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Millions of dollars worth of drugs destroyed

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, May 10 — The appointed time was nine thirty, regardless of who was there and who was not, and the termination process started on a hot Saturday morning. There were no more than thirty spectators, mainly media who were invited for the event's coverage. Normal citizens did not attend, whether because they were uninformed or because the operation area was at the back of the high-fenced property attached to the office of the attorney general.

In a shabby almost deserted part of the backyard, the pills and hashish were already there in large metal boxes waiting to be opened up and destroyed. At nine thirty sharp, the hashish was gathered in a pile and with the aid of an accelerator the fire spread quickly across the heap once ignited. Black smoke appeared at once signaling the site of a burning ritual. More than 4,600 kilograms of hashish were being burnt.

While the crackling of fire could still be vividly heard, over 6 million amphetamine pills were unwrapped bag after bag and poured into buckets before being diluted with water. Ali Askar, the prosecutor of the specialized penal prosecution who personally carried out the process, said he needed to make sure every last pill was gone forever.

Constantly stirring and shifting through the contents, the prosecution officers made sure every single pill was dissolved. Once they were sure the pills had all lost their form forever, the buckets' contents were dumped into a ditch in the ground, one after another.

Despite the sun's heat, the officers kept at it, and batch after batch the pills were destroyed. More than an hour passed and still the process was ongoing, and while the media and officials left the place, the prosecution general and his deputy remained until the last minute making sure the process was completed to the very end.

The hashish and pills was seized as a result of 23 drug cases over a period of five months since December 2008. Seventy five people were behind the failed smuggling out of which 47 are Yemenis, 12 Pakistanis, 10 Iranians, 2 Saudis, two Syrians, one Ethiopian and one Eritrean. Their penalties vary from death penalty to 25 years in prison and five years for using drugs.

In March this year, the Criminal Court sentenced a Pakistani drug dealer to death and sentenced another 15 Pakistanis to 25 years in jail for entering the Yemeni territorial waters illegally in possession of thousands kilos of drugs. The number of drug trafficking cases in Yemen doubled between the year 2005 and 2007.

Because of the work of chief prosecutor Saeed Al-Aqil and his men, these drugs will now not find their way to the Gulf countries they were intended for. The termination ritual destroyed drugs and hashish worth USD 83 million.

Smugglers have several entries to bring drugs to Yemen through airports, seaports and land entries spread over Mahara, Hadramout, Sa'ada, Hajja, Hodeida, Sana'a and Aden.

Despite the prosecution having just destroyed 1,500 kilograms of hashish and over 1 million amphetamine pills less than six months ago according to Askar, more drugs have been seized.



About four tons of hashish went up in smoke.



Millions of amphetamine pills were dissolved in water.

Soon the earth became moist with the wasted drugs, while the air was covered with thick smoke. Whenever the wind blew, the toxic smoke blew to the spectators' side. Some started commenting that they would soon get high on the smell. A parameter of around two meters was kept to separate the audience from the officers at work destroying the "death batch," as Dr. Musab Al-Sufi, deputy head of the anti-narcotics department at the Ministry of Interior described it.

He said Yemen has turned into the protecting shield for the gulf countries from the pills which usually come from Syria and Hashish that is smuggled from Africa and East Asia. The geographical location of Yemen makes it a safe transit route for smugglers, even though it is not a consumer market drugs trade, as is the case in its neighboring countries. The pills were wrapped in different kinds of bags,

some of which had the trade mark of a white horse.

Even after more than one hour, the smoke could still be seen towering over the prosecution's premises near the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sana'a, while carefree college students walked by oblivious to what was happening just a few meters away.

According to the prosecution, Yemen's antinarcotics forces are unable to stop all drugs from being trafficked

inside the country or smuggled to other places.

"We hold into account that smugglers often change their techniques, and as soon as they seized in a certain location, they change to a safer one," said Ali Al-Zubaidi, head of the Customs Authority. "We don't have all the tools to stop all the smuggling operations passing through our country so neighboring countries have to help us, because at the end we are all in danger."

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Saudi measures devastate Yemeni exporters

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, May 10 — Following the halt of almost 1,200 truckloads of Yemeni agricultural produce at the Saudi Arabian border area of Attiwal, new measures imposed by the Kingdom on Yemeni exports have been revealed.

The unexpected move led to the perishing of a large amount of fruit and vegetables at the border causing great loss to exporters, according to the Economic and Media Studies Center (EMSC).

The measures include prohibiting Yemeni trucks from entering Saudi Arabia and enforce strict measures on packaging.

The trucks remained in Attiwal outlets for more than three days, following which exporters had to sell at a loss, according to EMSC.

The new measures include the fact that agricultural produce must be exported in packaging that protects the fruit.

"The problem with these boxes is that they reduce by up to a third the quantity of fruit that a truckload can now carry," manager of the Agricultural Marketing Institution Farooq Qasem said.

"Our trucks are no longer allowed to enter the Kingdom.

There are Saudi trucks waiting at the borders to take the goods inside Saudi instead," Qasem continued. However, exporters were allowed to sell their produce to Saudi Arabians at the border after they paid SR 2000 per truck.

Exporters said they must be



Unlike last year, Yemeni markets are full of vegetables and fruits with very low prices this summer, say sellers. The sharp drop in prices is in fruits, especially mangos.

informed about these new measures two months prior to the beginning of the export season.

They also demanded that Saudi authorities hasten inspections measures at the border.

"We do not have any problems over new measures taken by Saudi authorities," said Ali Taher, fruit and vegetable exporter to Saudi Arabia.

"The great problem that caused us huge losses is the fact that these measures were taken by the Saudis so suddenly. This led to stopping the trucks in Attiwal outlet for days which led to spoiling the products."

He maintained that Yemeni exports do not contain large amounts of harmful pesticides in comparison to

other countries, nor are the fruits genetically engineered.

He said that mango season is only two months and Saudis did not give them enough time to prepare for the new measures. "It suddenly happened in the middle of mango season. Preparing the boxes takes almost 20 days."

Taher said that Saudis do not treat other exporters from Jordan or Syria in this way. "They allow Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian trucks to enter the Kingdom without inspections at the borders, whereas they inspect Yemeni trucks for a long time under the hot sun," he said.

EMSC published complaints against concerned Yemeni agricultural

bodies, such as the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and other government bodies neglect exporters' problems.

They criticized these bodies for not signing cooperation protocols with different Arab countries including Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to export mangos.

"The Agricultural Cooperative Union is responsible for these problems because it does not help the exporters," said Qasem, who revealed that he will meet with Saudi consular employees to discuss easing measures imposed on Yemeni products entering the Kingdom.

Agricultural products contain pesticides

Concerning talks that Saudis refuse Yemeni agricultural products because of pesticides, Farooq said there are limited quantities of internationally banned pesticides still entering Yemen via Sa'ada. "Mangos were stopped by Saudis at the borders in the beginning of the season and returned to Yemen because they contained a carbon substance," he stated.

"There is a problem with some vegetables, especially okra and cucumbers.

These products were investigated by Saudis and found to contain pesticides," said Mustafa Nasr, head of the EMSC. "Saudis even came to Yemen to investigate this issue because they prefer Yemen's agricultural produce."

"Farmers use internationally banned pesticides to grow cucumber, especially in winter because of the

cold weather," said Derhim Assufiani, a government journalist specializing in agricultural media. "I myself have stopped buying cucumbers for my family."

Taher said that Saudis stopped importing okra from Yemen more than a year ago because okra contains bacteria.

Exporting to other countries

Concerning exporting produce to countries other than Saudi Arabia, Chairman of Agricultural Cooperative Federation (ACF) Ali Ba-Khamis said it is difficult because of high transportation costs.

"We have done our best to export to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan via air, but this kind of transportation is expensive and caused great losses to exporters," said Ba-Khamis, who admitted that the state does not do much in this regard.

He further said that exporting to remote countries needs state support, such as paying 50 percent of the cost of export. "We have even tried to export the best kind of mango to European countries like France and Germany, but the high transportation costs made us stop."

Regarding exporting to nearby Oman, Ba-Khamis said Omani Markets are saturated with Sudanese and African products, especially mangos.

Increasing agricultural products, lower prices

Unlike last year, Yemeni markets are full of vegetables and fruits with very low prices this summer, say sellers.

The sharp drop in prices is in fruits, especially mangos.

"This year, there is increased production of mangos due to efforts by farmers to grow more. There is also higher onion production this summer," said Qasem.

"Every year, 1,000 mango trees are cultivated across Yemen," said Ba-Khamis, adding that heavy rains in the country during the early days of this year's summer helped to increase the harvest of agricultural produce, which is why prices of fruits and vegetables have dropped.

After a sharp increase in prices of potatoes two months ago, making traders import potatoes from Saudi Kingdom, potato prices started to fall because of increasing production. The future will witness sharp prices, potato farmers said.

"Nowadays I sell a cart of potatoes, or 800 kg, for YR 55,000 after I used to sell it for YR 100,000 during winter," said Sadiq al-Shadadi, a farmer from Dhamar who comes to Sana'a to sell his potatoes.

"We used to sell our potatoes from Hodeida to merchants who export them to Saudi Arabia. Now we turn to Sana'a to sell them," said Amin Zayed, another farmer from Dhamar who expects a greater decrease in potato prices and even greater losses for farmers.

"Everything is cheap. We used to sell a basket of the best kind of mango for YR 5000, but these days we sell it for YR 2000. We sell the basket of the cheapest kind for YR 500," said fruit retailer and wholesaler Qasem Adhabibi.

New amendments aiming to improve human rights conditions in Yemen

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, May 10 — A ministerial committee was formed in 2008 to follow up on the recommendations of the International Criminal Justice Conference.

The overall theme was to align Yemeni legislations with the international treaties and conventions Yemen ratified to further promote human rights in the country.

Today the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights is discussing the updates on the human rights situation in Yemen via a report to be presented in front of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Although there is still much legislation that violates human rights found in the constitution and bylaws, Yemen has been slowly amending articles in the laws to prevent such violations. Most of those amendments are in favor of women, especially in the public sphere.

One of these is the amendment of article no. 90 of the diplomatic line law that used to prevent a couple working as diplomats from being a part of the same diplomatic unit. Another was adding an article to law no. 15 on prison and police institutions through which policewomen are now allowed to work and supervise others at prisons and police institutions.

Another amendment obliges

employers to carry out precautionary measures in the work environment to safeguard pregnant women against any potential risks. Also, mothers who have labored delivery get an additional 20 days of maternal leave to the original 70 days of obligatory maternal leave.

An amendment to the nationality law gives children with unknown fathers born to a Yemeni mother the right to Yemeni nationality. It also gives children of Yemeni mothers married to foreigners the right to Yemeni nationality as well.

Another amendment was to grant a Yemeni woman the right to annul a marriage if she discovers a significant disorder in her husband.

Although Yemen admitted its inability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on time, several development and capacity building projects are nevertheless ongoing across the country. The Yemeni government pledged to reduce the gender gap in education and illiteracy and to provide shelter and rehabilitation for former female prisoners and street children.

Huda Al-Ban, the Minister of Human Rights who is leading Yemen's delegation in Geneva, confirmed Yemen's position towards human rights while narrating the various achievements in legislation as well as the marginal freedom for civil society

and press despite the recent news of the harassment of six media outlets.

"Between 2006 and 2008, the Ministry of Information licensed 32 newspapers," Al-Ban said. "You can't isolate particular incidents without regarding the whole context and then make judgments on the situation of press freedom in Yemen. There is a noticeable increase in the number of internet cafes and blogs for example, which is a direct translation of access to information and space for expression," she said.

Of the best practices happening in 2008, the Ministry of Human Rights highlighted the decision to elect governors instead of having them appointed directly by the president. A children's parliament was also established in the same year as well as three state satellite channels on youth, education and unifying religious intellect.

The ministry additionally called on donors to assist in the creation of an electronic information center accessible to various bodies and individuals to promote learning and knowledge sharing. The ministry called for support of its female ex-prisoners shelter, sea water desalination project, a conference on refugees and their rights, research and development funding, supporting civil society empowerment and enhancing the capacities of the ministry itself.

Newspaper editors accused of harming the country's interests

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, May 10 — The Press and Publication Prosecution in Sana'a on Tuesday summoned the editors of three local newspapers to question them over a complaint raised by The Yemeni Ministry of Information, accusing these newspapers of publishing articles against the country's unity.

The editors of Al-Share', Al-Masdar, Al-Diyar, Al-Nida', Al-Watani have been charged with harming the country's supreme interests, illegally calling for lawlessness and instigating hatred, said Al-Share' editor-in-chief, Naif Hassan, who denied all the charges asking the prosecution to give the editors time to study and reply to the ministry's complaint.

"However, it is better to resort to the judiciary than to ban newspapers," said Hassan to Yemen Times, referring to last week's confiscation order that ministry of information issued against eight newspapers, blocking their websites and withdrawing all their copies from bookshops and newsstands under the pretext that they were damaging unity and supporting separation.

