a good family, knowing how to cook is a must," she explains.

Modi isn't an exception, rather a disturbing norm that is an indicator of how a rapidly modernizing India refuses to shed its gender bias. The surfeit of cooking classes, especially for brides, is testimony to this facet of urban India that believes a successful woman is one who manages career and home.

Meeta Bharwada, who runs Rasoi - a cooking institute in Mumbai's Vile Parle

- says that she often gets queries from young women who are engaged to be married or have just been married. "They usually come with a list of dishes that their husbands or in-laws prefer. It is a quick-fix way of getting into their good books," she elaborates.

Bharwada runs a wide gamut of classes teaching different cuisines "from Mughlai vegetables and Rajasthani 'thali' (traditional Indian plate) to Italian and Chinese cuisine". She also has the very-popular desserts and mocktails offering. However, the popular demand of the season is festive food, a prelude to Diwali, when families come together. "Regardless of what we say, Indian culture demands that women carry out the responsibility of a homemaker even if she is a working professional. The expectations are too deep-rooted," she admits.

Bharwada is not off the mark. An Internet search for 'cooking classes in Mumbai' throws up some 80 results, while a similar one for Delhi has 30-odd options from which to choose. If that is not indicative enough, women themselves say they lap up new and easy methods of cooking. What has changed, though, is the need for quick-fix, yet delicious, recipes. Jigna Karia, 25, is a civil lawyer who has been a regular at cooking classes for the past year-and-a-half. "I've done courses in Mughlai and zero-oil cooking, as well as microwave recipes. I have also learnt how to make cook-



tails and cakes, last month," she says. Karia is currently single but is sure that her husband-to-be will be impressed with her culinary skills. "My mother-in-law will think I'm out of this world," she adds, only half-joking.

Karia is aware of the fact that cooking is still largely considered a female domain, despite the growing popularity of the food and beverage industry and of men training to become chefs. The home frontier, however, largely remains a woman's moral duty.

As Bharwada, who sometimes gets male students at her classes, points out, "Even if a man knows how to cook, how often will you find him getting up promptly and entering the kitchen, especially in front of guests? We ape Western culture in every other way except this one." Ankit Shah, a 21-year-old businessman clarifies that he didn't force his fiancée, Kavita, to learn cooking. "She wanted to do it herself," he shrugs. While he admits that he does not know how to cook and that it would have been alright if Kavita hadn't wanted to learn kitchen skills, he adds "it would be better so that if the cook doesn't turn up some day, she can fill in."

Gita Chadha, sociologist with the Russell Square International College, Mumbai, says, "Gender stereotypes have not changed. In some cases they might be transformed, but the standard expectations of women to be 'homemakers' and

men to be the 'bread earners' continues in most cultures. In middle class homes where there is pressure for the women to earn, or when women want to pursue careers for their own self development, we find that they have to perform the 'dual role' of being home maker and bread earner."

It is not just the men who have to be bear the blame for this development. Women are equally responsible for reinforcing the stereotype. Jewelry designer Komal Kothari, 23, admits her family sent her for a cooking workshop even though she wasn't keen. "I don't really enjoy learning how to cook but because I know I'll be married some day and be expected to know this stuff, I'm doing it."

Most women are like Kothari, doing it despite the lack of a predilection towards cooking. "Part of the problem is the female self-image, which is still steeped within patriarchal expectations of looking good, being submissive, being 'domestic'. And the rest of the problem is with the culture that finds it convenient to maintain patriarchies," explains Chadha.

So, even as the modern Indian woman goes all out to woo men, and in-laws, with her kitchen expertise, she is very aware of gender disparities. As Karia puts it, "No one forces us to learn cooking but we still know it'll help us earn respect in our (marital) homes. Things are changing gradually, but the expectations from women remain."

Cost of conflict in the Middle East

\$12,000,000,000,000

Since 1948, and the birth of Israel, the Middle East has been going from one conflict to another, sometimes living two or three crises simultaneously, since then the region has never found peace. The Strategic Foresight Group recently published "Cost of Conflict in the Middle East" to illustrate how much these conflicts have cost all countries in the region, not only in terms of money but also intangible costs such as human security and immigration.

Reviewed by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The Madrid and Oslo processes provided an outstanding opportunity for peace and cooperation in the Middle East. They were instrumental in breaking the deadlock between the Israeli and Palestinian people. Had the leaders demonstrated vision in capturing Madrid Opportunity to enter into a comprehensive peace and cooperation agreement across the region, the region would be experiencing different kinds of economic performance than the current ones. The peace intervals have demonstrated that countries can grow at six percent GDP per annum. In the

involved Israel and PLO. There was also the unresolved conflict between Israel and Syria and internal strife in Lebanon, which had regional implications. Since 2000, the conflict has metamorphosed into several conflicts. The Palestinians are now represented by Hamas and Fatah, two organizations that are at loggerheads with each other, though at times they negotiate truce under the auspices of Arab countries. Since 2003, the US invasion of Iraq has added another dimension. In 2006, the exchange of missiles between Israel and Lebanon-based Hezbollah further complicated the Arab-Israeli conflict through proxies. In addition, the president of Iran has publically threatened to wipe out Israel from the map and the United

The opportunity cost for 1991-2010 appears largest for Saudi Arabia at \$4.5 trillion or one third of the total opportunity loss incurred by 13 countries in the region. However, as compared to the size of its economy, Iraq has suffered the largest loss. Its GDP could have been more than 30 times of its present size.

Two main conclusions can be drawn from the report. Firstly, the enormity and diversity of the direct costs caused by the continued existence of conflicts, wars and instability in the Middle East is hampering the smooth development of each and every society in the region. Secondly, the magnitude of the gains that peace could bring to the whole region and beyond is presented in striking charts and figures. These data that are magnificently documented, show that the understandable feelings of fear and injustice that are at the root of the conflict are an urgent need of being overcome.

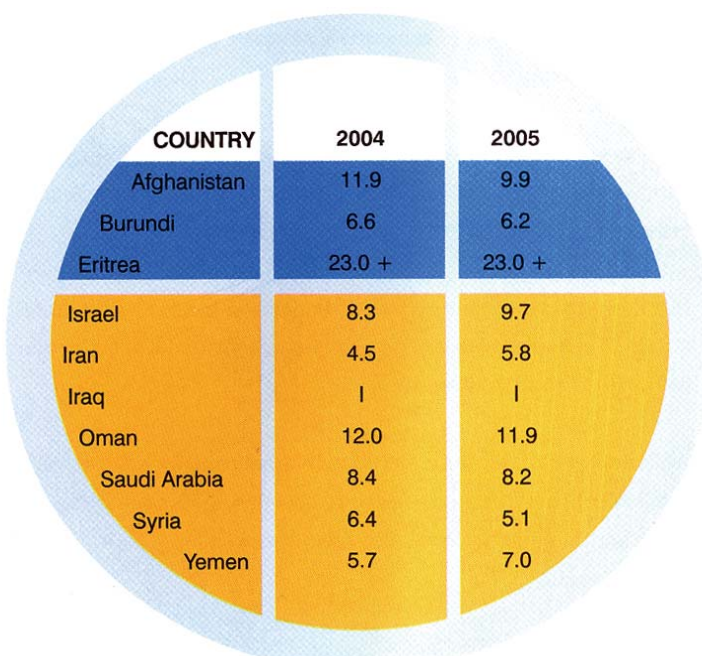
Ambassador Thomas Greninger
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

1990s the Palestinian Territories grew at eight percent per annum. It should have been possible for all countries to grow at the average rate of at least eight percent per annum in the last two decades. The failure to do so has resulted in this opportunity cost of **twelve trillion** for the period 1991-2010.

Once Israel signed peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and entered into negotiations with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the conflict in the Middle East seemed to be narrowing in its scope. A decade ago, the primary actors in the conflict

States has admonished Iran for its development of nuclear weapons, amidst speculation about a possible US or Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear sites. Al-Qaeda and its affiliated terrorist network have pronounced a war against 'Jews and Crusaders'. Through Al Qaeda had its origins in the developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan, its rhetoric, manpower and support base is very much about the Middle East. Thus, what was an identity and territorial conflict in one geography a decade ago has now expanded into a multi-dimensional, cultural and psychological warfare of

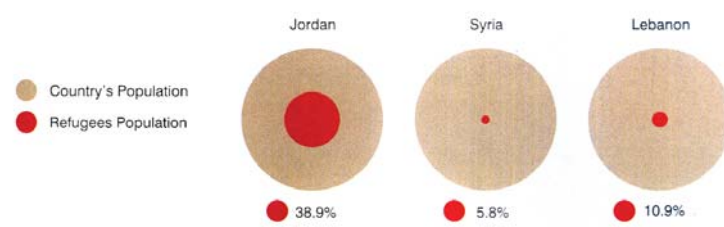
World's Highest Military Expenditure as % of GDP, 2004 and 2005



+ Eritrea: figures for 2004 and 2005 not available. Trends from 1998 indicate higher than 23%.

1 = impossible to measure but huge by all circumstantial indicators

7. TRAVAILS OF HOST COUNTRIES



Jordan is accommodating refugees to the extent of more than a third of its population. In comparison, can the United States accommodate more than 100 million refugees in its population of 300 million? Jordan spends almost seven percent of its GDP on refugees. In comparison can the United States afford an expenditure of one trillion dollars on refugees?

global dimensions.

"States are concerned about measurable costs such as those having a bearing on resource allocation, arms race, destruction of assets, among others. People are concerned about costs that have a bearing on their living conditions, such as security at cafes and dignity at check-posts, opportunities for education, damage to environment and social fabric," said Sundeep Waslekar president of the Strategic Foresight Group.

13 countries and a loss of twelve trillion

The economic costs accounted for in this study include direct costs incurred due to destruction and damage caused by war, opportunity costs reflecting growth that did not take place due to conflict environment, opportunity costs reflecting trade and investment opportunities missed and indirect costs. The indirect costs could be manifested by for example the sense of despair, social orthodoxy and lack of trust.

The countries researched in this report are Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and UAE. Calculations are made on the basis of GDP figures for 2006, as provided in UN stats.

The opportunity loss of \$12 trillion for 1991-2010 means every citizen has lost. An Average Saudi, Lebanese, Palestinian, Israeli could have enjoyed double the income level whereas an average Iraqi would have been four times richer.

The inverse relationship between war and economic growth is obvious. During the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, both countries witnessed decline in their income year after year. Similarly Iraq saw a drop in its GDP during the two Gulf wars. Israel, Lebanon and Palestine territories have had the same experience. When there was no war or civil war, these economies could grow by more than six percent GDP growth rate per annum.

Between March 2003 and September 2008, a period of five and half years, about five million Iraqis became refugees or internally displaced persons. The flight of Iraqis has become the largest forced displacement in the history of the Middle East - exceeding the Palestinian exodus of 1948. Among the Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons about four million and women and children and one million are wage-earners.

Jordan, Syria and the Palestinian territories pay a cost that cannot be reflected in official expenditure. The huge influx of refugees causes pressure on land and housing prices, causes inflation in food and fuel prices, encourages criminalization and prostitution in the society as well as puts pressure on social services especially education and health care.

The three Arab-Israeli Wars (1948-49, 1967, 1973) together cost somewhere between 40,000 and 80,000 lives. Israel's wars with Lebanon or groups within Lebanon

(1978, 1982, 1993, 1996, and 2006) resulted in more than 20,000 human deaths. The two intifada phases (1987-93 and 2000 onwards) have cost 10,000 lives. Thus together the human loss is somewhere between 70,000 and 110,000.

The Iraq-Iran war (1980s) resulted in a toll somewhere between 500,000 and one million. The first Gulf war toll was somewhere between 100,000 and 200,000. The second Gulf war including internal strife in Iraq has so far resulted in a toll of somewhere between 100,000 and 500,000 depending on the source.

While the world's attention is focused on Israel's conflict with the Arabs - particularly the Palestinians - much greater damage is done by the US war in Iraq and radical-moderate conflict involving Iran.

The Middle East has the highest military expenditure burden in the world. Between 1997 and 2005, the Middle east had an average of six percent of their GDP allocated to military spending while the world average for military expenditure stood at two percent of GDP in 2005.

Out of the world's ten largest military spenders as a proportion of GDP, seven are from the Middle East.

A look into the future

The Middle east has always been a

strategically important region where many outside players (such as the USA, the European Union or Russia) are involved. Considering the enormity of the costs evidences which have direct or indirect negative consequences for the whole world, the necessity of an international intervention is inescapable. Indeed, it is in the best interest of all countries in the world to see the conflicts in the Middle East being solved. The facts in this report should promote all concerned international actors to intensify their efforts for a lasting solution on an urgent basis. They would certainly wish to take their own

share of the dividends of peace.

This report should sensitize different audiences all over the Middle East and the wider world. Experts, opinion leaders and decision makers will find many concrete, precise arguments to promote peace-oriented policies. The public at large in the Middle East will also easily realize that beyond speeches and rhetoric. Peace would bring tangible results in their own life. Last but not least, this report is aimed at the young generation, for it is they while will most suffer or benefit from the decisions their elders will take now and in the years to come.

3. EVERYBODY'S LOSS

The opportunity loss of \$12 trillion for 1991-2010 means every citizen has lost. An average Israeli, Saudi, Palestinian and Lebanese would have enjoyed double the income level whereas an average Iraqi would have been 4 times richer.



Cost of Conflict in the Middle East



Educational Advisor and Testing Officer

The Educational Advisor and Testing Officer oversees AMIDEAST Yemen's EducationUSA library in Sanaa, promotes study at U.S. institutions of higher learning, and manages all AMIDEAST testing activities.

The Educational Adviser and Testing Officer's duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Maintain the EducationUSA library, assist patrons, order and catalog new materials.
- ▶ Conduct outreach activities promoting U.S. higher education at secondary and tertiary institutions in Yemen.
- ▶ Prepare, deliver, and process international examinations, including TOEFL, GRE, SAT, SLEP, GMAT, and TOEIC among others.

Application Requirements:

- ▶ Bachelor's degree in any field of study (preferably from a U.S. university)
- ▶ Strong Arabic and English skills (over 550 on ITP TOEFL);
- ▶ Minimum two years' work experience;
- ▶ Proficiency with Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office applications;
- ▶ Strong written and oral communications and public presentation skills;
- ▶ Ability to work flexible hours and is team oriented; and
- ▶ Preferred: Study abroad experience.

To apply, please submit the following documents by February 20, 2009:

- ✓ Resume;
- ✓ Letter of interest and capability;
- ✓ ITP or iBT TOEFL scores (no more than two years' old);
- ✓ Two written references; and
- ✓ Copy of diplomas and transcripts.

Short-listed candidates will be asked to participate in an interview. Salary is commensurate with experience. Position is open until filled.



For more information, contact: AMIDEAST Sanaa, Off Algiers Street.; Box 15508; Telephone: +967-1-400279/80/81; E-mail: sanaa@amideast.org.

Honoring ceremony of Ajmal perfume distributors

□ Fulfilling the commitment □



ORIENT HOUSE



بيت الشرق

A glittering ceremony was held by the **Orient House** for Trade, agent of **Ajmal Company** in Yemen, in Sheraton Sana'a to celebrate "fulfilling the commitment". All distributors of Orient House perfumes in Yemen were invited and honored for the efforts they exerted during 2008 to distribute Ajmal Perfume. **Mr. Abdul Raqib Al-Haboob**, general director of Orient House, and **Mr. Frruk Kidway**, representative of Ajmal Company and marketing manager handed over the awards.

The ceremony was set out with verses from the Holy Quran and then a promotion clip was shown about Ajmal perfume and the Orient House. Mr. Abdul Raqib Al-Haboob delivered a word in which he illustrated the beginning of the Orient House in Yemen in 2005 through opening the first branch in Yemen as a sole exclusive agent for Ajmal Company. That company which we saw as the best Arab regional company in terms of quality of its products, its development and continuous creativity in distinguished perfume inventions. It depends on its long experience for over 57 years in perfume manufacturing and marketing. He further said: "We worked hard during the last few years to spread and deliver Ajmal products to as many customers who trust us and our selection of excellent perfume as possible. We are proud of this trust through which we aim to achieve a high level of consent about our products and services."

He went on to say: "Based on that vision, we in the Orient House are committed honoring and rewarding whoever worked with us hard and faithfully to achieve the goals that we all aimed to achieve during the last year 2008. This honoring ceremony today under the slogan



of "fulfilling the commitment" is just an execution of what we undertook toward our distributors and distinguished customers."

"Therefore, I'd like to thank all our distributors and customers for the persistent efforts they exerted. I want to thank you again for trusting us and we will always be in the level of your trust and we are looking forward to achieving more with you during 2009."

Mr. Abdul Raqib Al-Haboob confirmed that for 2009 there are future plans to develop Ajmal in Yemen as a regional trademark that deserves trust and respect.

During the celebration, Mr. Frock Kidway expressed his happiness for being in Yemen with the most famous business community. He said: "I am, as a manager of Ajmal Perfume exportation, glad to talk to this distinguished crowd. As a company, Ajmal has attained many decorations the last of which was when the company was classified as the sole perfume trademark in the list of the forty sorts which rank the top in the Middle East region, based on a poll conducted by FORBES MAGAZINE. This was due to your trust in Ajmal products."

"Ajmal Always appreciates its costumers and follows a principle vision toward business. Consequently, God has granted it its deserved position."

He concluded his speech by saying: "Ajmal and its distributors in Orient House are ready to cooperate with you. They look forward to your continuous support and esteem along with your cooperation to take the Ajmal trademark up to new horizons."

After that, awards were submitted to distributors. In the end of the celebration, all attendants were invited to a lunch banquet. All attendants expressed their happiness with this distinguished celebration.

Orient House

Head Office - Sana'a - Al-Qasr St.
Tel. + 967 1 49 45 40, Fax. +967 1 29 7951

بيت الشرق

المركز الرئيسي: - صنعاء - شارع القصر
هاتف: ٤٠ ٤٩ ٤٥ ٩٦٧، فاكس: ٥١ ٢٩ ٧٩ ٩٦٧

The history of Jewish society

By: Taufik Aldobhani

No one whosever they may be can disagree on certain facts and phenomena in this world. This because they are a given; they have always existed and will remain unchanged forever, such as the sun, the moon, light, darkness, and so on.

These phenomena may, however, be described differently by different societies and over time for various reasons. BUT this doesn't change the fact itself, nor does it change its contained features. For instance, nobody can disagree that seeds determine the type of tree and the kinds of fruits one can obtain from this tree. Nevertheless, the tree can customize itself due to different circumstances and conditions in order to survive.

This may change the size of the tree, the shape of its fruit, or its appearance, but this can NEVER result in changing its composition or the actual kind of fruit it produces. In this example, seeds represent the origins and histories of any given society worldwide, trees represent society's development over time, while the fruits are its deeds, cultural values, and behaviors, as well as their implications on others.

By applying this rather simplified but obvious example on so called "ISRAEL" (Judaism = seeds, Israel = trees and Zionism = fruits), it can be concluded that the fruits, or Zionism, which contained lots of seeds, have been conserved and reused over the last 100 years to regenerate new trees. These trees were being recently cultivated, mainly in Palestine, where it is believed to be the most suitable and fertile place for such trees to grow. Elsewhere, these trees are being cultivated as well, with certain adaptations.

To briefly assess this society, we should consider the seeds, which contain the source of unchanged facts. Seeds are harmless and they may be even useful; however, once they are cultivated, trees will grow and fruits which we believe here to be poisonous which we believe to be poisonous, spoiling the soil and all other trees. Only at the last stage do other trees (societies) start to recognize this fact and its consequences on all, at different degrees and intensities. So, the rehabilitation of this situation becomes a high necessity. Attempts have been repeatedly undertaken in

the past, but always at very high costs for all, including for the Jewish society itself.

For those who doubt the destructive development cycle of this society, we hereby provide some empirical and historical evidence proving this fact:

More than 3000 years ago, the Jews lived as a seed community in Egypt for a long time. Once they started to grow up, the pharaoh made them slaves until Moses (PBUH) was sent to correct their behavior and save them from discrimination. Moses (PBUH) ordered them to leave Egypt with him and to obey GOD's orders. Initially they agreed but their behavior and attitudes immediately changed and they started to object to everything Moses (PBUH) brought with them. GOD punished them and forgave them several times for their deeds and unacceptable behavior.

Moses (PBUH) ordered them thereafter to fight with him against powerful societies in order to enter Jerusalem. They initially agreed, however, they left him alone with very few followers and told him "go alone and let your GOD fight with you." For this reason, GOD punished them by leaving them in the desert without orientation (homeless) for 40 years. They asked GOD again for forgiveness and made the commitment "as usual" to obey GOD's rules and regulations in their life. Meanwhile, Moses (PBUH) died and only a few followers, including David, entered Jerusalem with a big victory. They established a kingdom which became even more powerful during the reign of his son Solomon (PBUH).

Not long after in Jerusalem, this society became bigger and started again, after Solomon died, to change predefined rules and deviate from the course of life prescribed to them. They changed GOD's laws and society's regulations according to their desires and the ruling group's interests. Meanwhile, they started to deny that Solomon was a prophet and claimed instead that he just had magical forces and capabilities that he was hiding under his crown. That is why many of them still believe that up till now, and are digging under Jerusalem Mosque for Solomon's Crown which is a big lie. The kingdom was destroyed and Jerusalem was taken from them, and they remained as a few scattered religious groups.