The Ministry of the Interior last week issued a decree to suspend the publication of harming national unity, with confiscation of Al-Mustaqilla, Al-Masdar, Al-Watani, Al-Diyar, Al-Nida' and Al-Share'. Security forces also prevented the distribution of Al-Ayyam

and Al-Hali. The confiscation order came as a result of these newspapers' coverage of the unrest in the southern governorates.

Hassan said that the ministry's allegations are baseless, and added that his newspaper is still printing despite the government's effort to stop it. "But 4,000 copies of the newspaper were not allowed to be circulated in Aden," he said. Yemeni Minister of information Hassan Al-Louzi said on Thursday that the eight papers that were suspended "ran anti-national unity coverage and published material that harmed the supreme interest of the nation."

"They incited [the masses] to violate the law, spread hatred and enmity among the Yemeni people and called for tearing up national unity, which is a crime," he said. The Washington-based non-governmental organization Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) expressed deep concern about the Yemeni government's decision.

"We are concerned about the ongoing ban on independent newspapers and call on the authorities to immediately end this censorship," said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon. "Covering the ongoing conflict in the south is an essential journalistic function, and for authorities to ban this coverage is to criminalize journalism itself."

Mohamed Allaw, lawyer and head of human rights organization HOOD, said

that the ministry order of banding of the newspaper wasn't legal, so the ministry decided to prosecute the journalists instead.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has condemned attacks by Yemeni authorities on independent media which have been seized after the government accused them of publishing material allegedly "harmful to the national unity".

"This full assault on media is unprecedented in decades, even by Yemeni standards of press freedom," said Jim Boumelha, IFJ President. "It is intolerable that the government behaves in such a heavy handed way after recent pledges by President Saleh to support the right of journalists to access information and licenses for new and suspended newspapers."

In the same context, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) and human right activists have vigorously condemned the statement of Minister of Justice to establish a special court to handle media issues.

The Women Journalists Without Chains organization has called on Yemeni journalists and human right activists to sit in front of the Ministry of Justice on Monday to protest against the minister's statement.

"Establishing special court, like this one to handle certain cases like the press, is against the Yemeni constitution," said Allaw.

No more gun fire exchange in Radfan

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, May 10 — Quiet resumed in the district of Radfan in Lahj Governorate in the southern part of Yemen after approximately 13 days of armed confrontations and gunfire exchanges. The skirmishes started on April 27 between security apparatuses and armed groups from the Southern Movement calling for the secession of the southern part of Yemen from the central state in the north.

"Military forces started to partially withdraw from the Radfan Mountains on Friday after the movement's armed groups had withdrawn completely from their sites in Al-Habilain city after responding positively to local

council recommendations in the district," stated Nasser Al-Khabji, leader of the movement in Radfan.

"Now, gunfire exchanges between armed groups and military forces have ceased in response to a ceasefire agreement five days ago between influential figures, local council members in the district, and the presidential committee in charge of resolving the conflict," added Al-Khabji.

In addition to the relative tranquility Al-Khabji stated that people resumed their daily tasks naturally.

However Al-Khabji is still insisting on the removal of all new military checkpoints that were set up by the

government on April 27, 2000.

Moreover, Al-Khabji is optimistic that the presidential committee is trying to end the dispute, yet he conditioned it by applying an agreement to withdraw all military checkpoints since April 2008.

"I'm supporting the committee and hope it will resolve the conflict, yet I'm insisting on the removal of all military checkpoints in the area," said Al-Khabji.

For his part, Faisal Bin Shamlan, JMP candidate for presidential election in 2006, stated to the media that President Ali Abdullah Saleh should avoid violence.

"He should start with the Hilal-Basurra report on the illegal

appropriation of lands and return elements of the southern army to their positions in the unified army as well as take the management apparatus away from the monopoly of the General People's Congress (GPC)," stated Bin Shamlan.

"People in general, and political parties and civil organizations in particular, want to feel that the ruling party is serious in calling them to reform all issues. If the regime doesn't want to do so at the time when it holds all the solutions, events may lead down the wrong path. Civil society, including parties and non-governmental organizations, may demand a solution for unity to be agreed upon," he added.

Furthermore, Bin Shamlan explained that since the civil war in 1994, people found nothing except the practice of corruption and the plundering of lands and public properties. "All of these violations were crowned by ignoring the constitution and the law," said Shamlan. "Unjust acts reached all social categorizations: businessmen, employees, laborers and organizations.

"Neglecting law and order led to the aggravation of three major issues that lied simmering and unsolved due to negligence," he continued. "The first issue is Sa'ada in which the sixth war is looming, the second issue is the negligence of unjust acts towards

southern people that resulted in the Southern Movement that calls for secession, and the third issue is poverty and misadministration."

Moreover, Shamlan called on all Yemenis to think deeply about the current situation and what might be coming if unity is threatened.

Similarly, opposition party elements in Hajja expressed the same idea that what has been happening in the south is a consequence of wrong policies from the ruling party and the government. "What we see nowadays in the south is the result of consistent negative practices from the government and the ruling party," stated Zaid Arjash, head of the JMP in Hajja.

In Brief

ADEN
AFZ customs income mounted to YR1.6 billion

Customs revenue in Aden Free Zone (AFZ) increased last April to YR1.6 at an increase of YR397,000,000 compared with the same period last year.

The General Director of Free Zone Customs in Aden Abdul-Malik Ghoshim said to Saba that value of the national exported products included fish, cotton, coffee, sweets, liquefied milk and other various national products reaching YR735,590,000 during last April.

He added that the number of containers of goods locally marketed is estimated at 615,615 at an increase of 1,623 containers of the same period of the last year.

Eight dead in 77 traffic accidents in Aden last April

About 77 traffic accidents claimed lives of eight persons, including one woman, in Aden city last April.

The accidents resulted in injuries of ninety-one persons according to Deputy Director of Aden Traffic.

He said that the reasons behind such accidents are over speed and breaching traffic rules.

SWF, UN launch awareness program on AIDS

United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the Social Welfare Fund launched on Thursday awareness program on AIDS in Aden governorate.

The week-course aims to introduce 27 women to AIDS risks, its methods of transmission and ways of community awareness.

The participants are to pay field visits to spread awareness to women and the local community on AIDS and how to protect our society from AIDS dangers.

SANA'A
Police captures Houthis' cassette recordings, publications

Police have captured three people, aged 30-40, at Tharwan checkpoint in Sana'a governorate, when they were in their

private car holding four cartoons of books and Houthis' publications, in addition to large quantities of cassette recordings incited the sedition and Houthis' ideas against the country.

Police have referred them with their publications to the prosecution.

In the related news, security apparatuses at Zunjbar city in Abyan governorate seized two outlaw elements carrying large quantities of publications against the country's unity, stability and security which promote hatred among the unified Yemeni people.

President Saleh holds phone talks with U.S. counterpart

President Ali Abdullah Saleh made on Thursday a telephone call to U.S. President Barack Obama to discuss ways of strengthening the Yemeni-American relations and the areas of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly in the fight against terrorism.

During the conversation, Saleh and Obama talked over the situations in the Middle East and the U.S. President's efforts to advance the peace process in the region.

President Obama stressed his country's keenness to boost cooperation and partnership relations with Yemen, praising the efforts made by Yemen in the fight against terrorism and alluding to the role of President Saleh in this area.

Obama reiterated that the United States supports Yemen's unity, security and stability in addition to its democratic practices.

He said also that a unified, stable and democratic Yemen is securing continuously the security and stability in the region, pointing out that his country and the European Union will support Yemen's efforts in the fields of economic development, democracy and combating terrorism.

For his part, President Saleh paid tribute to the U.S. policies which support Yemen's unity, security, stability and democracy, renewing his country's keenness to strengthen and develop the cooperation relations with the United States at different levels for serving the common interests of the two Yemeni and American peoples.

He also commended President

Obama's positive efforts for advancing the peace process in the region and adopting the language of dialogue and diplomatic means to address issues and problems in the region for avoiding conflicts and tensions leading to instability.

President Saleh renovated his country's support for Obama's plans to bring peace to the Middle East on the basis of a permanent two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for ensuring the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

SCMC organizes evaluation meeting on child protection

The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) held here on Saturday a mid-term evaluation meeting for child protection program.

At the opening of meeting held in cooperation with UNICEF and non-government organizations in child protection field, SCMC chairwoman Nafisa al-Jafei pointed out the importance of this meeting to get acquainted with what has been achieved in the area of child protection in collaboration with UNICEF office to identify the major improvement indicators and areas of strength and weaknesses.

For her part, UNICEF deputy resident representative Anna Mary said the meeting held amid of the period of joint programs between the government and UNICEF program for 2007-2011 to realize the Millennium Development Goals and the national strategy for children and young people.

She clarified to what has been done in the field of birth registration, the abandonment of female genital mutilation and raise awareness on the issues of violence against children, and monitoring of juvenile cases.

HODAIDHA
Element of al-Qaeda surrenders himself

The weekly 26 September said on Thursday that one of al-Qaeda elements has surrendered himself to Security apparatuses in Hodeidah province.

Security sources told the weekly that the terrorist is a member of the al-Qaeda cell targeted the Korean security delega-

tion last March.

During investigation, he revealed important information on the terrorist cell's activities.

Noteworthy, security forces has captured 11 persons chaired by Kassim al-Rami who recruits young people and involve them in carrying out terrorist acts against governmental building and facilities and tourists.

Hodeidah, Raymah mark Democracy Day

Chairman of Shoura Council Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani attended on Saturday a meeting for the leaderships of the local authority, representative s of the political parties, civil society organization, scholars, academicians, intellectuals, social figures of Hodeidah and Raymah governorates to mark Democracy Day- 27 April.

In the meeting, Abdul-Ghani delivered a speech in which he conveyed regards of President Ali Abdullah Saleh- the leader of development and democracy in the country- on this occasion.

He highlighted achievements of unification and democracy of the nation in addition to respect of human rights and freedom, valuing position of both governorates toward the national principles.

Abdul-Ghani pointed out to the development projects in the two governorates in field of infrastructure.

Regarding situation in some southern generates and rebellion in Saada, the chairman of the Shoura Council said that such acts target unity of the nation and democracy.

He said that the Yemeni people would face the calls of separation and Imamate to enhance unity, stability and security of the nation.

Abdul-Ghani said that the coming two years would witness further political reforms to develop electoral system to improve the local ruling, highlighting the all of president Saleh for all political forces for dialogue under umbrella of constitution and law

RIYADH
Saudi photographic exhibition on Yemen to be launched

Yemeni ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammed al-Ahwal is to inaugurate a

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photographic exhibition to the Saudi artist Khaled Khader entitled "Yemen through the Saudi Eyes" on the 19th of May.

The exhibition's inauguration comes within the occasion of the 19th ceremony of Yemen's Re-Unification marking the 22nd of May and will be held at Yemen embassy in Riyadh.

The exhibition will consist photographic plates selected from the artist production he combined during his participation with the Saudi delegation Saudi Cultural Days delegation held last year in Sana'a.

The ambassador affirmed that the culture is the closest way to communicate without untoward incidents and the

art in all its manifestations is the spirit of this beautiful kind of communications.

The Saudi photographer has succeeded to translate this communication and adopt it in his lens through the images and Yemeni sites, he added.

"The show marks the Yemeni Unification celebrations," said Khader. "When I toured the country with my camera, I found Yemen's richness of beauty deserve to have album and then."

He said that he got an invitation from the Yemeni ambassador in Riyadh to organize a show sponsored by the embassy to his photos that contain Yemeni tourist sites and culture.



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Yemeni women: Polygamy faces off spinsterhood

By: Amira Olaya
And Yemen Times Staff

The practice of polygamy was and still is the convention in such an Islamic and Arab country as Yemen. It used to be more common and practiced in rural areas where women were accustomed to being second, third, or fourth wives. Even in the modern era, more women in Yemen are beginning to consider and accept the idea of becoming second wives of married men. Women in urban areas like Sana'a, Taiz, and Aden are starting to consent to enter and actually be in polygamous unions.

As a Muslim country, Yemen considers polygamy legal. Islam permits a man to have up to four wives at a time, provided the husband treats all of them equally. Yet Yemeni law doesn't legislate the structure or functioning of a polygamous marriage and leaves it up to the individual families.

Moreover, the Personal Status law arbitrates against a wife, as it gives a man the absolute right to polygamy without provisions mandating that he inform his wife of his plans. "The law doesn't restrict polygamy according to Sharia rule, which stipulates non-harassment, equality and justice among wives," said Hooria Mashour, Deputy Chairperson of the Women's National Committee. "The same law discriminates against divorced women to the same degree when it comes to alimony and child custody."

In 1997, a survey about marriage was conducted by specialists from the US company Macro International Inc. and the Central Statistical Organization of Yemen. The survey included 10,414 women and showed that the proportion of women who have married already married men increases from around 5 percent among women aged 20-24 years to 11 percent among 30-34 year women, and then rises to 16 percent among women in their forties.

Ten years later, more than half of the polled women by the Yemeni Polling Center in December 2007 indicated that they would agree to a polygamous marriage to escape spinsterhood. The catch is that these women agreed to be the

second wife, not the first one.

The poll was mainly on the legal rights of women and was funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative. It included 434 men and women divided into 22 electoral districts throughout the four governorates of Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, and Hadramout.

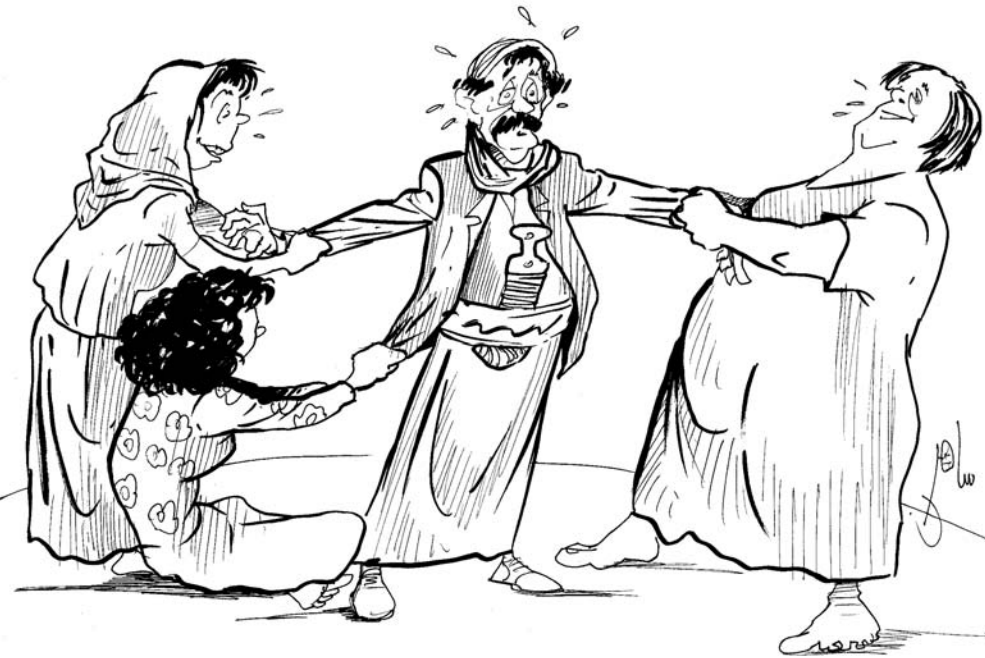
The survey was the first in the draft 'community involvement in the legislative decisions' that will include eight public opinion polls on the eight draft laws to be discussed by the parliament in the coming period. Part of the polling regarded the minimum age of marriage and whether women considered marrying a married man.

The survey asked whether the sample thought it was a woman's right to be informed of their husband's desire to marry another woman. 97 percent of sampled women said men should inform their wives, while around 83 percent of the men agreed. Yet regarding women's right to ask for divorce if they discover that their husbands have taken a second wife, 71 percent of the women said yes while the majority of men disagreed, as more than 65 percent of the men said women do not have the right.

The 2007 poll's results also indicated that women considered expensive dowries and high demands from the girls' families to be some of the reasons behind women being passed up by the marriage train.

However, considering the point of view of the second wife, there has never been a survey of this sort. And while the women and men interviewed for this story is not an accurate representation of the Yemeni population, the change in the social trend is quite visible as more Yemeni women are marrying an already married man.

The reason for this widespread consent to be in polygamous marriages has nothing to do with either being literate or illiterate, or belonging to one social class or another. In fact, it has to do more with the greatest fear for many women: never getting married. "I would



rather be married to a married man than to be called a spinster for the rest of my life," said Amal, a 25-year-old university student.

Though the increasing rate of women who agree to be married to other women's husbands for fear of becoming spinsters is generalized across Yemen, answers vary from one area to another. For example, women from Sana'a were found to be more willing to be second wives than those from Taiz and Aden.

"Yes, I accept to be a second wife as long as the man I'm going to marry is able to support me financially and can provide me with a separate house to live in far away from his first wife," said Fatima, a 28-year-old Sana'ni teacher. When Fatima was asked why she would accept such a marriage, she explained that spinsterhood is the worst thing that could happen to any woman. "We are living in a cruel society that thinks badly of unmarried women," she explained. Nawal, a friend of Fatima's, agrees with her. "I really hate it when people feel sorry for me for not being married yet," she commented Nawal. "They make me feel as if it is something to be ashamed of!"

Moreover, divorced women and widows according to the YPC study are more likely to marry a married man than

women who had not been married yet.

Nadia is a 27-year-old housewife who is the third wife of a very wealthy man. Nadia is a highly educated individual; she has her MA degree in Business Administration and several certificates in languages and computers. Nevertheless, she strongly believes in polygamy and thinks that due to the increase of the female population in comparison to the male population, polygamy is the best solution to contain the increasing number of unmarried females.

While the number of women in favor of polygamous marriage has increased, there are some women who don't believe in polygamy whatsoever. They believe that a man should not be shared with any other women and should belong to one woman only. Most of these women are from Taiz and Aden.

"I don't think I would agree to be a second wife because I just can't bear the thought of having to share my man with another woman," said Mona, a 25-year-old woman from Aden. She said she prefers being a spinster to being a second wife. Nora, a 30-year-old working woman from Taiz, thinks the same. She believes that a typical marriage in itself has a lot of challenges and enough trou-

bles to deal with, let alone all the troubles of a polygamous marriage.

And while the concept of polygamy remains controversial as to what taking more than one wife requires, most Yemeni men and some Yemeni women think of it as a religious right with no moral or even economic obligations to any of the wives, especially the first one.

Researcher Hanan Yahya Alwadee who has an MA in Human Rights from the University of London explains that the masculine society originates from the family, the street, one's friends and the media, all of which promote intentionally or unintentionally an incorrect perception of polygamy. Men tend to believe in it so that they are able to justify their second, third, fourth and even tenth marriage, and are permitted to keep divorcing and marrying women until they have turned God's permission for practicing polygamy into what resembles prostitution.

In his book "Fi Thal Al-Quran" or "In the Shadows of Quran," Sayed Qutub says, "If a generation misused that permission and made it an opportunity to make marital life a stage for animal delights, and when a man keeps moving between wives as a man between his mistresses in such an awful way, then that generation is not related to Islam and does not represent it. Those who plummeted to that level are far from Islam and do not comprehend its pure and noble spirit. The reason is that they live in a society that is not ruled by Islam and its legislation. The society is not ruled by an Islamic authority and does not guide people by Islam's true directions, rules, morals and customs."

Still, even including these women from Taiz and Aden who say no to polygamy, the majority are not against polygamy, especially for women in their mid thirties and older.

"I truly think that the older and more unlikely to be married a woman gets,

the more rational she must think and let go of the idea of the perfect man. As for myself, I would marry a married man lest I never get married and have no man to look after me in the future," said Sumia, a 27-year-old woman from Taiz.

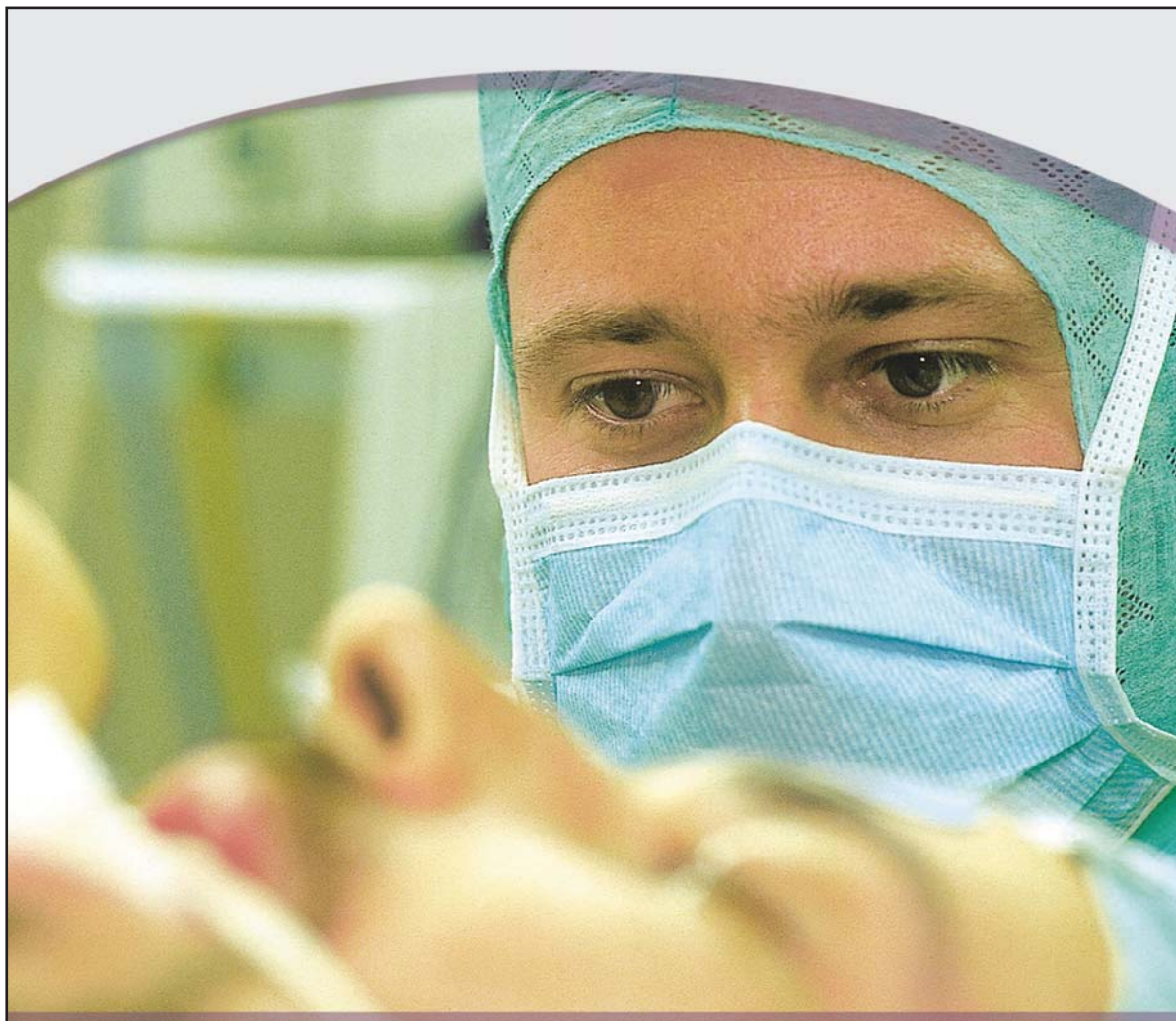
Women like Sumia feel that the most important thing in a woman's life is to get married and start her own family, without which, according to them, a life won't have any meaning. Sumia feels that it doesn't matter how successful a woman can be in her career.

"A woman needs a man... this is life," she stated simply. But the idea is not just about randomly marrying any man. A man has to be given his first wife's consent before proposing. In addition, he should possess the following attributes: good manners, good reputation, and financial stability.

When men were asked the same question about whether or not they would consider marrying more than one woman, the answers varied. "Why not? This is one of my rights as a Muslim and there is nothing wrong about it as long as I have the means to do so," said Ahmed, a 30-year-old working man. Another 29-year-old employee explained that "there is a big difference between the question 'do I want to have a second wife' and whether I am really considering marrying a second wife. For most, the answer to the first question would be yes because 99 percent of men want to have as many wives as they can get. However, would they actually consider it? I think only 50 percent would really consider marrying a second wife for a lot of different reasons," he said.

Similar to women, the majority of men whose answers were affirmative are from Sana'a. As for men from Taiz, Aden and Hodeida, the majority answered 'No.' Yet if this rate is compared with the past, the number of people accepting polygamous marriages is on the rise.

All in all, the constant fear of becoming spinsters turns out to be the main reason why women may consider being second wives, regardless of how, when or where. We as a society should take into account the major role society is playing in directing women towards polygamy as opposed to spinsterhood.



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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR OPINION

Yemen's stability and international interest

In most developing regimes, there is a conflict of interest between the local perception of a country's welfare and what the international community wants for that country. Evidently, there are increasing international demands on Saleh's regime to play the political game differently from what he is used to.

This sudden change of heart is not a reaction to the miserable conditions the Yemeni people are living in, given that they have been suffering from low living standards for many years.

A possibility is that these pressures are a reaction to Saleh's new language and attitude towards the international community in recent years, in questioning why they give Yemen significantly less development assistance, compared to other developing countries with similar development challenges.

This thinking has aggravated the confrontation with the United States for example, since the latter withheld its development assistance to Yemen through the Millennium Challenges Account, perhaps at the cost of Yemen's tactical error in releasing Jaber Al-Banna, a convicted terrorist for his role the USS Cole attack in 2000, under a rehabilitation and amnesty program.