Few of them remained "as true believers" and GOD sent to them again many prophets from amongst themselves to correct their course of

life and to guide them once again towards the right path. However, the society stood against them in one way or another. Moreover, they killed some of these prophets, such as John (PBUH) who was killed during Jesus' (PBUH) lifetime.

After this event, JESUS (PBUH) escaped from them with a few followers while the Jews cooperated with the Greek empire with the aim to destroy the holy book, which is known as the testament.

Since that time and for nearly fifteen centuries, the Jews remained a scattered religious group living everywhere in the world with the commitment to follow the last prophet that they were told about by GOD, mentioned and described within the holy books provided to them by Moses (PBUH) and Jesus (PBUH). That is why most of the Jewish tribes were concentrated in the region where the last prophet was expected to appear, i.e. the Arabian Peninsula.

When the last prophet (Mohammed, PBUH) came, they discovered that his roots did not originate from Isaac and his son Jacob (also known as Israel) as was desired by them; instead, his grandfather was proved to be Ishmael (although Isaac and Ishmael are sons of Abraham from different mothers). For this reason, they decided (with few exceptions) to refuse Mohammad (PBUH). They made every effort to fight against Mohammed (PBUH) and his followers and made every possible coalition they could in order to destroy the newborn Islamic society in spite of all agreements made with them. They reached a point where they tried several times to kill the prophet. So, the entire society around the Jewish community decided to force the Jews to leave the Arabian Peninsula. Some of these Jewish tribes migrated to Palestine, where they started to destroy the society there until the second Caliph (Omar) decided together with the Christian community to cleanse Jerusalem from all Jewish leaders.

The Jews migrated again and again and started to lobby in Europe for a state of their own. This latest effort ended by enforcing the establishment of so-called Israel in Palestine. Since they created this state (since 1917/1948), they have killed everyone to make space for all other Jews to migrate to this artificial state which does not want to recognize any border.

Some of the main extraordinary and abnormal features of this society will be presented in a separate article soon.

Through The Mind's Eye

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



When to work and when to stop

By: Maged Thabet Saleh
maged_thabet@hotmail.com

Work is necessary to almost all the world's inhabitants. Through work, a father feeds and clothes his children. The aim of this article is both to call us all to work, and to call for us all to rest-stop working. It may seem confusing to you, dear readers, but what follows, I hope, will make the idea clear to you. It may remind you of something that you might have already forgotten.

What I mean by "something that you might have already forgotten" is, simply, "you". We work, but sometimes we forget that we are human beings rather than machines, flesh and blood rather than metal or wood. The point must be clear to all of us: Work is important, but we are more important.

Work is not restricted to those duties that earn money. Rather, it refers to anything that a person does to achieve something. For example, a student stud-

ies hard to pass exams and get good marks. Here, the student's study is his or her work. Working thus refers to all routine activities that a person takes part in to achieve something.

To make the idea clearer, let us look at an illustrating example. If the person watches T.V. from time to time for entertainment, it is interesting to him because he does so according to his will, not because somebody orders him. But, if this person is working for a company that monitors satellite channels for example, it is different. Now it is his duty to do so and he cannot stop watching the television when he wants. Here, we realize the difference between the two cases, since the first is not work and the person does not need any rest, while the second is work from which he must take rest from time to time.

Actually, many people like to work all the time. They feel lazy or, sometimes, sick if they stop working for even one day. This is really something good: Reflect on how productive such persons are. But do such people need rest or not?

Even machines that can work non-stop for long periods of time end up with many problems or break down suddenly. Humans need rest to refresh their minds and hearts, and return to work with a new will to be active and achieve.

The international labor law has set two and a half days as holiday per a month for laborers in addition to official holidays. Such a law was not drawn up out of nothing and had a purpose. Such an extra holiday of two and a half days has great significance for the physical and mental state of those who always work.

In short, this is not a call to make people stop working, but to make place for the required rest for their bodies, minds and souls to be able to work longer. It is everyone's duty, thus, to arrange both time for work and time for rest.

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.

To Whom It May Concern

By: Adnan Alhalmi
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One day I was wandering among some green fields in Ibb city to enjoy the beauty of nature, but unfortunately something unusual attracted my attention. I saw those fields' farmers watering their potatoes and other vegetables with sewage water. But what is more painful is the farmers' immorality towards humanity and human beings, as though they had no religion; this, even though Islam warns us against committing cheating crimes, which are incidentally forbidden in all religions.

However, I wonder: Where is the

governmental supervision on farmers? Why are those farmers affecting and poisoning us amidst a conspicuous governmental indifference? Is it healthy for us to consume products that are watered using sanitary water, which is considered as dangerous and harmful to us as nuclear weapons are?

Consequently, in recent times many diseases have appeared in our country, such as cancer and kidney failure. This may be part and parcel of what is known as 'food pollution' and overuse of poisons and pesticides. Generally speaking, I think that it is reasonable for the government, instead of increasing the health care percentage from the public budget, to enlarge its agricultural supervision upon vegetable and fruit farms. As the saying

goes, "Prevention is better than cure." Furthermore, it is medically proved that most of the diseases in Yemen are caused by overuse of pesticides and other chemicals on agricultural products, used intentionally by farmers who want to gain money at the expense of our dear lives.

But the question that puzzled me and many others is this: Are farmers officially permitted to do so, or are our lives so cheap that both government and farmers are in agreement to use such dangerous chemicals?

In short, I appeal to all figures concerned to take more care and attention for the sake of their people's health, as they are the main ones responsible not just before the Yemeni people but before Allah as well.

"It takes more than it gives"

By: Somaya Alshameery,
somaya_hmd@hotmail.co.uk

If I was asked to define life, I would defiantly, with no doubt of hesitation, say that defining the word 'life' would be an incredibly complicated task. However, defining this word seems to be my great concern and I cannot abstain myself from protesting against the confusion that my life seems to be leading because defining such a word has been a laborious mission.

My writing pad and diary, as usual, will not be enough for me to make a conclusion or even produce a clear meaning of the word 'life'. This is because life has many faces, many wants, many roads, and many words to describe it. Life is love, it's a chance, it's an opportunity, it's a test, and it's also a journey. For some this journey might be short, but for others it might be for a while,

and only one can decide how long or how short a person will live: Allah. Life can be also treacherous at times, exactly like the sea. It's pain and it's laughter; it's misery and definitely a mystery.

However, I can start describing it by saying that it seems like a long bumpy road, in which we are faced with many events when we least expect them.

On the other hand, we plan and draw our future in our minds or even on paper just the way we want it to be. Where one would say "I will be a doctor," another will say "I plan of becoming a teacher" and many more plan for uncertain dreams that they believe they are destined to be or to become. In my opinion, it's good to have plans for the future, but we should keep in mind that in an hour or in a blink of an eye your life could change because of a word, an action, or event that might occur. But I can't say that change will be forever, because if in an hour things could

change so fast, then what will a day or two do?!

Sometimes our emotions end up being delusions, and other times and for other people they can be just as planned. This, however, leaves many puzzled faces, and many unanswered questions!

Life also seems to be just like a big book, a book containing hundreds of pages, and each one of us has one with his/her name written on it. In this book, day by day, what we do or say will be noted down carefully and accurately.

This book is no ordinary book, since in an ordinary book if we make mistakes we can easily erase and start again. In this particular book, nothing can be erased no matter what we do unless we manage to erase it from our memories and start fresh. This book is just like one's shadow; it's with us where ever we are and whatever we are doing.

In our lives we tend to postpone many things for many reasons. We

postpone marriage waiting for the right person. We delay the arrival of happiness just for their sake, since they are the ones who will touch our hearts deeply and the arrival of that special someone seems to be the answer to all troubles. We delay socializing and enthusiasm in all aspects of life until tomorrow or after tomorrow! We postpone our dreams until the coming of our children; maybe they will achieve what we couldn't. But hey, we must remember that even if we are ready to wait, life will not wait. It stops for nothing and no one.

After what I call a "long investigation," I still can't seem to find a word that exactly satisfies me and describes what life is. However I must conclude and bring this investigation to an end by saying: Life takes more than it gives. I believe that simply because the things that life takes from us are priceless and precious to our hearts - more so than the things it gives us.

Love and only love

By: Mohammed Nasir
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If Love is Nothing
Everything is Love
If Love is the Illness
Its only Cure is Love
If Love is the Crime
Its Punishment is Love
If Love makes you Cry
What brings a Smile is Love
If Love makes you Sad
Your Happiness is Love

If Love brings tough times
Ease your life with Love
If Love splits you Apart
Bring Together will Love
If Love breaks your Heart
Mend it will your Love
If Love makes you Frightened
To make you Bold is Love
If Love Grooms Love
The Peace of Heart is Love
If Love means Waiting
Result of this is Love....

Work

Essence of life is Work
And Sense of life is Work
Makes your day is Work
What brings your joy is Work
Your Confidence is Work
Your Power comes from Work
Comes Aim of life from Work
You reach this goal by Work
Work makes your boss Admire

Don't work and you'll be Fired
Work makes you the one Revered
Idle soul is always Severed
Work is known as Worship
Which eases up your hardships
God always helps in Work
While the satan gets the Jerk
Work brings us the Money
Without which we will be so Funny

I am a Qabeeli

By: Hanna Ayid Al Hodaimi

Wherever we go we often hear the words "I am a Qabeeli" [I am a tribesman]. This is an expression of pride and is meant to imply that the person using these words should be respected as one who would never do anything bad or shameful.

But could we stop for a moment to think about the real meaning of this expression "Qabeeli"? Does it actually mean anything? Where does it originate and what is the underlying concept

of the social classes we find in Yemen? The Sada class [masters - decedents from the prophet], the Qabeelies [tribes] and the other classes are standard classifications of social classes in Yemen.

But does anybody know who was the founder of these classes? I don't think so. So we basically build our society on something that we don't even know where it originated from and what its purpose. Our religion teaches us that we are all equal and fights these ethnological concepts but still our society follows the rules of social classes.

My neighbor has no children of her

own so she adopted her sister's daughter after the death of her sister. When this girl was given into marriage her father discovered on the day of the wedding that the groom did not come from the same class as the bride. In his anger the father tried to kill the bridegroom, accidentally killing one of the guests instead. This shocking incident is an example of what the social class system does to us: The most beautiful day in the life of the bride turned into her worst day!

All that happened because of what? Because of social classes. Do you still believe in this system? What is your opinion?

By: Hanna Ayid Al Hodaimi

Women from Hajjah, as all over the world, are creative, sympathetic and lively but their energy and creativity is blocked and their gifts are buried by the underdeveloped society that they live in. Hajjah is not only small as a town, but also some of its inhabitants have small minds! This is not said in order to offend anybody but to describe a reality in which women are the victims and society is the criminal!