Although Saleh was quick to react and Al-Banna's freedom did not last longer than a day, and Yemeni officials took several steps to show goodwill to their US counterparts; the US government insisted on not tolerating the behavior of Saleh's regime, and collectively punished the Yemeni people by suspending the millennium account's development funds despite the country qualifying for them.

But Saleh is not giving up, yet. As another attempt to obtain development assistance the Yemeni government announced through its planning minister that it could be another Somalia - only five times bigger because of conflict, poverty, terrorism and so on.

This threat is capable of scaring any country potentially a target for millions of brainwashed Yemenis willing to give up their miserable lives for a shot at paradise. And who would want Yemen to be the world's largest exporter of terrorists?

Yet Saleh was in for a surprise when the American ambassador gave him a firm scolding regarding his policies in the south, and told him that, although Yemen's unity is much appreciated, he should not go about oppressing opposition groups. And whereas a few days before his meeting with the US government representatives Saleh was absolutely adamant not to even acknowledge the existence of the Southern Movement, today he orders his people to sit with the movement's leaders and reach a compromise.

Contrary to prompt western involvement when it comes to terrorist suspects and the southern opposition, despite the humanitarian emergency of the displacement of over half a million persons as the consequence of five wars in Sa'ada, the international community barely considered it an issue of priority, and only seven camps were established through the collective aid of governments, NGOs and the UN aid, barely catering to 10 percent of the needs.

Why does the international community not care about Sa'ada? Especially at a time when a sixth war looms and the situation seems more hopeless than ever? Why does the southern problem, in contrast, receive much more attention on the global level?

Political talk in papers and even in qat sessions rotates around what the state, tamed opposition, aggressive opposition, mushrooming new threats, regional and international powers have to say about what is going on. But no one is really making the effort to see what the real people in the south, north, east or west of Yemen really need.

I am disappointed at the fact that the US takes away support that was meant for the Yemeni people simply to avenge political maneuvers, and it saddens me to see that, at Yemen's central level, all that matters is how unrest could be stabilized for the sole purpose that the existing regime stays in power.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

President performs role of three government newspapers in outspoken confrontation

By: Sam Abdulla Al-Ghubari

The media is currently leading a war. It is announcing the tragic practices committed by the government which in turn activates the anti-unity southern movement. The media is working on devastating the values of unity, forming cumulative convictions about its weakness and the necessity to renew it or re-conduct a referendum on it. This causes the rotten eggs to spoil each other, as the famous saying goes.

I believe that the media that goes up against the homeland and its unity only serves to strengthen the southern movement. The media is encouraging feelings of exclusion and a lack of justice. Consequently, media men build a halo of direct effectiveness solely to obtain a living and to impose their names as heroes who were triumphant in battle. A unified nation will be the unfortunate loser in this war.

President Saleh has talked a lot, but the real effect of his speech delivered a few days ago was much stronger than the rest of the government media combined that failed to defend unity. He was the most eloquent defender of the issue of a unified Yemen. He warned against persistence in playing with fire - a direct warning to the secessionists. He emphatically stressed that the illusions of the major players in some areas in the north will never come true.

Confessing the failure of the government's means of mass communication in the country is a necessity in order to reform the public media strategy and replace it with a national mass media that can operate within the limits of a unified Yemen. This national mass media should be enabled to practice the necessary and active freedom of criticism to inform all people about everything. This is what our charismatic president does when he

speaks frankly, confesses mistakes and shows readiness to eradicate the causes of problems, although no problem should ever threaten national identity or cause it any harm.

Where are the newspapers funded by the government? They are off course. They practice extortion against the apparatuses of the government who are spoiled by its leaders. They do not provide continuous empowerment of the identity of the homeland while simultaneously failing to disclose details of the tragic past of the secessionists. All I see is a national initiative led by President Saleh all over Yemen, whereas the state-funded media is preoccupied with tracking down insults and offence suffered by those who are already corrupt. As a result, they leave a tragic impression with readers who lack any sort of ideology that may fix objectives of peace and compassion and fill the vacuum in the minds of normal people.

Here is an example of what is going on in our country. An Egyptian man is released from district prison after undergoing all sorts of torture. When he meets a tourist in his country, he says, "This is Egypt, mother of the world." On the contrary, in Yemen a student comes out of a public school wearing an explosive belt and blows himself up in front of a batch of foreign tourists right after saying, "This is Yemen. Be careful not to come back!"

What is this fearful tendency through which some people aim to harm the homeland directly, overlook wrong practices and mistakes, and harm the unified country as if they live under a state of occupation? They ignore the fact that they are members of this society which will be destroyed as a whole if a part of it drowns.

The state-run 14 October newspaper couldn't contest the independent Al-Ayam newspaper and form convictions in the

minds of people in Aden, Al-Dhal'e or Shabwa, which independent Al-Ayam did. The reason is that leadership of the 14 October newspaper repeats the same undigested copy of Sana'a's idiotic press. Is this permissible?

Of course not. The 14 October newspaper is preoccupied with presenting secular elite analysis that has a religious dimension to disclose the fundamental ideological disagreements. However, the Al-Ayam newspaper is checking the concerns of the people, the violations of police stations, corruption and illegally appropriated lands. It gives a chance to secessionists to talk, it covers the activities of the southern movement and creates a public opinion related to the idea of a state of the Arab South.

In addition, the 22 May newspaper proved itself to be idiotic more than once. It doesn't suit its big name that has been so reduced by its editors. It turned into a newspaper rife with monotonous journalism that is concerned only with the level of distribution. The majority of these newspapers is not read but is returned from the market to be sold again to Hadrami grilled meat restaurants or used to wrap tobacco.

There is a gap that should be confessed. Only the president attempted to bridge it during his last frank speech, even though this should be the responsibility of the state-funded newspapers.

Those who deny these facts can check the indicators of sales rates and the level of efficacy of Al-Ayam newspaper as compared with all the state-funded newspapers. Thus, a new mechanism of activating the state-run newspapers should be considered and their inert leaders should be replaced with more professional and responsible people.

Journalist Abdulla Al-Hadrami was fired from Al-Methaq newspaper just because he criticized the performance of a member of

the General Committee of the General People's Congress. In addition, the active journalist Ameen Al-Wa'eli, managing editor of Al-Methaq newspaper, was fired because his various skills constituted a threat against some people who don't want him to continue his active role.

The idea of freezing public and state-run newspapers is in favor of the independent newspapers that are at the top of the list in Yemen in terms of sales rates. The solution is not through changing people, but rather through giving public and state-run newspapers their real role and implementing a strategy to improve the quality of their performance. There should be continuous rehabilitation courses and journalists should be given the freedom to work. More attention should be paid to people's issues than to issues of the ministers and their companions.

Under these conditions, a giant newspaper in Aden and another in Al-Dhal'e as well as a third one in Dhamar should be established and funded to safeguard the interests of the Yemeni revolution and unity. Responsible journalist leaders should be carefully selected to run these newspapers. There should be no problem when a governor or a minister is harmed by what is published in these newspapers, so long as they illustrate the truth and gain respectable readers. These newspapers should be down to earth and address the issues of the Yemeni citizen as well as work towards enhancing a national culture of welfare and peace.

We should realize that the shameful defect in our national culture is caused by our general culture and that means of interactive communication failed to present facts as they are. The fact is that the country is fixed and everything else is just noise that neither benefits nor harms.

Source: Al-Sharq newspaper

King Abdullah looks to the future of Arab-Israeli relations

By: Claude Salhani

Of all the countries involved to varying degrees in the Middle East conflict, Jordan has always been one of the most moderate voices calling for peace. And of all the Middle East's leaders, Jordan's King Abdullah - much like his father King Hussein before him - has always offered a clear, crisp, intelligent analysis of the situation. (It must be said that Jordan benefits from one of the better intelligence services in the Arab world.)

Abdullah is worried for the future of the region. And when King Abdullah is preoccupied he has good reason. It would be unwise to ignore his warnings. The Jordanian monarch spent a week in Washington, DC, meeting with US President Barack Obama and leaders on Capitol Hill to drive home the point that time is running out. Unless a major breakthrough in the now comatose peace process is achieved in the months ahead the region may be well on its way to another major escalation of violence.

Indeed, when looking at the region's recent history, wars have erupted whenever talks had hit a dead end. Speaking to a group of Washington diplomats, pundits, politicians and journalists over lunch, Jordan's king said that only the United States, with its prestige and power of influence in the Middle East, could intervene to prevent further deterioration in a very volatile part of the world.

"I do not want to talk about missed opportunities; I want to focus on the urgency of not missing any more", said Abdullah.

Yet what is perhaps just as worrisome is the fact that no one involved in the Middle East peace imbroglio seems to have a "Plan B," a back-up plan in case the US does not come through. Abdullah and other regional leaders are gambling on a single racehorse - the prestigious foreign policy of the United

States of America. But if the United States fails to convince the parties concerned of the importance of moving ahead, there is simply no alternative recourse. All the more reason to heed to Abdullah's warnings.

"The United States has a stated, strategic interest in ending this conflict", said the king. Abdullah said that few crises in history have presented such a potent mix of threats: from the regional instability and violence it promotes, to the worldwide divisions it has caused - divisions actively exploited by extremists.

Yet, as with any conflict, all of the United States' clout will prove useless unless the parties involved have the desire to move ahead.

In that respect the Middle East conflict is no different from other conflicts in other parts of the world. Intransigence and extremism, no matter on which side they emerge, remain the biggest impediments to peace.

The king placed much hope for the future of the Arab-Israeli peace talks on direct intervention by the United States. And while the United States, indeed, carries its weight around the Middle East, political weight is usually helped along by generous aid packages, often in the form of US dollars and/or the latest US defense technologies and the most up to date weapon systems.

Progress said the Jordanian king, was "imperative."

"We have seen what comes of process without progress. Every missed opportunity has alienated more people on both sides."

"There must be a settlement that fulfills legitimate rights of both parties - the right of Palestinians to statehood, and the right of Israelis to security."

Many analysts are asking whether the election of Binyamin Netanyahu - a right-wing hardliner - as Israel's new prime minister might not regress the situation even further. But I would argue that historically it

has been Israel's most conservative prime ministers who have made the largest peace overtures to the Arabs.

The first was Menachem Begin, who returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for diplomatic relations and a peace treaty, which holds to this day. And the second was Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who returned Gaza to the Palestinians.

Abdullah reiterated that a large number of Arabs are in favour of peace, and that despite all provocations during the last seven years, the landmark Arab peace initiative has held. And he recalled the main points of the agreement: ending the occupation of Palestinian land by Israel, creating a Palestinian State, and providing security guarantees to and normal relations with Israel.

A peace treaty with Israel at this point would offer the Jewish state acceptance and recognition by all the countries in the region

and normal relations with its neighbors. In addition, Abdullah said that Muslim countries around the world have also expressed their support for a peace treaty. There are still 57 countries in the world today that do not recognize Israel.

Abdullah called the Arab Peace Initiative - which seeks to normalize relations with Israel and Arab countries in return for Israel's withdrawal of the occupied territories - "the most important proposal for peace in the history of this conflict."

Finally, the king said he believed peace can succeed and that Jordan, for one, would settle for nothing less.

Claude Salhani is editor of the Middle East Times. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) with permission from Khaleej Times. Source: Khaleej Times, 1 May 2009, www.khaleejtimes.com



SKETCHED OPINION

By Hameed

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Yemen Press Review



Almotamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party) Thursday, May 7, 2009

Top Story

- Calls for dividing Yemen threaten regional security and stability, says Foreign Minister

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi briefed Arab ambassadors on Sunday on the real situation behind incidents taking place in a number of southern and eastern governorates, the website reported.

He informed them that outlaw elements are involved in peaceful marches to foment political unrest, adding that changing the situation into lawless and irresponsible acts do not reflect morals and values of Yemeni people.

Al-Qirbi made it clear that this meeting comes within a series of periodic meetings the ministry is keen to hold with Arab and foreign ambassadors. He told them that President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued directives to security forces to deal with the situation calmly and take care of the homeland's security and stability by arresting outlaws.

He affirmed that any act or speech harming Yemeni Unity is beyond the red lines, indicating that any calls for splitting Yemen do not only threaten Yemen's security and stability but also the whole region.

He praised attitudes of the regional countries and political analysts who warn on the danger and malicious purposes of those irresponsible calls. They did not only express their refusal to any act harming the unity but also affirmed their confidence in the political leadership's ability to solve any issue via dialogue.

The Foreign Minister revealed earlier that those calling for secession receive financial, media and moral support from foreign parties that bear malice against

security and stability of Yemen.

Al-Qirbi added that the so-called peaceful action in the southern governorates has gone beyond the attempt of allegedly correcting administrative mistakes that "the government admits them not just in these governorates but rather in the northern governorates of Yemen too."

The senior official called for tackling the mistakes in accordance with the law and no one should be exempted from accountability for administrative mistakes.

In an interview with the army-affiliated 26 September weekly published last Thursday, the minister said the people of Yemen, who used to see Yemen as a one country even before the revolutions of 26 September and 14 October and its former division into two parts was the result of British Occupation in the south and Imamate Regime in the north at that time, would not abandon the national unity.

The minister elaborated that those calling for secession nowadays are either wanting positions or certain status or are grieved over the unity or think that by these calls they can impose their visions on Yemeni people and deceive them.

He added that those, who are dealing with legitimate demands regarding administrative flaws that had taken place, would not accept the call for secession. Al-Qirbi concluded that "the international community and courtiers of the region know how important Yemen's stability is to the entire region. They admit that avoidance of political conflicts has relation with preserving the unity of Yemen.



Newsyemen.net, an independent news website Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Top Story

- U.S. concerned about violence in Southern governorates, backs Yemen's unity

The United States said it views with concern reports of increasing incidences of political violence in southern governorates of Yemen, the website reported.

In a press release issued by the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a on Sunday, the United States said it supports a stable, unified, and democratic Yemen.

"The United States was one of the first countries to recognize the newly unified Yemen in 1990. During the 1994 Civil War, the United States was a strong supporter of Yemen's unity and called for a cease-fire and negotiations between the conflicting sides," said the press release.

The United States believes that Yemen's unity depends on its ability to guarantee every citizen equal treatment under the law, and the opportunity to participate fully in the political and economic life of the nation, it went on to say.

The United States called on the Yemeni Government, political parties, civil society organizations and all concerned citizens of Yemen to engage in dialogue to identify and address legitimate grievances. It confirmed that violence will not resolve these issues, and only serves the interests of those who wish to deepen divisions and destabilize Yemen.

On a side note the website reported that the US Department of State said in its annual terrorism report 2008 that the security situation in Yemen continued to deteriorate during 2008 and was marked by a series of attacks against both Western and Yemeni interests, culminating in the September 17 suicide bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa that killed 18.

According to the report, The strategy of constant offense continued despite highly publicized raids on suspected terrorist cells by Yemeni security forces. Recruitment for Al-Qa'ida in Yemen (AQY) remained strong, and the use of vehicle borne improvised explosive

devices (VBIEDs) and suicide vests indicated a high level of training, coordination, and sophistication by Yemen's terrorist leadership.

Below are more excerpts of the report: "Conversely, the government's response to the terrorist threat was intermittent and its ability to pursue and prosecute suspected terrorists remained weak due to a number of shortcomings, including stalled draft counterterrorism legislation.

"The government's focus on the Al-Houthi rebellion in the Sada'a governorate in the North of the country and internal security concerns distracted its forces from focusing on counterterrorism activities.

"The largest success for Yemen's security forces in 2008 was an August raid on an AQY cell in Tarim, in the governorate of Hadramaut. Hamza Al-Qaiti was killed along with four other suspected militants. Large numbers of weapons, devices to build car bombs, and explosives, including mortars that were similar to those used in the March attack on the U.S. Embassy, were uncovered.

"A formerly unknown group calling itself Islamic Jihad in Yemen immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

"The group stated the attack was motivated by the August 11 raid in Tarim, among other reasons. Initially the Yemeni government allowed an FBI investigative team full access to evidence from the attack, but cooperation has since waned. Both Yemeni and U.S. officials believe that Islamic Jihad is AQ affiliated. AQY later claimed responsibility for the attack in an online extremist magazine.

"Prosecuting terrorists remained a large hurdle for Yemeni courts, largely because current law, as applied to counterterrorism and the financing of terrorism, remained weak. A working group drafted new counterterrorism legislation that was sent to a committee for review, where it remained at year's end.

"The absence of effective counterterrorism legislation that criminalized the activities of those

engaged in planning, facilitating, or carrying out acts of terrorism, both in Yemen and abroad, contributed to Yemen's appeal as safe haven and potential base of offensive operations for terrorists. For this reason, the government was forced to apply other available laws, including fraudulent document charges, to thwart foreign fighters going to Iraq.

"The Government of Yemen continued to run its surrender program for wanted terrorists that it believes it cannot apprehend. The program provides lenient requirements for completion of convictions to those who surrender. In 2008, however, 17 prior program participants were returned to custody for recidivism."

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Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the above address mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department.

The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee according to the table above
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- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate.)
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* A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.

* The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be on Wednesday [24/6/2009] At 11.00 AM.

* Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened..

* Bid Opening will take place at [meetings hall-in the corporation's address mentioned above] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

* Potential bidders may inspect bidding documents before purchasing during working hours for a period (40 days) starting from advertisement.

Facing Yemen's water challenge through human capacity

According to estimates by the Joint Monitoring Program of the WHO and UNICEF, 900 million people worldwide will not have reliable access to safe drinking water by 2015 and twice that number will lack adequate sanitation. These figures, moreover, are optimistic in so far as they assume that the infrastructure in place today will remain fully operational in the long term. However, that is not to be taken for granted.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Ninty percent of the Yemeni population lives in the western part of the country where water is a problem. Every year Yemenis consume 2.8 billion cubic meters of water while renewed water in the underground basins does not exceed 2.1 billion annually.

Renewable water comes dominantly from rain. There is no large scale use of desalination technologies even though Yemen as a country has the largest coastal line in the region of more than 2,000 kilometers long.

Statistics indicate that underground water in the western side of the country will be exhausted in less than forty years. In some cities such as in Sana'a, the threat of drought is even closer. Current estimates indicate that 10 to 15 years from now, and currently in some places in Sana'a governorate, people have to dig as deep as 1000 meters underground before water is found. This can be compared to the early 1970s, when water was found only 40 meters deep throughout the governorate.

At the Yemeni German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), water is a priority. One of the international partners for the GTZ in Yemen is Inwent, a non-profit organization with worldwide operations

dedicated to human resource development, advanced training and dialogue. Inwent's capacity building programs are directed at experts and executives from politics, administration, the business community and civil society.

In the Middle East, water is Inwent's central focal point. It also concentrate on professional training, the advancement of technology and sustainable corporate management. Due to its geographical proximity, Europe also has a vital interest in stabilizing the Mediterranean and the Middle East, resolving present conflicts in the area and improving economic and social reforms throughout the region. Here in Yemen, Inwent is also involved in initiating dialogue and encouraging the formation of networks among local actors.

Each year, Inwent sponsors several Yemeni water reserachers, experts and decision makers for a one year long study in Germany. Their education focuses on integrated water resource management as well as studies in the German language and German law.

An integrated water resource management program has been created in the region and technologies have been developed for the supply of drinking water and control of waste management to suit the region's particular needs. Institutional, legal and regulative framework conditions have been created to promote



Al-Jawl village in Abyan is one of the vulnerable areas as water resources are scarce for everyday use while once every four years the town is subjected to a weeping flood.

reforms in this region. The follow-up program, "Strategic Human Resources Development and Regional Dialogue in the Water Sector of the MENA Region," is ensuring the continued success of this program. Before their travel to Germany, the five Yemeni candidates from Sana'a, Amran, Taiz and Hadramout took intensive German language courses for two months in Yemen before continuing to study the language in Germany for four more months. Then they joined a program on leadership skills in integrated water resource management at the Inwent organization.

By the time they return to Yemen holding a certification of long term training, they should have acquired some skills that will enable them to provide solutions for Yemen's water problem.

"The training included a lot of personal skills such as leadership, moderating meetings and powers of persuasion in addition to learning the German experience in managing water resources," said engineer Ibrahim Al-Zubairy at the National Water Resources Authority, Sana'a Branch.

He added that he benefitted from the course, particularly regarding underground water feeding and rainwater monitoring systems which he feels he could be able to use in his work at the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project. However, having to study about water resource management in German after only six

months of language courses was very difficult and rather ambitious.

Inwent has developed a range of programs designed to pass on information about water policy, integrated water resource management, sanitary environmental engineering and rural water use. With its "Reform of the Water Sector in the MENA Region" program, Inwent has

Industry and agriculture are putting an increasing strain on water resources. On top of that, climate change will make supplies even scarcer in many places.

been active for years in systematically providing experts and executives with the skills they need to develop more efficient solutions. In Germany, the training is actually divided into four segments. The first segment is general language education for two months followed by two months of water related technical terminology. Then follows three months of theoretical education and field visits to learn about German expertise in various fields of water resource management such as desalination stations, network pipelines and water research authorities followed by a three month internship with a company in a specialization close to the intern's work in his/her home country.

"The language part was not a problem and I could say that we eventually did manage to master German to the extent of benefitting from the course," said engineer Abdulkhaleq Alwan of the National Water Resources Authority, Amran Unit. "This learning came at the expense of English however, and I am afraid that German as a language is not used very much in Yemen compared to English. It would have been more beneficial had the course been in English, but the sponsors explained that since it is funded by the German government the education in German language is an obligation."

He also insisted that for the program to be more beneficial, the organizers in Inwent could continue communication with the authorities and supervisors of the candidates in their home countries. "The experience changed us, and we learned a lot. But coming back we realized that it would be very difficult to create change here in Yemen. So we suggested that Inwent provides a short term training course for our managers to ensure their support for us and our new ideas when we come back."

Alwan's transfer project was in merging traditional concepts with the water project's contracts in a way that ensures community participation and commitments to maintain these projects while changing their water related lifestyle to assist preservation of water resources.

Although his project did not meet the welcome he had hoped for, especially since the water authority's annual plans had already been finalized, he found hope in the GTZ project in Amran which is likely to include this new concept in the organization's interventions in the governorate. Environmental protection is another focal point of international cooperation with North Africa and the Middle East. Strong institutions that can and do take political action to support good governance are needed to halt the destruction of the environment and develop a sustainable resource protection strategy.

The five Yemenis joined a water specialist group whose 14 members are from Syria, Tunisia, Egypt and Germany at a four day leadership training workshop organized for the first time in Yemen.

"After every training event, the graduates meet for a short capacity building session on leadership to discuss the

progress of the transfer projects. Every time it is either in Germany or another country and it had never been organized in Yemen until now," said Mohammed Bourji, Director General of ASB for environmental services, the organization responsible for organizing the workshop.

"The aim of the training is to implement learned IWRM skills in order to improve the water situation in the partner countries," added Bourji.

This workshop took place after the whole group had six months of what is called 'the transfer of skills' process. The intention is that the candidates will return with new ideas and projects to be included in their work once they are in their home countries and will assist in developing the various institutions' capacities towards dealing with water challenges.

«Water for all!»

This target dominates the international debate around the global water supply challenge – all the more so in the wake of the United Nation's freshwater decade in the 1980s.

Water is a public good, or so some say. Indeed, in their opinion, the human right to water should ensure free access to this resource.

But others ask who will provide it, and who is going to pay for it? In their mind, water should be recognized as a scarce economic commodity.

"Six months is not enough time to be able to implement anything concrete, especially considering the paperwork we have to do and the various procedures before getting anything approved. We don't even have adequate furniture at the basin project," commented Al-Zubairy.

Inwent's most important partner countries from North Africa and the Middle East are Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Yemen and Syria. The main focal points of international cooperation with North Africa and the Middle East, in addition to administrative reforms, are sustainable economic development, water policy and the effects of climate change that can be counteracted by cooperative efforts to protect the environment and revamp the energy policy.



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Caricatures for World Peace



Under the slogan "World Peace," the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Yemen Association for Culture and Arts Development launched an exhibition at the Culture House in Sana'a last Saturday. Minister of Culture Mohammed Al-Maflahi opened the exhibition which displays 68 caricatures by seven artists to depict world peace in a local and regional context.

By: Salma Ismail

Satirical and comical images decorate the walls of the Cultural Centre in Sana'a, all with political themes depicting world peace, or rather the lack of it.

The first drawing displayed is one of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh posing in traditional Yemeni attire watering a plant, the flower of world peace.

On his face is the same look of defiant determination that is plastered across the walls of many schools, universities, government buildings, restaurants and hotels. It is the picture of a hopeful president, one that is called the man of peace and dialogue.

World peace—or the ideal of freedom, peace and harmony in the world—is the professed ambition of many world leaders past and present, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen.

But, although the white dove has been a symbol of peace since ancient times, at the exhibition it was portrayed with derision as leaving planet Earth or as a roasted delicacy to tantalize the taste buds.

A caricature is a simple memorable drawing with a highly-entertaining short satirical comment that is rich with implications. Its aim is to encourage a reconsideration and recreation of reality to secure a better kind of life, in this case "world peace."

The artistic medium is an example of the political role of the arts as a primary vehicle to irritate, aggravate, even offend, or call for freedom of expression

and free speech.

Depicting terrorism, democracy, foreign aid, education, and Yemenis cultural and social attitudes towards world peace, the caricatures at the latest Yemeni exhibition proved a talented hand to be a powerful medium to talk politics.

"This is an excellent depiction of world peace, I hope this opens the doors for more dialogue," said Aisha Abdullah, a painter.