In Hajjah women suffer of the results

of ignorance and more often are forced to surrender to the bleak reality of a life robbed of all possibilities to develop.

I am one of these victims whose life is controlled by tradition. I had my simple dreams, one of which was to travel overseas to complete my studies but the traditional view of women in our society forbids that to happen. I know of girls who where not allowed to move to another town in order to enroll in university. Others were forbidden to accept an attractive job offer because the men of their family didn't want them to interact with other men in the workplace.

Some men even keep their daughters

or wives from completing their basic education saying that it is enough for her to know how to read and write. And countless numbers of girls especially in the rural areas never get the chance to even learn these basic skills!

Are women not inferior human beings? Don't they need the chance to develop and improve their skills? Why are women not allowed to become a positive power to support the development of our society? Fortunately there are those, men and women, who see the potential of the women in Yemen and have stood up in order to support them.

I am proud to be a Yemeni woman

Women in Hajjah

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سيارات

للإتصال: ٧٢٣٤٦٤٠٠

- للبيع: جهاز كمبيوتر محمول - شركة دل موديل ٦٠٠
- هارد - ١٠ جيجا - رام ٥١٢ - سواقة بيغدي - ناسخ
- أقراص - كرت الشاشة ٢٢ - في حالة جيدة جداً -
- مستخدم نظيف - سعر نهائي ٢٥٠\$

للإتصال: ٧٢٣٥٦٧٢٢

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المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٦٦٦٢٢٢
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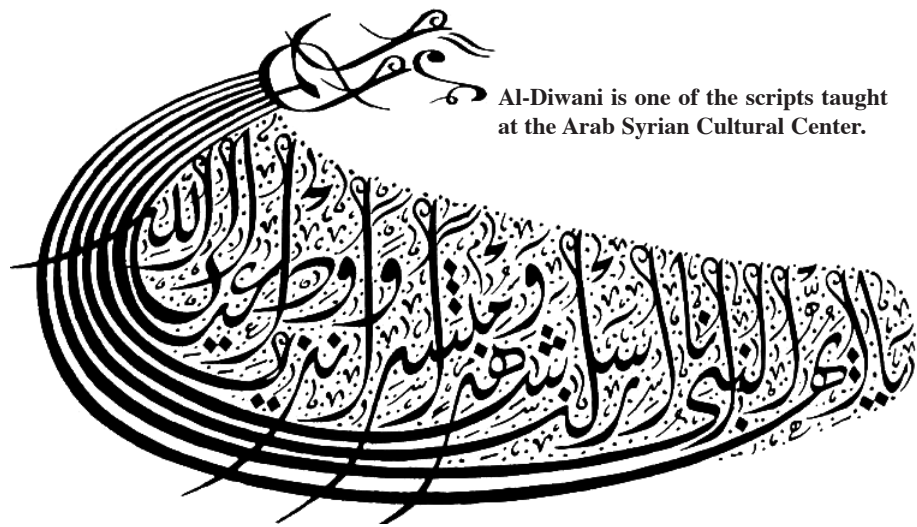
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Calligraphy for beginners

By: Alice Hackman

From giant white stickers on taxi windscreens and grocery shop signs to the ornate inscriptions on the ceiling of the new Al-Saleh Mosque, Arabic calligraphy is a part of Yemeni everyday life. Yet few are those today who can properly hold a bamboo pen and produce meaningful swirls of ink in just a few swift strokes. Learning the basics is easy. To set out on the path to success, a beginner first needs a bamboo stick and a sharp knife, explains Khaled Al-Shibami, 27, calligraphy teacher at the Arab Syrian Cultural Center in Sana'a.

The young Abstract Arts graduate from Shibam Kawkaban holds out a bamboo stick in front of a group of eager students. He expertly carves a long nib out of its end, which he then slices through at an angle. The result-



Al-Diwani is one of the scripts taught at the Arab Syrian Cultural Center.

ing pen has a nib of about a centimeter's width and, at a distance, looks like a small wooden recorder [musical instrument].

Next needed are the paper, prefer-

ably graph paper for those with little experience, and the ink. Nowadays calligraphy students buy small pots of ink bought from the local stationary shop, and Al-Shibami's students seem to favor Quink. But in times past, when industrially-produced ink was scarce, novices and teachers had to make their own.

"Nowadays everything is made in China," says Al-Shibami, who recently showcased his talent at the Expo Zaragoza 2008, "but once upon a time, calligraphers made their own ink from walnut and pomegranate skin mixed with water."

"They used to mix soot with gum Arabic," adds head of the Yemeni Calligraphers' Association and award-winning calligrapher Naser Al-Nasari, in essence describing the carbon ink today used in inkjet printers.

"The use of a bamboo stick is purely Arabic; in Chinese calligraphy they use a brush," says Al-Shibami. Sino-Arabic script or Al-Sini, in which Chinese Muslim calligraphers use a horsehair brush instead of the traditional bamboo stick, is not taught here.

During their three-month class, Al-Shibami's students will learn only three of the various styles in Arabic calligraphy: Al-Naskh, Al-Ruqa'a, and Al-Diwani. Other more difficult scripts such as Al-Kufi - named after the Iraqi town of Kufa where it was developed, Al-Farisi and Al-Thulth are kept for later.

"Al-Farisi is very beautiful and very difficult to learn, but Al-Thulth is the hardest," says Al-Nasari, who has been a calligrapher for over 25 years and recently used the Al-Thulth script in his work on the Al-Saleh Mosque. "They say it takes 30 years of practice before a calligrapher can master Al-Thulth."

Even at the very beginning of a calligrapher's adventure, practice is a must. Al-Shibami's students are given regular homework which at the moment, because as they have only just begun, involves copying lines and lines of letters from the Arabic alphabet.

"I really don't like the kaf [Arabic letter]," says Samira Muqbil, 29, an art teacher from Hadramout, who hopes to perfect her calligraphy so as to include the art in her paintings on glass. "I tried calligraphy at home, but it never came out straight."

"I would like to include verses from the Quran into my glass paintings," explains Riham Al-Hamdi, 29, an art teacher from Al-Baidha.

"If I perfect my calligraphy, perhaps in the future I can get a better job," says Mohammed Abdu, 24, a security guard from Sana'a.

But Abdu's prospects as a professional calligrapher are perhaps not very good. With the new competition of graphic design and standardized Arabic computer fonts, living off the millennium-old skill of calligraphy is not easy, say Al-Shibami and Al-Nasari.

When Al-Shibami is not teaching, he runs a painted advertisement and interior design shop. And although Al-Nasari was awarded first prize for Al-Thulth at the 2001 International Calligraphy Competition in Istanbul and is the expert behind much off the life-size Islamic calligraphy in the Al-Saleh Mosque, he still finds it difficult

at times to make ends meet.

Al-Nasari urges the Ministries of Culture and Education to give more support to Yemeni calligraphers, by organizing calligraphy competitions and exhibitions in Yemen, and to preserve an Islamic art which is nowadays falling into neglect.

"In Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and Syria there are good four-year courses in calligraphy," says Al-Nasari. "They even teach Arabic Calligraphy at the Sorbonne in Paris."

"The Al-Azhar University [in Cairo] is very famous as a place to learn Islamic Calligraphy," he continues, "but [in Yemen] not even the school attached to the Al-Saleh Mosque has so far expressed an interest in teaching the Islamic art."

While Al-Nasari continues to plead with the Ministry of Culture to support the inclusion of a department for calligraphy in the Al-Saleh Mosque's new religious school, aspiring calligraphers

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Bamboo pen.



Al-Sini was developed at the far east of the Umayyad Empire by Chinese Muslims, using the traditional Chinese brush instead of the reed or bamboo pen.



Ottoman calligraphers used special knives, here from the 1700s and 1800s, to trim their pens.

4U

For beginners, the Arab Syrian Cultural Center in Sana'a offers three-month courses in calligraphy for YR 10,000. Lessons are twice a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for two hours. To enquire, ring: 510548 or 733925806.

For more advanced calligraphers, contact Naser Al-Nasari, head of the Yemeni Calligraphers' Association, on 733366840 about the possibility of joining a more challenging course.

are invited to enroll in classes either at the Arab Syrian Cultural Center or with the Yemeni Calligrapher's Association.

A lifetime is not long enough to achieve perfection in calligraphy, according to Al-Nasari, so beginners should get started. With a little practice and a good dose of determination, who knows, they might be able to reach a level of international recognition.

In 1998, Al-Nasari was presented

with a unique certificate of accomplishment by Iraqi calligrapher and historian Yusif Al-Mawsili. With the document, Al-Nasari was handed the authority to, in his own time, reward a brilliant calligrapher of the next generation.

So far he hasn't seen anyone good enough, he says, but he is willing to consider the work of anyone who wants to show it to him.

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* Flow rate from 2 to 16,000 l/h * Maximum pressure 1,000 bar * Liquid end: SS 316 L pump-head, different material on request * Flow-rate adjustment: manual, electrical 4-20 mA or Pneumatic servomotor 3-15 psig * API 675 standard * Multiple head execution
* Single or double acting
MECHANICAL DIAPHRAGM METERING PUMPS WITH SPRING RETURN MECHANISM
D EXACTA SERIES
* Flow rate from 5.5 to 460 l/h * Maximum pressure 10 bar
* Liquid end: SS 316 L or PP pump-head * Flow-rate adjustment: manual,
* Electrical 4-20 mA or Pneumatic servomotor 3-15 psig

AGENT FOR:

- FMC Technologies (Smith Meters / LACT Metering Systems)
- Solar Turbines (A Caterpillar Company)
- FMC Technologies (Fluid Control / Pump / Invalco / Manifolds)
- DRESSER Masoneilan (Control Valves)
- MURPHY FW Murphy
- Euro Contrôle Project (Project Management & Consulting Company)
- Enraf (Complete Tank Gauging Inventory System)
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- FMC Technologies (WECO / Chiksan / Dynator products)
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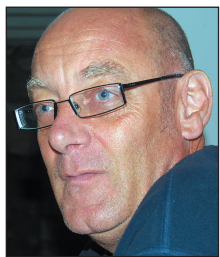
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Lesson planning (2)



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Teaching Lesson Plan (procedure sheet)					
PREVIEW	A. STAGE	B. TIME		C. PROCEDURE, MATERIALS	
	AIM	Stage time	Total time	D. I/A*	
TEACH	1 Beginning the lesson: • warmer • review • inform To get ss thinking in English, and to accommodate late-comers	5'	5'	Tell ss in pairs/small groups to write the alphabet vertically on piece of paper, A-Z. Give them 3 mins to think of an adjective/adverb starting with each letter of alphabet.	SS
	2				
	3				
	4				

Figure 1:

in Figure 1.

Activity 2 – What do the column headings A-D mean? Match each one with the questions a-d below:

- How long will this take? How long is the lesson so far?
- What am I & students going to do? How? Using what materials & resources?
- Who is involved?
- Why am I doing this?

You should have matched Ad, Ba, Cb and Dc.

Alternatively, a lesson plan may be simpler as in Figure 2.

We tend to use a variety of abbreviations in lesson plans, to save time and space. Commonly, i/a = interaction between the people in the class-

room (students and teacher), T = teacher, S = student, WB = white-board, PW = pairwork, GW = group-work, and so on.

It is important that language items are analysed on the cover sheet so that you, the teacher, become aware and clear in your mind about meaning, form and phonology. This will help you when you come to the procedure, for example, to think of concept questions or other ways of checking that students have understood a language item. How you do this will be included in the procedure part of the plan.

A lesson plan is not set in stone. Every lesson is different, and so a plan needs to be a flexible guide which allows the teacher to respond to her learners' needs: 'Flexibility is the characteristic we would expect

STAGE	AIM	PROCEDURE
1. Warmer 5 mins	To get ss thinking in English, and to accommodate late-comers	T tells ss in pairs/small groups to write the alphabet vertically on piece of paper, A-Z. Give them 3 mins to think of an adjective/adverb starting with each letter of alphabet.
2.		

Figure 2:

Post-lesson self evaluation	
Did I achieve my aims, and how do I know?	Yes, I did achieve my aims. By the end of the lesson the students were able to correctly use 'used to' to describe past habits. Also, they were able to read a short text and identify the target language.
What did the students do?	SS worked in pairs and in small groups, as well as individually. They moved around the room and asked each other questions, and produced a short autobiography.
What did the students learn?	SS learned the meaning, form and pronunciation of 'used to'
What would I do differently if I could teach the lesson again?	I would not repeat the activity where ss asked each other 'What did you use to do?' as this was mechanical and meaningless and ss did not respond well to it.
What areas of my teaching do I need to work on in my next lesson?	I think I need to think more carefully about the size of the visuals I use – I'm not sure all ss could clearly see what I was showing them. Also, I could have highlighted the form more clearly on the WB – I need to plan my WB work in advance.
Any other comments?	I got a very good feeling from ss about the lesson – they seemed to enjoy most of the activities and I could see that they were using the target language in a communicative manner.

Figure 3:

from the genuinely adaptable teacher' (Harmer 2000: 258).

Furthermore, a lesson plan should, to some degree, be reusable; having said this, as no two lessons are ever the same, you may find that a lesson plan is never used again! However, the plan will contain ideas and activities which may provide the stimulus for some future lesson.

The thing which is probably most important of all, from my perspective,

is the post-lesson reflection. In other words, we need to consider what we and our students did during the lesson, and analyse what was more and less effective so that we can adjust our approach in the future. We need to ask ourselves: 'Would I teach the lesson in the same way on a different occasion?' If the answer is 'probably not', then we need to identify how it could be taught differently and therefore more effectively. Any changes

may not be very major, they could be quite minor, for example, extending or shortening the time of an activity, or putting students into pairs instead of small groups. On the other hand, you may decide that to make the lesson more effective in the future, you would need to make significant changes, such as completely dropping an activity, or revising the overall lesson aims.

You might choose to use prompt questions to help you reflect (as in Figure 3).

Activity 3 – Think of a lesson you have recently taught. Using the prompt questions on the post-lesson self-evaluation form here, reflect on the lesson and think about how you might teach it differently in the future.

Neither lesson planning itself, nor self-evaluation and lesson reflection, are easily-acquired skills. They need to be developed over time, and this will only happen with practice. It is important, however, to persevere with lesson planning as it will, without doubt, go a long way to making you a better-prepared, and more effective, classroom practitioner.

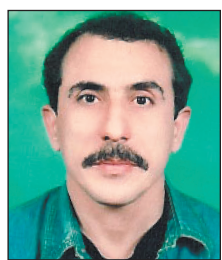
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Even Homer sometimes nods How to correct our students' errors

Mistakes are part of our life; we all make mistakes now and then. There is nothing wrong with making mistakes as long as we learn from them and avoid repeating them over and over.

To correct students' errors has always been, and will always be the concern of most teachers. Some teachers are in favor of immediate correction, while others are in favor of delayed correction. Some would even go further to consider the whole process as time-consuming. In this article, I would like to dwell, based on my practical experience, upon this controversial issue to



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offer some suggestions for both immediate and delayed correction.

When students are corrected in front

of their classmates, they feel offended and get discouraged. They expect teachers to continually correct them during classes. Failure to do so is likely to create confusion and suspicion on the part of the students. As such, teachers are expected to strive to find most creative ways to deal with this problem that most typically arises. They need to encourage and stimulate their students to participate in class without any fear of making mistakes.

Most students refuse to answer to the teacher in the classroom on the ground that they are most likely to be the laughingstock of their class fellows. Consequently, they get discouraged and

feel humiliated. They refrain from responding to the teacher's questions which may deprive them of a valuable learning opportunity.

Generally speaking, there are three types of oral mistakes that need to be corrected during class-discussion. These are: grammatical, vocabulary, and pronunciation mistakes. This leads us to a very important question: should we interrupt our students during discussion or avoid interrupting them as much as we can? To answer this question we need to ask ourselves whether the focus is on accuracy or fluency. In fact, to save our students the embarrassment and in order not to distract them, we can

employ less provocative approaches. One way is to make notes of the most common mistakes made by a student to be discussed later. Write them on the board without revealing the name of the student in order not to embarrass him/her. Ask the rest of the class to identify these mistakes and correct them. Another way is to raise an eyebrow, or say, "Excuse me?" Or the teacher can ask for repetition without indicating the mistake.

Also we can employ another approach called, 'selective correction'. In this case, the teacher decides to correct only certain errors. These errors can be decided by the objectives of the lesson, or the exercise that is being done.

In other words, if students are focusing on past simple tense, then only errors related to this grammatical area need to be corrected. Other mistakes are ignored.

In conclusion, the teacher can decide which is the most beneficial and effective approach to error correction based on the situation itself. It will help students overcome their shyness and play an active role in class discussions without being afraid of making mistakes. In this case, they would acknowledge and accept their mistakes as part of the learning process instead of being offended when they are corrected by their teacher.

Improving intelligibility of communication

The most vital aspect of any act of communication is clarity of the message so that the intended audience or listener understands it clearly. Communicative competence implies that the speaker knows what he's going to communicate, to whom, in what context and in what language. This ensures the comprehensibility of the message which is the goal of communication. So it is important for speakers to have a clear idea about their role in helping the listener(s) understand him.

Some ways to help others understand you

The first thing to do in helping others understand you is to speak out so that they can figure out what you are talking about. This seems to be an obvious or readily understood statement; but have you ever listened to yourself talk? Have you listened very carefully to your friends' ways of talking? Many learners of English as a foreign language have the habit of running words together, not pronouncing letters, or omitting the end sounds of words. If someone were to overhear you and your classmates talking, perhaps your speech habits are hurting you; they may be keeping some others from understanding you.



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For those highly motivated learners who try to speak English meaningfully, there are many ways to make their

speech more easily understood. One of the ways is to tape-record their speeches and then listen carefully to the reply. The first time they hear their own voices on tapes, they might not be able to recognize them. Then as an individual learner when you hear your voice, pretend it belongs to someone else and write down how that person might improve his/her speaking. So also you can improve your speaking skills without a tape recorder. Just you will need to work with a partner, preferably a native speaker so that he/she can comment on your voice.

To be understood is not easy
Improving your speech, your hand-

writing and your listening habits may not be easy for they have been with you for a long time. You need to keep on practicing outside of class. If you find it hard to improve, do not get upset or discouraged. Remember, you can still choose whether or not you want others to understand you meaningfully. But ask yourself: Are you willing to pay the price to be understood? Is it worthwhile to improve your skills?

What does improvement cost? Certainly it will cost you time, money, possible loss of friends and continuous effort. Improvement can cut into your recreation and entertainment. As a result it is possible that some of your

old friends, who have chosen not to improve themselves, may drift away for they are not ready to get a good education.

But there are real profits, too, aren't there? If there weren't any, people would not be reading books, newspapers. Thus, let's see how many advantages you can get if you were to improve your speaking and also your ability to express words and ideas either orally or on paper. Then, some closed door will be opened up for you. You will gain some new friends too. And finally you may find an important and rewarding job that would mean a better life for you. I hope you will pay the cost!

ELT Panorama

Literary and philosophical influence of Arabs on Europe



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Among the influence studies of literature, it is important to emphasize the extent of the Arabic influence on the European literature, especially in the medieval age, though its impact emerged in the nineteenth century.

History tells us that Europe, ruled by the Great Roman Empire, was far from the creative literature in the middle ages, due to the strong power of the Christian church. It served to sideline literature from life and people, as shown by Victor Hugo in his novel *Hunch back of Notre Dame*. However, in the ancient ages, the Romans were

the pioneers to introduce the Greek literature to the world before the church took over. During that period, the Arabs achieved excellence in literature as much as in other spheres of life.

As Islam is based on rational principles, literature and religion were a very mixed-thing. It is interesting to explore how the European literature was influenced by the Arabic literature, though Europe was overridden by the religious outlook, which was a key factor of prosperity in the Arabic literature, so much so that the church itself stood unable to consecrate rationality to the Christian, for Christian beliefs were merely spiritual and devoid of ideal, logical and practical theories.

Historically, the Arabic literature was never in need of being separated from religion. Contrary to this, European literature was in urging need of being free from the so-called Christian beliefs and outlook, in order to flourish.

A great deal of European scientists were influenced by the Arabs, and consequently executed by their gov-

ernments backed up by the Church. They were not equipped to lead the revolution against their governments; for such revolution was in need of free thinkers, rather than scientists, to provoke the populace against their governments. Europe needed such influence of freedom of mind to impact on the people; to stir them up and to pave the way for the scientific theories to be proved.

It is in this context that the impact of Arabic influence on European literature needs to be evaluated.

At the end of the first Abbasids Empire, some prominent Arab philosophers emerged, urging liberation of the mind of man from the religious outlook. Some of the philosophers who based their principles on skepticism were Abu Aala' Alma'ari, Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Ibn Bajja (Avempace), etc... They were rejected by their societies and were given no importance. Further, they were termed as unbelievers. In order to get rid of dominating Christian beliefs, European scholars like Dante took his scepticism from the Arab philosophers. For instance, Dante's *The*

Divine Comedy' copiously borrowed from Alma'ari's *The Letter of Indulgence* (Rasalat Alghufuran), in which he calls upon people to cultivate a free mind.