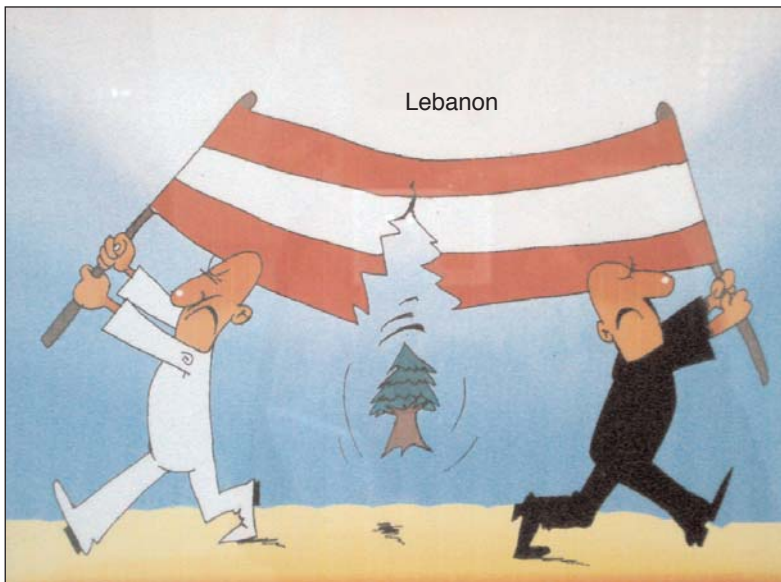
"The exhibition shows Yemenis strong stance against terrorism and how it affects them," said Khuloud Al-Zuraighi, a poetess from Taiz.

"In a country where weapons are carried, we need peace to be a priority," said Sultan Al-Barakani head of the GPC bloc in Parliament and secretary-general of the GPC.

The power of a caricature cannot be disputed. This is especially true after controversial cartoons lead to wide-scale protesting and rioting because their insensitive depiction of social and religious figures in 2006. However, in Yemen its influence on politics is still emerging.

"It is a very interesting and expressive collection," said Joel Dechezleprete, Director of the French Cultural Center in Sana'a. "We see in the caricatures how Yemen's youth perceive issues in and affecting their country. The artistic quality is excellent."

A common theme is the comical portrayal of Arab conferences and stands on regional issues, especially the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. And of course there were Yemen's internal political problems, with special focus on kidnappings.



The most striking caricature is perhaps one depicting a Muslim raising his hands in prayer to ask God to make sure that the future doesn't look like US President Obama's face.

"The exhibition focuses on peace from a wider perspective and not just a regional point of view," said Amr Ahmed Al-Guneid, head of the Association for Culture and Arts Development.

"The opening of the exhibition coincides with Yemen's May 22 celebrations of Unity," Mohammed Al-Maflahi, Minister of Culture. "It is also an extension of the President's efforts and directives to take care of the youth."

"Yemeni artists have taken considerable strides in the development of art, especially abstract art," he added, praising the talent of Yemeni artists.

It is often said that an image speaks a

thousand words, and these caricatures speak volumes of Yemen's interpretation of peace and what hinders its attainment. It also aims to cultivate a culture of peace among the youth of Yemen.

One cartoonist said that the images speak to a large audience especially the illiterate as the images are very self-explanatory.

But the caricatures on display do not directly criticize either the government or the economic state.

World peace is the Utopian idea of a planet of non-violence by which nations willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance which prevents destruction and warfare.

The exhibition is the first major show to exhibit under the theme World Peace and will run until May 14, providing an entertaining and provocative experience for visitors.

CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Bin Uthaymeen, Muhammad S. (An Erudite and Devout Scholar with an Independent Opinion)

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca

Bin Uthaymeen, Muhammad Saleh, was a Saudi scholar, jurist, and Mufti. He was born in 1929 in Unayzah City, Al-Qasim Province, Saudi Arabia, in a devout religious family. Bin Uthaymeen memorized the Holy Qur'an and studied other literary textbooks at the age of 14 at the hands of his grandfather and other prominent scholars. He joined courses taught in Unayzah Great Mosque and studied sciences such as monotheism, prophetic tradition, jurisprudence, Arabic language's grammars, morphology and math. He also read "Al-Sahih" (The Genuine) for Al-Bukhari and several treatises of Ibn Taymiya and other jurisprudential books. In 1952, Bin Uthaymeen started teaching in the Great Mosque at the time when the scientific institutes were open in Riyadh City. Consequently, he joined one of them and completed his study in 1953. After two years, he graduated and was hired as a teacher in Unayzah Scientific Institute while he was studying at the Faculty of Law. He was appointed imam of Unayzah Great Mosque and then he taught at Unayzah National Library in 1957. In 1978, Bin Uthaymeen moved to teach in the faculties of law and Islam's origins at Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University's branch in Al-Qasim. He also had taught in al-Haram Mosque and also in the Prophet's Mosque during pilgrimage's seasons and the holy month of Ramadan since 1982. Among other positions he was assumed during his life working as a member of the Senior Scholars Committee of the Kingdom in 1987, a member of the Scientific Council in the Islamic University of Imam Muhammad ibn Saud from 1969 to 1980 and the president of Unayzah



he summarized Ibn Taymiya's book "Al-Hamawiya fee Al-Aqeeda" (Al-Hamawiya in the Islamic Creed). The book also contained his answer to a question presented to him from Hamah, city in west central Syria, on the Orontes River, about the saying of religious scholars regarding the attributes and characteristics of Allah. His book entitled "Tafseer Ayat Al-Kursi" (An Explanation of Ayat al-Kursi) describes the greatest ayah (verse) in the Holy Qur'an and mentions its beneficial points. "Abridged of the Rules of Sacrificial Offerings & Slaughtering" is Bin Uthaymeen's book in which he covers briefly various rules and regulations of sacrificial offerings and slaughtering which serves as a valuable guide for those intending to perform the sacrifice on the day of Eid. Bin Uthaymeen also wrote a book entitled "Islamic Fataawa (Verdicts) Regarding the Muslim Child" which contains numerous aspects related to the lives of children such as upbringing, education and treatment. This book also is a compilation of more than 150 legal rulings given by the contemporary scholars in response to actual questions put before them. "Al-Khilaaf Baynal Ulamaa Asbaabuhoo wa Mawaqifunaa Minhoo" (Differences of Opinion Amongst the Scholars) which assists researchers in having a good appreciation for the Islamic numerous scholars. His book entitled "Sujood as-Sahw" (Prostration for Forgetfulness in the Prayer) explains this prostration's rulings, conditions, manners and times especially for the imams whom the people follow in their daily prayers.

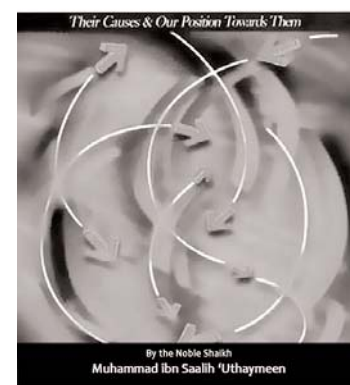
Among his other published books and treatises: "Islamic Verdicts on the Pillars of Islam", "The Tents of Faith", "The Whisper of the Shaytaan and Its Cure", "Death and Resurrection", "The Fruits of Taqwa", "The Divine Decree and Pre-Ordainment", "How to Acquire Good Manners", "The Prophet's (pbuh) Advice to Mu'adh ibn Jabal", "Exemplary Foundations Concerning the Beautiful Names and Attributes of Allah", "The Manner of Purification and Prayer for the Sick", "Bidah: The Unique Nature of the Perfection Found in Islam", "Fataawa on Fasting, Zakat and Taraweeh" and "The Wisdom Behind Fasting."

Charity for Memorization the Holy Qur'an in 1985.

Bin Uthaymeen is considered one of the most pre-eminent scholars of the 20th century. During more than 50 years, Bin Uthaymeen worked hard for the sake of spreading science, teaching, preaching, lecturing, and guiding people to worship Allah. He has authored more than 40 books in different Islamic sciences including Tafsir (interpretation of the Holy Qur'an), monotheism and fatwas (verdicts or Islamic decrees). Remarkably, all points and statements Bin Uthaymeen makes in his books are founded on the Holy Qur'an, authentic Hadith, and the confirmed understandings of the prophet's companions. Some of his collections were officially adopted in many institutions of learning in the Kingdom. He also recorded tens of thousands of vocal hours in audio media that included his lectures, preaches, interviews, radio religious programs, and his scientific lessons in the explanations of the Holy Qur'an and prophetic tradition.

He wrote his first book in 1962 entitled "Fathu Raab-il-Bariyyah bi-Talkhees al-Hamawiyya" (Explanation of a Summary of Al-Aqeedah Al-Hamawiyya of Ibn Taymiya) in which

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONGST THE SCHOLARS



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History of some Yemeni dishes

By: Ola Al-Shami

During the Ottoman occupation of Yemen, Yemenis were heavily affected by Ottoman influence on many aspects of their lives. Their impact affected Yemeni food as well, about which many old people tell different stories of their origins.

There are no documents that heritage and culture investigators base their findings on when talking about food origins in Yemen. "You might depend on tales from old men and women when researching food," said Faiza Jahaff, director of Our House for Heritage. "Another way is to depend on your knowledge of Yemeni history and then start analyzing and connecting ideas to come out with an acceptable conclusion about the origins of food in Yemen."

'Helbah' is a name given to the seeds of a tree also called Helbah, and it is very important in making the quintessential Yemeni dish Saltah, which includes potato, soup, sometimes meat, and any number of other ingredients. Helbah is added to these ingredients at the final stage of preparing this dish.

Research into the matter supports that Yemenis knew of Helbah before they started making Saltah. Jahhaf is one of these interested investigators who agrees with this notion. She emphasized that Yemenis knew about Helbah before the Ottomans came to Yemen. With the Ottomans came a dish called 'Torbeil,' what is known today as 'Mahshi,' and they used to add and collect other kinds of food to make what is today's Saltah. However, Saltah differs from one area to another; people differ on how they present this dish depending on the food available. For example, those who live in the mountains and highlands prepare Saltah with the traditional soup base, potato, and a Helbah sauce on top. In coastal areas however, people use Helbah seeds which they add to 'Porridge,' calling it 'Aseed Mokarhat' because it is mixed directly with Helbah seeds instead of mashing them up into a sauce.

Although it was discovered that the main Sana'ni dish is borrowed from the Ottomans, there are dishes that are considered as Yemeni heritage such as 'Porridge' and 'Hareesh.'

Social stories accompanied the existence of some Yemeni dishes such as 'Bint Al-Sahn'



which mean 'the girl or daughter of the plate' and is a flaky bread dish covered in honey. This dish was traditionally presented to the man who wanted to ask for the hand of a family's daughter. The stories relate that when a man asks about the girl, they tell him to look at how she prepared the Bint Al-Sahn to measure what kind of future wife

she will be.

Sweets are also found in the Yemeni menu. Nowadays, the well-known sweet 'Rawani' is spread mainly throughout Old Sana'a. However, it is claimed that this sweet is not actually Yemeni but was introduced by Ottoman soldiers. During that time, the soldiers' families used to send cake to the soldiers that would dry out on the way due to the long distance to Yemen. When soldiers finally got these dried out cakes, they would fill them with water and sugar. This dish became wildly popular even amongst the locals, and is still here long after the Ottomans are gone.

Generally speaking, Arab and Islamic cultures are found to be fairly well integrated and share many aspects among themselves. Investigators said that it was because of the Islamic movement among these countries in the past. When the Islamic armies and movement spread, they influenced different cultures and were influenced by them in turn.

"When I traveled to Morocco, Tunisia and many other countries, I found the same porridge that is here in Yemen to be there in those countries. This supports the assumption that cultures were and are integrating with each other directly or indirectly," noted Jahaff.

Moreover, the presentation of some dishes around the Arab world is similar. What is known in Yemen as 'Hareesh' is similar to 'Borgol' in Egypt, and 'Mansaf' in Jordan is presented in a similar way as how 'Couscous' in Morocco is done. Sharing the same dish from different countries indicates that cultures were connecting with each other in the past to at least some extent which allowed a kind of unity in dishes among vastly different countries.

The problem in this area, as Jahaff pointed out, is that when university students want to see documents in order to be used in their research, they don't find any written proof that preserves Yemeni identity either in food, clothing, or any other form of cultural heritage.

"There is no support from the government and people are not aware that our food indicates that we are a rich country where most of our dishes depend on seeds. This is proof of our agricultural richness," Jahaff said.

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Listening – a vital skill



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Listening, speaking, reading and writing are the language skills that foreign language learners should acquire efficiently. This is

the general objective of teaching English in schools, colleges and universities.

It is common experience that listening and speaking are the most difficult skills in any language. The student can achieve some proficiency in writing and reading, but to speak correctly and fluently and to understand what's spoken by others is somehow difficult. I want to ask those who graduated from the university: Do you understand everything when you listen to BBC, CNN, or native English speakers? How much do you understand? Can you speak English without mistakes? Are you satisfied with your performance in listening and speaking? These questions and others must be taken into consideration while teaching and learning English as a foreign language in Yemen.