The modern European concept of freedom of mind owes its origin to Arab philosophers, and Alaa Alma'ari was the pioneer of them. Critics give him a well deserved epithet, as *Von Kremer*, a German critic, described him in his "Luzumiyyat" as "one the greatest moralists of all times whose profound genius anticipated much that is commonly attributed to the so-called modern spirit of enlightenment." His influence has been seen in most of modern movements, such as naturalism and secularism, which stemmed from the French revolution in 1789.

A lot of scholars have taken to the study of Arabic influences on the European civilization in most spheres of life, i.e. science, geography architecture, etc. The fruits of their research are expected to yield fresh insights into the precise nature of literary and philosophical influence of Arabs on the European literature.

Shakespeare's Macbeth:
A challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence (Part 2)

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Rationale:

Rapidly growing interest in recent years in reading and interpretation of literary texts by incorporating biocentric worldview has also "reinvigorated" the contemporary significance of Shakespeare. It reexamines the relationship between human actions and their physical outcome. It has added new dimensions to the metaphors of killing, suffering and healing in *Macbeth* without impairing the validity of the critical tradition following which L.C. Knights (1959) states that *Macbeth* "defines a particular kind of evil - the evil that results from a lust for power" (225) and A.C. Bradley (1904) sees it as an "ironical juxtaposition of persons and events" (103) in all

the "vividness, magnitude and violence of the imagery" (101) and praises the "sublime", "tremendous" and "concentrated" (97-98) impact of its poetry and tragic power.

There is no denying the fact that the reason behind the tremendous tragic impact resulting from the lust for power is what the Greeks attributed to *hubris* defined by Microsoft Encarta Reference Dictionary 2003 as "the excessive pride and ambition that usually leads to the downfall of a hero in classical tragedy". Keith Sagar in his thought-provoking and "illuminating" book, *Literature and the Crime against Nature* published in 2004 puts forward his central argument:

that the most of the world's ills through history, but especially the long, now critical, ecological disaster, are the result of what the Greeks called *hubris* - a kind of pride which drives men, both as a race and as individuals, to regard themselves, in consequence of intelligence and technology, as outside of and superior to the natural world.

He further argues:
that imagination is the only human

faculty capable of a wider and deeper vision than the anthropocentric, being capable of breaking through the hard shell of ego (whether the ego of species, race, sex, nation, culture or individual) and releasing a vision of the sacredness and miracle of the created world, the ecosystem upon which mankind wholly depends; and that nearly all the great works of imaginative, especially poetic, art, have testified to this.

The phrase "metaphysics of anthropocentric presence" has been adopted from Michael Branch's (1994) paper *Ecocriticism: The Nature of Nature in Literary Theory and Practice* which is derived from his assumption that the contemporary literary theorists all have spoken of a perceived crisis of authority as we find in Derrida's "metaphysics of presence", De Man's "blindness and insight", Hokheimer and Adorno's "enlightenment", Ricour's "hermeneutic of suspicion", Foucault's "panoptic society of surveillance", and feminism's "paternalistic discourse". This challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric "presence" by the hermeneutics of environmental praxis is not only "liber-

ating" but also restorative and pioneering. It is liberating and restorative in the sense that ecological thinking makes us aware of the dangers of ecosystemic disruption between the human and non-human elements of our planet earth. It is pioneering in the sense that it "involves simultaneous processes of environmental awakening - retrievals of physical environment from dormancy to salience - and of distortion, repression, forgetting, and inattention" (Buell 2001: 18). Glotfelty and Fromm (1994: xviii) describe it as "the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment". It "encourages others to think seriously about the relationship of humans to nature, about the ethical dilemmas posed by the environmental crisis" and it "shares the fundamental premise that human culture is connected to the physical world, affecting it and affected by it". Glotfelty distinguishes it from other critical approaches in this that it "expands the notion of 'the world' to include the entire ecosphere" (1994) not only society: the social sphere.

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English as a Foreign Language in Yemen



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Yemen, as other countries which don't speak English as a mother tongue, prioritizes teaching English to the EFL learners. The current demands for English in our society and the entire world is increasing by leaps and bounds in the wake of English becoming an international

language. So learning English is inevitable. In this backdrop, I want to shed some light on the difficulties that face the Yemeni learners of English to acquire an optimal level of proficiency in English.

Teaching English in the public schools begins from grade (VII). This is actually a very late time to start. At the age of 12 the pupils are supposed to know at least the basic things about the language instead of beginning with English alphabet, numbers, greetings, etc. The private schools start to teach English from class (I) in the primary stage, which facilitates an efficient acquisition of skills in English. They have enough time to learn from their early age. It is heartening to note that the Ministry of Education in Yemen intends to teach English from class (IV) in the primary schools. This will help to overcome some aspects of the problem.

Teachers of English in our schools don't use teaching audio-visual aids in their teaching, such as pictures, photos, cassettes, charts, and so on. Generally speaking, these aids attract the attention of the students and make them get exposure to the language in a good and an effective way. I think 90 percent of our teachers at public schools don't use cassettes during their teaching which is considered a very simple aid.

It is small wonder, therefore, that most students in Yemen who graduate from secondary schools lack the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening after studying English for six years. Weakness of students in English is related to lack of adequate practice. Our students don't practice to speak, write, listen, and read in their classrooms and at their homes. Why? For many reasons: teachers don't give opportuni-

ties or encouragement to the students to participate during the lessons, some students are shy to participate, some teachers punish their students for their errors, large classes and so forth. Moreover, illiteracy of parents adversely affects the acquisition of the foreign language skills. In this sense, the older generation affects the new generation. The family can guide the children, solve their weaknesses, encourage them, keep in touch with schools and teachers, follow up the progress of their sons and daughters, teach them at home, and so on.

To sum up, teaching a language is not an easy task. It needs special attention from all: Ministry of Education, the society, school administration, family, teachers, and students themselves that are responsible for developing the students' competency in the English language.

A letter to the learners of English: 18
It's time you learnt
English better

Dear student friends,

In my last letter of welcome, I pointed out the great responsibilities you have as students in the universities to your families as well to the nation. You should make up your minds to work towards that noble goal of serving the country in whatever way possible; to achieve that goal, you have to work hard as students to acquire a lot of knowledge and skills related to the field of your studies. Passing the examinations at the end of every year is not enough, though it is necessary, but education is more than that, it should take you to greater heights achieving the best in your discipline of study.

Fortunately or unfortunately, most, if not all, higher knowledge is available in English and it necessitates your learning English better; it is psychologically a wrong decision and educationally a bad decision to start learning English as this age (languages, it is said, are more effectively learnt at young age and that's why English is taught from class 7 in Yemen). But, better late than never! Girdle up and start learning English, more English and more useful English!

Some of the tips I'm giving below may help you, in addition to what your teachers are going to do:

- Listen to the teacher carefully in the class; a few classes in the beginning will be difficult to understand but continue to listen to the teacher, you will find him/her understandable (this is how you learnt to watch English films). If possible, tape record a few of the teacher's lectures (with his/her permission) and listen to them at home for quicker and better understanding. Don't give up soon!
- Learn to make notes out of the lectures; again the initial problems will be there, but push forward and you will succeed. If you regularly make note, half of the burden is over, you don't need to burn the midnight oil at the time of examinations, slogging over your voluminous books.
- Check at home everyday the difficult words the teacher used in the classes with a good dictionary (a good dictionary is not very old!) thumbing through your notes; if possible write these words separately in a small pocket note, and try to use them in your speech and writing as much as possible till they become a part of your vocabulary; one of the easy ways of acquiring English.
- Read, read and read; there is no substitute for reading in order to get more and more English; reading increases your store of words, reinforces your confidence.
- Talk to your classmates (choose a few who are willing to listen) at leisure about what you have read, may be your subject or something else (a TV programme you watched, probably); this is mainly to 'loosen your tongue' and get over the fear of making mistakes while speaking in English.
- Design a mock test yourself and take it yourself or with a few like-minded friends; this is just to train your fingers to write fast and retain what you have studied over a period of time

More to come. Good luck.

Deeper ponds, longer stalks; better thoughts, greater height. (Kural)

Yours affectionately,
Dr M N K Bose

ANY GUESSES?

1. What is the meaning of "Her remarks got up my nose."
2. What does 'Customer-oriented' mean?
3. How to use 'belie'?
4. What, if any, is the difference between 'educationist' and 'educationalist'?
5. What do you mean by 'dump on'?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **Acquiesce** is a word that is used in formal contexts. Very rarely is it used in speech. It means 'to agree, often unwillingly, but without complaining or arguing; accept quietly.' *Acquiesce* is followed by preposition *in*: you acquiesce in something. The noun form is *acquiescence*, adjective *acquiescent*, adverb *acquiescently*. *Acquiescence* is also followed by the preposition *to*. *His acquiescence to her demands shocked his parents*. In Law, *acquiescence* means 'such neglect to take legal proceedings for such a long time as to imply the abandonment of a right.'
2. **Sendee** means a person or a party to whom a thing is sent. It is formed on the analogy of 'vendee', the purchaser.
3. **Finger** is used for the movable parts at the end of the hands as well as the feet. In English, 'toe' refers to the movable parts at the end of the feet. The names of the fingers are: thumb, index finger or forefinger, middle finger, ring finger, little finger. Sometimes the little finger is called 'baby finger.' It is also called 'pinkie' by Scots and Americans. There are no special names for the toes. They are numbered one to five. You refer to the big toe, second toe, third and middle toe, fourth toe, little or baby toe.
4. **What's eating you** means *What's bothering you. He looks pale. I don't know what's eating him.*
5. **Watershed** is a line of separation between waters flowing to different rivers, basins or seas. When used figuratively, it means 'a turning point in affairs.' Ex. *This is likely to be a watershed between war and peace. Freud's 'Psycho Analysis' is a watershed in the history of ideas.*

Teacher and nature



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We believe that nature or everything in this universe is created by Allah for the sake of man who is himself created by Allah from clay (a mixture of water and soil – two natural objects). This

universal fact confirms that man is part and parcel of nature. All objects have importance in life. However, some natural objects are considered to be more important and valuable than others. Water is, for example, more important than soil. But soil is also important because unless there is soil, there will be no plants and no trees, and if there are no trees and plants, there will be no oxygen...etc.

This universal truth has led me to make a comparison between nature and teacher. For me teacher is the only person who can build a perfect generation more than anybody else. Teachers are the foundation stones for building up well-educated, loyal, patriotic, strong, faithful, honest, sincere citizens who are the architects of tomorrow.

In order to accomplish this task, the teacher must be well-equipped personally and professionally. He/she can be likened to nature as a whole. A teacher must be like the sun which gives light and

heat to make plants grow, to make sea evaporate. He must be like a sea from which clouds, fish and pearls come out. A teacher must be a tree either to give fruit or to give wind that moves clouds. He must be as a cloud that sends rain, irrigates and water to thirsty land, people, animals and plants and makes them drink. A teacher must be like a mountain in stance, stability and pride. He/she should give light to others who are in darkness as the moon that gives light to the night and dispels darkness.