Actually, I don't want to discuss both speaking and listening skills together in

this article. In fact, my focus here is on listening skill only. When we listen in our first language, we usually listen for a reason, i.e. to get information or to get pleasure. If we don't have a reason for listening, it's unlikely that we will remember what we have listened to. How many times do you sit down and watch TV without really concentrating? Do you remember later what you listened to?

When we are listening, our brains are working to help us process the sounds we hear. We might have a set of questions we want answered. In fact, in any act of listening we can usually predict some of the content. We usually ignore words or phrases we don't understand, because we can't stop listening once we have started. This is what makes listening difficult (and a little scary) for learners of English. Think about reading a

book – if you don't understand something, you can stop and go back. You can't do this when you listen.

Then, what are the strategies to develop your listening skill? The first step is to choose your listening text. You can keep the following questions in mind while choosing a suitable listening text.

- What is the aim? Can I use the text for language as well as skills development?
- Is the topic familiar and interesting?
- How difficult is the text? How can I understand it?
- How much of the text do I need to understand?
- How many speakers are there and how can I know who is speaking?
- Is the quality of the listening text good?

Listening skill is not free from problems,

but we can overcome these obstacles.

Let us now present some of the problems that we may face while listening and propose some viable solutions and practical remedies.

- If you can't follow the different speakers and get bored quickly, then you can do the following:
 - Identify the speakers and make a clear distinction between them, e.g. man and woman, boy and girl, etc.
 - Video is better than a tape because there is visual support.
 - Make sure that you know why you are listening.
- If you try to listen to every word and become demotivated, then try to listen twice, three, four times or more to the text. Listen to a very simple task the first time to build self-confidence; focus on the message of the text, not the individual words.

- If there are too many unknown vocabulary in the text, then try to study the unknown vocabulary before you listen again. Focus on the key words and listen again if you didn't understand previously.
- If you are afraid of the speakers who speak very fast, then break up the text into short segments; be confident and praise yourself even when you understand little information; next time is going to be better. You must remember that the problem is not the speed of the speaker, but your listening ability.
- Try to begin your listening classes now, try not to be late and invest your time and try to be enthusiastic. I hope your listening skill will get better soon.

Good luck and best wishes for you.

I. What to Say

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

“Money begets money” (John Ray). But one should not forget that it is a double-edged weapon. As the old proverb goes, “Money is a good servant but a poor master.” So wisemen are not desirous of opulence or a state of very great, splendid, and showy wealth because they realize that “Money is of very uncertain value, and sometimes has no value at all and even less” (Carlyle)

Words connected with paying money

credit card, cheque, bills, mortgage, purchase, fare fee, income tax, inheritance tax, customs or excise duties, VAT

Words related to getting money

salary, cheque, bank loan, interest, refund, discount, fee, wages, tax rebate, unemployment benefit, student loan, pension, investment, profit, dividend

II. How to Say it Correctly

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

1. It is not my practice generally to dispute minor instances of misinformation in the press regarding my country.
2. The greatest of his contribution to science was made after he had joined the police service.
3. After hearing him patiently, the manager told him that what really matter was how he did his job.
4. As an organization changes from one system to another, transitory problems will no doubt arise.
5. Before publishing the advertisement, the eligibility criterias for the job was carefully scrutinized.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. On a rainy day like this, I prefer to be at home to going out to meet friends.
2. Having been inspired into writing poems by his mother, he has been writing consistently good poems.
3. Do you know that one of my best friends Shahid has won a scholarship to study abroad?
4. As a gesture of kindness the Director agreed to ignore the past record while giving him promotion.
5. Nowadays we find artificial fibers made in India are superior to similar ones made in foreign countries.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Polite and well-bred, suitable for the upper classes of society
2. Really what it is said to be
3. Science of the earth's history as shown by its crust, rocks, etc.
4. Science of the properties and relations of lines, angles, surfaces and solids
5. Period of carrying or being carried in the womb between conception and birth

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. All persons born about the same time: **generation** (n)
2. Nobility of mind, greatness of heart:

Improve Your English: 329

- generosity** (n)
3. Science dealing with heredity: **genetics** (n)
 4. Very great and exceptional capacity of the mind or imagination: **genius** (n)
 5. Extermination of a race or community by mass murder: **genocide** (n)

(B) Words often confused
Bring out difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. clarity, clearance
2. confidence, confidentiality
3. waste, wastage
4. instant, instantaneous
5. drop, droop
6. infer, imply

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **haggle** (vi) (argue, dispute with somebody for or about something, especially the price of something): She haggled over the price of mangoes
2. **higgle** (derived from 'haggle' and means the same. 'Higgle-haggle' also means 'to bargain.' A haggler is one who bargains much of the time)
3. **hassle** (n) difficulty, struggle, argument, quarrel): Driving at peak hours is a real hassle.
4. **dispense** (vt & i) (to give something out, to distribute): We dispense food and other articles to poor people during the holy Ramadan.
5. **dispense with** (v) (do without): I am so sick that I can't dispense with a domestic help
3. **comment** (v) (give one's opinion about someone or something): Don't comment on anyone's character.
4. **commentate** (v) (to give a commentary; to describe an event on TV or radio): Several people from Yemen TV commented on the ceremonial parade on occasion of the Independence Day.
4. **quote** (v) (when you quote someone, you reproduce exactly what that person has said or written. You merely copy the words of the original): The Imam quoted verses from the Holy Quran.
5. **cite** (v) (when you cite something, you merely mention it as an authority or a source of information. So you cite a passage from a book or an incident from history to bear witness to what you are saying. You need not reproduce them as they are): The researcher has cited more than 200 books in his bibliography.
5. **short** (adj) (opposite of 'long'): We have a short holiday for Eid.
- sort** (n) (group or class of persons or things which are alike in some way): I don't approve of this sort of conduct.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

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

1. There is a **dip** in the passenger fare due to reduction in oil prices.
a. drift b. slowness
2. The government needs to do more **pruning** in its expenditure to put the country's economy on a sound footing.
a. stopping b. economizing
c. spending d. profiteering
3. Hike in the employees' salary is a very **tricky** issue.
a. foolish b. deceitful
c. useless d. difficult
4. Encouraging tourism is a **hands-on** method of educating the public about conservation of values and concepts.
a. practical b. handy
c. sufficient d. easy
5. The past decade has witnessed a **surge** in wildlife tourism.
a. increase b. flux
c. drop d. backward

- c. plunge d. reduction
4. stationary moving
5. condoned condemned

- (E) Spelling
Choose the correctly spelled word
- 1) a. allowance b. allunce
c. allowans d. allowance
 - 2) a. allusion b. alusion
c. alluzan d. allution
 - 3) a. alurement b. allurement
c. allourement d. allorement
 - 4) a. aluf b. alouf
c. aloof d. alouff
 - 5) a. ambassador b. ambassador
c. ammbassador d. ambasadour

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. allegory 2. alliance 3. alliteration
4. allocate 5. allot

(F) Phrases and Idioms
Use the following in sentences of your own

1. Be spoiling for a fight
2. keep something under wraps
3. mind one's p's and q's
4. on the ball
5. have the bottle to (do something)

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **be in with the bricks** (to have been in a place, organization, etc for a long time and appear to be going to stay even longer): He is the senior most employee in the company. Everyone thinks he is in with the bricks.
2. **need one's head examined** (to be foolish or crazy): He needs his head examined for asking forgiveness after his gross misconduct.
3. **playing the fool** (to act in a silly way, especially to amuse other people): Hassan is taken as a buffoon since he is always busy playing the fool.
4. **blow the whistle on (someone)** (to report someone's dishonest or illegal activities): The auditor blew the whistle on the corrupt practices of the cashier.
5. **look a gift horse in the mouth** (to criticize or complain about something which has been given to one): Don't be so choosy about the job. In fact, you shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Make appropriate phrasal verb for each blank by matching one of the following verbs to the particles in italics. Remember to put the verb in the correct form.

- | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|------|------|
| call | send | get | hold | give |
| The authorities in Bangladesh are doing their best | | | | |

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for the victims of the floods which have covered many low-lying coastal villages. The government has — in the army to the affected areas, and they are — out food to the people who managed to — away from the flood by moving to higher ground. The Red Cross has organized shipments of flood and medical supplies, but these have been — up because none of the airports can be used. As a result of the tragedy, the planned independence celebrations have been — off.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. you'd better not eat any more.
2. You'd better be awake and alert.
3. You'd better not tell my parents what I have done.
4. You'd better take a rest
5. You'd better not waste your time and study.
6. You'd better not forget your passport when you're going abroad.
7. You'd better not drive so quickly on a wet road.
8. You'd better fill your car with fuel.
9. You'd better have a hair cut before the interview.
10. You'd better hurry up for the flight.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim
146: OUR LIFE IS A LONG AND ARDUOUS QUEST AFTER TRUTH

Previous week's topic:

145: A MOMENT'S THINKING IS AN HOUR IN WORDS

Man's greatness lies in his power of thought, says Pascal. All grand thoughts come from the heart when a man is confused and not sure about the course of action. Introspection or deep, insightful thinking in a calm mood helps him to understand the pros and cons of the matter and leads him to arrive at a sound, balanced, rational and judicious decision. He can see things in their proper perspective and understand the consequences of his action. He intuitively feels what is right and what is wrong and chooses the proper path. Thinking implies analyzing, rationalizing an issue. In the process he gains strength of his power. His mind gains a keen spiritual perceptiveness to go into the core of things which no amount of verbal argumentation can achieve. And he achieves a good measure of self-control, harmony between thought and action culminating in self-knowledge. Erasmus has rightly said, "Fruitless is the wisdom of the soul with itself. Mahatma Gandhi, a great leader and father of India once said, "In the attitude of silence the soul finds the path in a clearer light, and what is elusive and deceptive resolves itself into crystal clearness."

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Thou art our Protector: so forgive us and give us Thy mercy, for Thou art the Best of those who forgive."
—S7:A158

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead."
—Benjamin Franklin

ELT Panorama

Role and relevance of literature for personal enrichment



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Literature, in a very real sense, is life with its own ethnicity, values, attitudes, traditions, languages and civilizations that belong to a nation in which its writers create it in different forms. These forms (novel, drama & poetry) constitute literature. Literature has two faces like two-sides of the same coin. First one is that it dis-

cusses the reality, another one is that it creates fiction.

Literature is taught all over the world to unfold culture and civilization of nations around the world. Rightly, it is taught all over the Yemeni universities so that students get access to others' customs and traditions to develop an understanding of its richness and variety as well as gaining deeper insight into their own culture.

Literature manifests itself in different types, each one having its own standard and way of expression of the reality. They talk about the same ideas and thoughts and themes that reflect the reality of the age in which they have been written. Further more, literature assumes a crucial role in building a good society.

But Yemeni students seem to be confused about the role and relevance of literature in shaping their

outlook. They fail to comprehend the relatedness between different genres, although each unfolds the reality in a unique way. Most of the university students have a belief that drama has its own themes, ideas. They make no connection between the different forms of literature. Literature is a reflection of actual life. It reflects life in all its richness and variety according to the norms of the form itself. Therefore, life is visualized through different shades of literature.

For example 20th century modern life is clearly depicted through drama, poetry and novel of this age. It unfolds the ugly realities of this age. Various writers such as Owen, Samuel Beckett, Yeats have written different works. Their works such as Orwell's *Animal Farm* (a novel), Yeats's *A prayer to my daughter* (a poem) and Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (a play) are clear examples of

the basic idea that all forms of literature carry out the same ideas though they are different in form. They unfold the hard times, destruction, hunger, war, disturbance, agony, anguish and disorder that happened during the 20th century. But University students classify each one of poetry, novel and drama as a single subject and treat it as a watertight compartment which has its own ideas, norms and themes.

Literature plays a crucial role in life. So students who graduate from universities should carry with themselves not only knowledge but also experience that would empower them to cope with the problems of life. Teachers should throw light on the underlying unity of different genres which intend to "instruct and delight." Thus students should be aware of how literature fulfills personal, social and political roles at the same time.

A letter to the learners of English: 21 An Advice, extraordinary

Dear student friends,

You will find this letter different, a bit irritating too, to a few! It has two purposes, one a bit of advice to many of my young friends, and two, an interesting passage to read and enjoy, which I got from an email-friend like a pen-friend!

I have found, to my surprise and pain, many youngsters, school and college students, addicted to smoking; even 10-year olds are no exception! Parents may be responsible to some extent, for a number of them not only smoke in the presence of their young children but also get them to buy their cigarettes (I've seen girl children buying cigarettes in the shop for their fathers. What a pity! Let's save our children!

Young friends, read this message and you will probably give up smoking, Insha Allah,



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Drink milk to quit smoking!