As the land opens its chest and arms to all farmers to plant and grow all kinds of vegetables and fruit, schools and colleges warmly open their gates to all learners regardless of the colour, race or age, and move them up steadily through many levels by the help of teachers and churn out engineers, pilots, doctors... etc in order to serve their country. That's why teachers have an important and vital role in the society.

Very Funny but True



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Language is an amazing means to convey deep thoughts and ideas. It deploys some linguistic devices, such as metaphor, simile, pun and others. These devices give flavor to the language. Here is a collection of wacky definitions in which

language is used in a funny way to create a true sense of humor.

Doctor: A person who kills your ills by pills, and kills you by bills.

Nurse: A person who wakes you up to give you sleeping pills.

Philosopher: A fool who torments himself during life, to be wise after death.

Criminal: A guy no different from the rest...except that he got caught.

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence after.

Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.

Experience: The name men give to their mistakes

Office: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home-life.

Yawn: The only time some married men ever get to open their mouth.

Classic: Books, which people praise, but do not read.

Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things

straight

Conference Room: A place where everybody talks, nobody listens and everybody disagrees later on.

Compromise: The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece.

Confession: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

Tears: The hydraulic force by which masculine will power is defeated by feminine water power.

School: A place where Papa pays and Son plays.

Life Insurance: A contract that keeps you poor all your life so that you can die rich.

Marriage: It's an agreement in which a man loses his bachelor's degree and a woman gains her master's.

Atom Bomb: An invention to end all inventions.

etc... : A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

YOUTH FORUM

Teachers' ears or students' eyes: A matter of mercilessness?

Teaching as a noble career, is a more intuitive profession and a more human job. Thus, the teacher should be aware of how to guide those class monkeys (as it was mentioned in a recent article) a very sympathetic manner and make them fond of the learning process. Unfortunately, some teachers, specially in schools, do consider teaching as a way of enslaving poor kids and pass their decisions through them willy-nilly. So, there must be a red line between teachers' plenipotentiary and students' rights.

Some of the problems in the school may not be attributed to the head teacher. He usually cares for his comfort by enriching his personality with unmemorable events which are done to save his so-called prestige. Many teachers lose their patience because some of their students made slips of tongue. They start beating them severely as if they are the child's foster mother. Therefore, teachers must be aware of how to give information to the students rather than give arbitrary commands and implement them merci-

lessly.

A very common phenomenon in the classrooms is the teacher's behavior when he enters into arguments with his students. His ears are the main source of his suspicion about things happening inside the school or when one of his followers whispers in his ears about his soul mate's misbehavior.

As a student teacher, I have experienced this in my practicum in one of Taiz schools. It was really a terrible experience. On that day, one of the teaching staff members, while he was performing his task in helping students to do their morning assembly, heard one of his students declare that this is not his teacher. He jumped to the conclusion that the student was impolite. So, the teacher lost his nerves and rushed towards that student catching his t-shirt tightly and dragging him in a barbarian way to the management den. And there the most disastrous behavior was awaiting him; the teacher started beating that innocent child mercilessly in front of the teaching members

and my friends as well. Too terrible it was for us as practitioners to bear the sight, but it was normal for other teachers. We could only see the student's eyes telling how dejected and full of remorse he was because of his teacher's ruthlessness.

To sum up, teachers in schools, must truly consider those students as their children and deal with them in a way that attracts their attention towards learning and take the teaching-learning process seriously. They should not be harsh with the students in any way.

Mohammed Abdul Kareem Ahmed
Level Four
Faculty of Education
Taiz University



How could I forget her!

While noise has melted away and people are fast asleep
I wake the world with sound of my cries
How could I forget
Our first eye contact and hearts' meeting
Every time I try to forget
Tears are streaming
To love her was a big mistake
She's more than a classmate
As I try to forget her somehow
I keep saying she's out there somewhere now
How could I forget the way we used to look to each other
She won my heart forever
How could I forget

Her face, her smile and her voice
How could I forget
Her walk, her smile, and the way she used to talk
I nurtured her love with my pen
It became used to writing her name
Writing "I love you"
How could I forget her
My soul can't stop loving her
My pen keeps kissing papers when writing her name.

Abdullah Saleh Ali Ali
Level 1
Department of English
Faculty of Arts
Ibb University



READERS WRITE

Dear Dr Sahu

I am one of the readers of your Education page. I really like it. Actually I am a new reader of Yemen Times. I have read one Education supplement with my friends.

Now I wonder if we can share with you our writing. Please inform me if there are some conditions.
Rawia Mohammed
mohammedrawia@yahoo.com

Dear Rawia,

We welcome writings by people like you. There is no pre-condition. Just send in your article to me by email.

—Dr. Sahu

Dear Dr Sahu

It is my pleasure to thank you deeply for giving me the inspiration to write. Your acceptance of my first article made me work

day and night to make this article better and brighter and it is a promise to do my best in future

Rashad Almagrebi
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Level 3, Department of English
Taiz University

I. What to Say

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

Money is a crucial factor in all frontiers of human endeavor. As we know "According to the amount of money a man has in his coffers, so is he respected." Juvenal

Current account: An account for day-to-day use

Pension: Money paid to people after a certain age

Disability allowance: Money paid to people with a handicap.

II. How to Say it Correctly

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

- Truly speaking, there was little merit in the complaint sent in by the employee.
- Hardly did she finish the typing when the Manager entered the room with some more work.
- Dr. Ezaz along with his wife and daughter were invited to the party.
- The fact that compact car is better than conventional cars has been proved by its sales.
- The airport is further from my house than the railway station.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

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

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Irregular band of stars not seen separately but making the sky bright.
- Occasion of public merrymaking.
- Showing special respect and courtesy to women.
- Room or building for the display of works of art.
- Wooden framework on which to put criminals to death by hanging.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- State of enthusiastic admiration: **furor** (n)
- Body of an aircraft to which the engine(s), wings and tail are filled: **fuselage** (n)
- Mixing or uniting of different things into one: **fusion** (n)
- Unnecessary nervous excitement about unimportant things: **fuss** (n)
- Movement in art (early 20th C) marked by departure from tradition: **futurism** (n)

Improve Your English: 325

(B) Words often confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- look-out, outlook 2. lovable, lovely
- low, lowly 4. lustily, lustfully
- loud speaker, loud-speaker

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- regard** (n) (consideration or attention and esteem or respect): You should have proper regard for old age.
regards (n) (compliments or good wishes): Please tender my regards to all elders and superiors.
- journey** (n) (going to a distant place usually on land, even though part of the total journey is a sea voyage): My train journey from Mumbai to Orissa is very pleasant.
voyage (n) (used only in case of sea journey): He took a voyage from Aden port to England.
- ice** (n) (frozen water often artificially made): He mixed ice with a bottle of juice.
snow (n) (frozen vapor falling from the sky in soft white flakes): There is heavy snowfall in Kashmir during the winter.
- illuminate** (vt) (give light to): On the eve of the Unification Day, all buildings in Sana'a are illuminated.
illumine (vt) (enlighten spiritually): "Whatever is dark in me, you illumine." (Milton)
- high way** (n) (an elevated way): There is a high way round the river embankment.
highway (n) (a main road or a thoroughfare): The Sana'a-Mahweet highway is fully asphalted.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

- On the occasion of the Independence Day, the President's message was **delivered** by the head of the institution.
a. granted b. spread
c. given d. announced
e. displayed
- May Allah help you to **realize** your dreams.
a. establish b. cherish
c. prove d. fulfill
e. understand
- They **hushed** up the scandal.
a. silenced b. appeased
c. composed d. provoked
e. soothed
- He **commands** mastery in the English language.
a. dictates b. wields
c. orders d. authorizes

e. possesses

- 'Round the World in Eighty Days' is a sort of **travelogue**.

- a film or lecture describing travels
- dialogue between two persons traveling together
- debate on the uses/abuses of traveling
- description of a journey
- none of these

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. diligent | hard-working |
| 2. expeditious | prompt |
| 3. intimidated | threatened |
| 4. exonerated | declared innocent |
| 5. rendezvous | meeting place |

(ii) Antonyms

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

- In school and hospital areas, silence is **mandatory**.
a. optional b. compulsory
c. imperative d. irritating
- The announcement of pay-hike was **delayed** due to the Prime Minister's absence.
a. expedited b. advanced
c. released d. triggered
- Her **impetuous** manners surprised everybody at the party.
a. rash b. poised
c. sluggish d. quiet and gentle
- All glass materials are **fragile**.
a. heavy b. strong
c. tall d. broad
- The government initiatives will **augment** female education.
a. diminish b. circumscribe
c. restrain d. constrain

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. aggravated | alleviated |
| 2. misogynist | philanderer |
| 3. delicious | unpalatable |
| 4. elegance | awkwardness |
| 5. dreary | bright |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. azile b. agile
c. agail d. azail
- a. agnostic b. agnostick
c. agnostik d. agnaustic

- a. agriment b. agreement
c. agrement d. agreemant

- a. agriculture b. agreeculture
c. agriculture d. agricultur

- a. alakriti b. alakrity
c. alacrity d. alacriti

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- afraid 2. agency
3. aggregate 4. aggressive
5. aggrieve

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentences of your own

- not a bad sort
- throw in one's hand
- hold a pistol to (someone's) head
- keep one's hair on
- win hands down

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- up a gum tree** (in a hopeless situation): If I can't pass the exam this time, I'm really going to be up a gum tree.
- put the kibosh on (something)** (to prevent something from being done or from being successful): We hope to watch a very interesting football match, but rains put the kibosh on our hope.
- make a pig's ear of (something)** (to do something very badly): He was in charge of reception of guests, but he made a pig's ear of it.
- that will be the day** (that is very unlikely): Has Murad passed the exam? — That'll be the day!
- sail close to the wind** (to engage in activities which are not illegal but which come close to being so): The smugglers sail close to the wind, although they have never been caught red-handed.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

a, an or some?

- Which would you use with the following words?**
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| ... advice | ... homework |
| ... furniture | ... work |
| ... assistant | ... help |
| ... information | ... handbag |
| ... office | ... exercise |
| ... sofa | ... baggage |
| ... news | ... newspaper |
| ... job | |

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- I'm afraid that your car is beyond repair. I'm afraid that your car **can't be repaired**.
- Perhaps someone has handed your cheque book in at the bank. Your check book **might**

have been handed in at the bank.

- I'm sure someone disturbed the burglars — they didn't take the video. The burglars **must have been disturbed**.
- The letter won't arrive on time. It was posted too late. The letter won't arrive on time. It **should have been posted** earlier.
- There's a chance they'll arrest him if he tries to leave the country. He **can be arrested** if he tries to leave the county.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

Topic 143

VICTORY BELONGS TO THE MOST PERSEVERING

142: WORK BRINGS ITS OWN RELIEF

E. Fitch Ware has said:
"Work brings its own relief;
He who most idle is
Has most grief."

The above statement embeds a profound truth that life derives its significance and value through relentless effort. Calvin Coolidge, a thinker, has elucidated the saliency of work that makes the short span of life truly meaningful. All growth, he says, depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work. Work is not a curse: it is the prerogatives of intelligence, the only means to manhood, and the measure of civilization. One needs to cultivate an appropriate mindset, a right attitude to develop a healthy work culture. Vivekananda, the celebrated Indian philosopher has underscored the importance of single minded devotion to work. He says, "When you are doing any work, do not think of anything beyond. Do it... as the highest worship, and devote your whole life to it for the time being... By doing well the duty which is nearest to us, which is in our hands now, we make ourselves stronger, and improving our strength in this manner, we may reach a state in which it shall be our privilege to do the most coveted duties... "We get what we deserve, not what we desire; so we should work primarily to change what we deserve and the rest will follow." A calm perspective yields contentment in the work one is entrusted with and elevates our spirit. On the contrary, frittering away of time and energy breeds disillusionment and grief. So, we should be involved and committed to what is upon us to do.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Verily, His are the Creation and the Command Blessed Be Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds"

—S7:A58

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

—Dr. Samuel Johnson

Campus Causerie

Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University International Year of Languages, 2008

The United Nations declared the year 2008 to be the International Year of Languages. In pursuance of that UNO declaration, a seminar was held on 28th December, 2008 in the Faculty of Arts by the Department of English in collaboration with the Department of French and the Department of Arabic to celebrate the International Year of Languages. The inaugural session started with the welcome speech by Dr Damodar Thakur, Professor and Chairman, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sanaa University. Dr Thakur, in his inaugural speech, welcomed the guests and the audience and dwelt at length on the United Nations' aims behind declaring the year 2008 as the International Year of Languages, "The stated aim of this UNO declaration", he said, "was the preservation of dying languages and the unstated aim emanating from the aims and objectives of the U.N. was to use language as an instrument for creating goodwill among various language communities". He said, "In view of this declaration of the United Nations, the Department of English took the responsibility under the guidance of the Dean of the Faculty and under the patronage of Dr. Khalid Tamim, the President of the University." The welcome speech given by him on this occasion was as follows:

"Since Noam Chomsky came out with the notion of language universals, it has been accepted as an established fact that although each language has its own personality, its own cultural roots and its own specific features, what they share among themselves, outweigh what makes them different from one another. In other words, all human languages, though each one is cut out in its own way, are basically not only similar but also identical. There is no language of the world, which does not have nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. There is no language in the world, which has no device for making statements, asking questions, making requests, giving orders, and expressing exclamations. There is no language of the world, which has no vocabulary for love and affection, respect and compliments, differences and hostilities. There is no language of the world, which has no device for expressing time, space and frequency.

Repeated experiments have shown that the chimpanzee, which is probably the most intelligent of all animals in the animal kingdom, cannot learn any one of the human languages in spite of the most competently organized devices for language teaching and, our experience shows, doesn't it, that even the stupidest specimen of a human baby acquires a language even in the absence of a consciously organized language teaching programme. Time has now come for us to realize that linguistic quarrels are now matters of the past, and that linguistic differences, rivalry and hostilities have no real basis. God has designed the blue print of human brain in such a way that a human baby can learn any language it is exposed to. Time has come for all of us, therefore, to say to ourselves strongly and finally



Dr. Al-Makhtari, Head, French Department; Dr. Nihari, Head, Arabic Department and Dr. Al-Awadi, Dean of the Faculty at the seminar.

that irrespective of which language community we belong to, we are all the same, brothers and sisters manifesting the same human urge, the same human inclination, and the same human propensities. What is needed is not rivalry, jealousy, hostility, and animosity

counted among those who laid the foundation of civilizations.

Language not only enabled the human race to transcend physical violence, it also enabled them to rise to greater and still greater heights of refinement and sublimity. Had there been no English, could there be a Shakespeare; had there been no Greek language, could there ever be a Homer; had there been no Latin, could there ever be a Seneca; had there been no French language, could there ever be an Albert Camus or a Sartre; had there been no Sanskrit, could there ever be the Vedas; had there been no Arabic language, could there ever be a Baradoodi or an Abdulaziz Maqaleh? It is language that makes us human; it is language that enables us to think in terms of sophistication



Dr. Damodar Thakur presents his welcome speech.

and sublimities. By its very nature, language encourages connectivity. When an English man thinks of candy for his babies, he may not realize that this word is from Sanskrit, when he lies comfortably on a cot, he may not realize that the word 'cot' is from Hindi. When he takes a drink at the beginning of a party, he may not realize that the word 'alcohol' is from Arabic. When he uses shampoo before his bath, he may not realize that the word is from Indian languages; when he wears a shawl to protect himself from the cold of winter, he may not realize that the word shawl is from Persian and when during the weekends he goes to a restaurant to have a dinner, he may not realize that the word 'rice' and 'curry' are from Tamil. There is hardly any language of the world, which has not borrowed words from or

lent words to other languages. The very nature of language is the nature of inter-connectivity of mutual give and take. On this day when we are celebrating the International Year of Languages, I would, on behalf of all of you here, therefore, like to express our profound and sincere gratitude to the United Nations for declaring the year 2008 as the International Year of Languages. May all of us here, me, you and you and you and everybody here say to ourselves for ever and ever that although we may come from different language communities of the world, we are, linguistically speaking, basically the same and we will make a creative use of this basic unity and will endeavour hereafter to create a better world of mutual understanding and cordial relations".

Dr Hamid Al-Awadhi, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, spoke in three languages, English, French and Arabic. He stressed the importance of multilingualism in this globalized world. Speaking about the importance of language, he said: "Celebrating the International Year of Languages is a strong signal of the commitment of the Faculty of Arts to enhance the importance of multilingualism. We share this event with the rest of the world because we believe that in a globalized world languages are becoming more and more essential not only for solving problems, but also for reacting contacts, dialogues, understanding and peace among cultures, civilizations and people. In fact, over these last few years, awareness of the role of multilingualism has made itself more and more obvious. Many departments of foreign languages have been established within the system of higher education in Yemen. But our real concern is how to ensure a good quality of teaching and learning and how to bridge the language competences in the specialized language departments with the knowledge and skills in other disciplines. The main aim of celebrating this event is to raise the awareness and stress the essentiality of multilingualism and cultural diversity among the students of our faculty in all the disciplines."

The inaugural session was followed by two academic sessions, one presided by Dr Abdurahman Abdrabou, the Dean of the Faculty of Languages, and the other presided by Dr Mahmoud Doud, Professor of English, Faculty of Languages. The keynote paper in the first academic session was presented by Professor Damodar Thakur. The paper was on the *Language of Mysticism*. In this keynote paper Professor Thakur illustrated the semantic problems that language had to encounter for describing the supra-rational, the supra-logical and the supra-linguistic realities experienced by mystics in different language communities. He pointed out the underlying similarities in the language of mystics all over the world. He said that these similarities were describable in terms of their illocutionary characteristics and the lexical, lexico-grammatical and semantic features. To demonstrate this, he quoted profusely from the utterances of great mystics of the past in well-known languages all over the world. While pointing out the underlying similarity of the linguistic features of these utterances, he also highlighted the universality of mystical visions and perceptions. He said that

during the last few decades the findings of quantum physics about the subatomic world had posed the same kind of problems that mysticism had always posed before. Dr. Tirumalesh presented his views on the universality of language as a human attribute. If we ask "Where is language?" one could easily answer that language is everywhere. But that answer seems to foreclose all discussion about the role and function of Language as characteristic of human behaviour. The only way to understand Language- not this or that language, but any language-is by understanding the faculty of language, its context freeness, that is Language as not bound by time or space or the moral/ethical responsibilities it imposes on its users. The only way to understand language is to locate it in the human mind, because that is where it has its identity.

The third speaker was Dr. Rakesh Kumar. He recited the poem *Language* by the American poet, Carl Sandburg and critically analysed it to show how it reflected the ontology of language as a universal phenomenon. He said, Sandburg, while projecting language as a poetic image, reflects on the unique features of language in terms of poetic images symbolizing its deathlessness and eternal, onward flow.

Dr. Sharma, the first speaker of the session, opened his presentation by asking a question, "What is Language? And, what do we use it for?" He then proceeded to answer the question himself by enumerating and elaborating on the different forms of language and its different functions in human communication. Dr. Hussein from the Department of French, Faculty of Arts, presented a contrastive analysis of a few (nominalized) structures of time reference in English and Arabic. He highlighted the language specific modes of time reference. He also demonstrated with Arabic and English data that, though time is accepted as a universal phenomenon, the modes of time reference in verbs and other syntactic categories are language specific. Dr. Abdeljalil Al-Idrisi from Morocco presented his views on the processes of nominalization in natural languages: *Les nominalizations dans les langues naturelles*. He presented English and French data to focus on the syntactically different, yet semantically similar, processes of nominalization in the two languages. Professor Desai was the next presenter. He read a paper on the need for evolving new techniques of teaching English as an international language for communication. The developments the last century has witnessed in the field of electronic communication has revolutionized not only our global relations but also have opened up new challenges in the use of language for international communication. Dr. Desai then proposed that 'bi-directional' translation as a pedagogic technique could be profitably used (a) to teach an international language like English, and (b) to help develop competence in the learners' L1.

At the end, Dr. Doud, the Chairperson, complimented the speakers and commented, how all of them highlighted the importance of language and language pedagogy in education. He emphasized the importance of a continued dialogue among scholars and researchers in different languages to establish the underlying similarities and the superficial differences in languages. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vinod Sinha, Department English, Faculty of Arts.



Dr. Hamid Al-Awadhi, Dean of Faculty of Arts, and Dr. Damodar Thakur, Chairman, English Department share a lighter moment.

Next came, Dr. Bakil al-Walsh who spoke on the interrelationship between language and culture. He spoke on the different manifestations of language as symbol, sign, symptom, index, icon and name. With these various manifestations, languages are able to project the unique cultural context in which they operate. He showed how the relationship between language and culture depended on the interrelationship between and among these characteristic marks of language.

At the end of presentation by each speaker of the Session I, Dr. Abdrabou, the Chairperson, summarized the speakers' views to highlight the theme of the seminar. While concluding the Session, he summarized the proceedings and highlighted how each speaker tried to bring out the characteristic qualities of Language to emphasize the underlying unity of languages. The second session began with Dr. (Professor) Mahmoud Doud, Department of English, Faculty of Languages, chairing the proceedings.

Address by Dr. Hamid Al-Awadhi, Dean.



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A section of the audience.