Milk not only does the body good, it may also help you quit smoking. Consuming milk makes the taste of cigarette bad and by making a few modifications to the diet one can make quitting bit easier. And this is not just an assumption, but truth, found by medical researchers. The study examined 209 smokers and asked them to name items that worsen or enhance the taste of cigarettes. Nineteen percent of them reported that dairy products, such as milk or cheese, worsen the taste of cigarettes; 14 percent reported non-caffeinated beverages, such as water or juice; and 16 percent reported fruits and vegetables. Forty-four percent of them reported that alcoholic beverages enhance the taste of cigarettes; 45 percent reported caffeinated beverages, such as tea, cola and coffee; and 11 percent reported meat. Identifying which components of foods and beverages ruin the taste of cigarettes could lead to new treatments to deter smoking, said co-investigator Jed E. Rose of the Duke University Medical Center study.

The researchers are now looking at the possibility of using the chemical silver acetate, known to alter the taste of cigarettes, to help smokers quit. The additive could be given in the form of a gum or a lozenge as part of smoking cessation treatment, according to a science portal, EurekAlert. (Source: Indo-Asian News Service)

What do you think? Can you start using a lot of milk and milk products as a first step in giving up smoking? Please do. Smoking does no good to you; on the other hand, it has many evils to cause, leading to cancer. Make up your mind. Give up smoking. Good luck.

Worship the Almighty, all your worries are gone. (Kural)

Yours affectionately,
Dr.M.N.K.Bose

"Crossing the porridge unconsciously"

"Porridge is too little nutritious for the body and too much confusing for the mind," said a French visitor when I met him in Taiz stretching his legs and looking for a hotel. You may wonder what brings porridge in the educational page, but it is porridge that we have to bridge and pay attention to. This visitor was accidentally met with a teacher of English; a new graduate. Asking about a hotel, the tourist was informed that the nearest hotel is located just after crossing the por-



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ridge. In utter amazement he responded "pardon"; but porridge was still stuck in the mouth of the guide. He, then, did not realize his slip of tongue

and kept on repeating it many times while guiding this stray visitor. From this episode learners of English have to learn an important lesson. They must know how to differentiate between similar words, where one letter can potentially turn the message upside down. *Bridge* was the word needed to guide the French man, but unfortunately, *porridge* set him in a trap of thinking whether he had his lunch or not. "I think I speak English fluently that the word *porridge* can never be crossed in the street but only in the mind when starving", said he.

Teachers need to draw students' attention how to use words, when to use them, how much they need to depend on the sequence of phonemes in the word in order to orally practice them. Learners are initially supposed to acquire words that they encounter for the first time. All such words stay in the learners' short-term memory awaiting the teachers' effort to drive them home in the learners' mind. Thus, those who are supposed to educate must cross the knowledge bridges and borders consciously. If the teacher crosses the porridge, he will not succeed in his mission of making his learners cross the bridge.

Shakespeare's Macbeth: A challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence (Part 5)



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

Macbeth's castle "hath a pleasant seat" with all the ideal natural environ of a place with "delicate" air and the possibilities of growth and procreation. It is the place, an emotional location, a psychological space where man is at peace with the other beings of the ecosystem: the birds, the beasts and the elements. Otherwise, one can see in the same place "The raven/himself is hoarse" and the day is dreaded and therefore there is an invocation for the "thick night" so that the "black and deep desires" of the anthropocentric constructions can be hidden in such a way that "Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark". Macbeth is like Captain Ahab in Melville's *Moby-Dick* whose black, destructive rage against a natural world he cannot subdue is as compelling as it is horrible and as daring as it is pointless" (Ibid.: 43). Michael Long, a professor at the University of Cambridge, has found a parallel in Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelung* "of the primordial offences against the sacred quiet of the world which relate fascinatingly to the 'deed' of Macbeth that put 'a breach in nature'. He brilliantly elucidates the parallel:

wholeness. They seek power in separation of themselves from what Wagner wonderfully evokes in the music of the forest and the spring, the music of unpolluted water and streaming light, the music of the vast, effortless, radiant quiet which precedes the interventions of his two fatal Alberichs. In the beginning was not the Word. In the beginning was the forest, with the great ash tree in it, and the Rhine flowing through it lit with gold. These things were then desecrated and polluted by the doers, caused to wither and darken as the lonely quest for power began.

And the illuminating comparison continues:

Wagner's sunlit world of bright rivers, forests and eyes is akin to *Macbeth's* innocent world of the martlets, the 'delicate' air and the green boughs of Birnam wood. The darkness into which it declines is akin to the murk and perversion of *Macbeth's* 'fog and filthy air'. His profound and somber vision of how the human mind and will ineluctably wound and pollute the world is in close congruence with that part of *Macbeth* which probes the key words of 'do' 'deed' and 'dare' in its exploration of human agency. In both works the primal crime is the interventionist deed of a great and reckless creature. In *The Ring* that deed puts out all sorts of beautiful lights. In *Macbeth* it palls things 'in the dunest smoke of hell'. In both works it is a matter of stabbing at the beautiful, intricate pattern of things and making thereby 'a breach in nature'... (Ibid. 45)

In both the works mentioned above the inner reality of man is contrasted with the outer manifestation of the intrinsic

value of nature. Alberich destroys nature by tearing the gold from the rocks of the Rhine and plunging its waters into darkness, Macbeth once hailed as "Great Glamis! Worthy Cawdor!", is a witness to his own degeneration, downfall, and doom from the status of "Valour's minion" and "Bellona's bridegroom" "into the sere, the yellow leaf" which was "ripe for shaking". By witnessing his gradual destruction it would not be an exaggeration to say that in the present day ecological crisis caused by man's greed and carelessness as one can see it in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Almanac of the Dead* (1991) as "a healing strategy to reclaim the diseased and corrupted landscape" (Prasad: 2004), Shakespeare's challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence in *Macbeth* has immense contemporary significance as it is interesting to see how Shakespeare who "may be seen as the last interpreter of the humanistic programme" (Grudin: 2003) is very much our contemporary in his environmental educational programme.

Closing statement

Distinctly, ecological reading of literary texts can be meaningful and realistic in both pedagogical and theoretical terms and will not take us either to a fixed contour of critical determinism or to a slippery terrain of indeterminacy creating in us a feeling of interpretive fascism or semantic nihilism. It will enable us to distinguish between nature threatened and nature as a threat and this certainly will not be a threat to Shakespearean research and pedagogy today and tomorrow and to those like Bernard Shaw, and T.S.Eliot who tried to break away from Shakespeare. Perhaps their reason for breaking away from Shakespeare was due to what Harold Bloom calls "the anxiety of influence" of the "revisionary ratios" (Bloom: 1973 quoted in Botstein: ND;

Abrams 1999:124-25) or the fact that they were fed up with the repetition of the same critical jargons of the great critics by those who are teaching and reading Shakespeare. If Shakespeare is Harold Bloom's "mortal god" (2003: 2), then he needs to be sacrificed like the burial of the mortal gods of Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough* (1922) to renew the insipid and unproductive practice of a critical tradition. If Shakespeare is a university, then his plays are "poems unlimited" to borrow the part of Harold Bloom's title of *Hamlet: Poem Unlimited* (2003). If readers today look for the constructions of environment in Shakespeare, then by so doing they remove the dust of history from Shakespeare as from time to time it has been removed even by those like Roman Polanski and Giuseppe Verdi, people who are from the fields of film-making and music and "the rich varied story of *Macbeth* in twentieth-century and "its fascinating modulations" as in the case of Kurusawa's *Throne of Blood* or Ionesco's *Macbeth* (Long 1989:xv).

Finally, I would like to say that "in *Macbeth* [Shakespeare] makes the dust of history glow with the spirit of imagination" (Albert: 1932:102). And yet time has not been so powerful to wrap it up in the "yellow leaf" of history. Its contemporary relevance can be seen with reference to the present day ruthless struggle of power politics and the fear of being annihilated from the earth's history if we pursue our anthropocentric mind-set which has been contested artistically and in planetary and principled terms in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* which seems to say, "The universe is larger than our views of it" (Emerson quoted in Tag: 1994). (Concluded)

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ANY GUESSES?

1. Is there a difference in meaning between "I was watching T.V. from 6.00 to 7.00" and "I watched TV from 6.00 to 7.00"?
2. How to use "apropos of"?
3. What's the difference between 'he has gone' and 'he is gone'?
4. How to use the expression 'weigh in with'?
5. Do the sentences "I remember doing my homework" and "I remembered to do my homework" mean the same?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. *Full of beans* is a colloquial expression meaning 'very lively, full of vigor, health.' A person who is full of beans is in good spirits and feels energetic. Example: "After a good night's sleep I feel full of beans this morning."
2. 'Nit-picking' means 'finding fault in a new way.' The adjective 'nit-picking' has a negative connotation. 'Stop your nit-picking criticism' means 'Stop finding fault in a petty or mean way.' He is a nit-picker. Don't worry about his comments.'
3. Literally, 'upstage' means 'on or towards the back of the stage.' Figuratively it means a) to divert attention from someone important to oneself b) snobbish, haughty. Example: *The President of the meeting upstaged the chief speaker by his excellent speech. What irritated everyone is her upstage behavior. I don't like him. He is uppish, upstage.* The opposite of 'upstage' is 'downstage.'
4. 'Lingua franca' is 'a language adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different. For example, *In a multilingual country like India, English serves as a lingua franca.* Similarly, *English serves as a lingua franca in some other parts of the world.*
5. 'Plethora' is a formal word meaning "over-abundance." For example: *There is a plethora of opportunists in the party.*

Avoid vague language



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pletely hinder the reader's understanding the point that the writer wants to deliver. The more specific is your writing, the more quickly and easily your readers will grasp your point. A writer should also follow modern ways of writing rather than old-fashioned ways.

When you read, for example, "It was raining cats and dogs", you will understand it as "It was raining heavily", but if you had never come across this idiom, you might visualize cats and dogs falling from the sky. Before writing, you should determine the purpose of your writing and the point you want the reader to get. Then, try your best to write the idea in a very simple way so that even beginners can understand your point. Sometimes you need to explain a vague word by so many words which is worse than giving the

vague word itself. You may give a vague title in order to make the reader curious to read the article, but do not try to make the content of the article vague.

We should avoid vagueness when we talk also. Common words and simple phrases should be said to others taking into account the difference in dialectal and cultural. Yemeni students tend to say when they want to offer help to somebody 'any service' which is unintelligible to a native speaker of English. You can use several phrases instead of this. You may say, "Shall I do anything for you?" This will be much more clear than "any service?"

A lady said to her manager, "Are you engaged?" The manager replied, "It is not your business." The lady then tried to explain her mistake, "Are you busy, sir?" The manager, after he

got the point, said "Oh no, I am not busy." Look how dangerous vague language can be. The lady might have been fired for asking the manager such a vague question. Actually, the word *engage* has two meanings (busy) and (agreement before marriage), the manager did not understand the other meaning of *engage*. A lady then said to the manager, "Can you see him?" The manager angrily replied, "Do you think I am blind?" The lady said, "I mean there is someone outside who wants to see you." The manager laughed and said, "Oh no, no problem, let him get in." Therefore, vague language can really lead to a big problem, which writers should be very careful about. "To be a good writer, you may not only have to write a great deal but you have to care. You do not have to have a complicated moral phi-

losophy. But a writer always tries, I think, to be a part of the solution, to understand a little about life and to pass this on," -Annie Lamott, Bird by Bird.

Some common colloquial words and expressions

A lot, alot - "A lot" is a colloquialism; "alot" is a nonword. "A lot" should be avoided in formal English and can be replaced by "many," "several," "numerous," "a large number," and "a large amount."

Alright, all right - "Alright" is a solecism; "all right" is a colloquialism. "Alright" should be avoided in the written language, and "all right" should be avoided in all formal contexts of use of the language. "Okay" and "OK" are also very informal. Replace these words with "fine" or

"acceptable" in formal English. When writing dialogue, be sure to write "all right," not "alright." There is one time when you must use "alright," and that is when you quote text from an author who made the mistake.

Anyways - The proper word is "anyway." "Anyways" is always the incorrect variant and should be avoided in the written language.

Anybody, anyone - "Anyone" and its variants are more formal than "anybody" and its variants. This is because the word "body" derives from German word "botah" whereas the word "one" derives from the Greek word "oiné," meaning "ace on a die." Both words do derive from Old English ("bodig" and "_n"), but their etymology can be traced much farther.

I didn't see anybody.
I saw no one.

W e always like to read intelligible writings. Some writers tend to use complicated and unintelligible phrases which com-

How to improve your reading skills

I mproving your reading skills can be one of the most important steps you can take in order to enhance your educational life as well as your personal life. No matter what reading level you may be in at the present time, you can improve your skills by increasing your reading speed as well as your level of comprehension.

We were taught to read words starting on the left side of the page and proceed to the right. As our eyes move across words, they tend to make short, jumpy movements. Whenever our eyes stop on a word, that is known as *fixa-*

tion. Some people tend to fixate on one word at one time. This leads to slow reading. The best way you can improve your reading speed is to fixate on a larger group of words at one time. Learn to avoid fixating on words like *a, an, the, or*, etc. These words are insignificant and can usually be passed without missing the point of the story, essay, article, etc. The larger the group of words you learn to fixate on, the faster your reading speed will become automatically.

Look at this sentence: *Linguistics is the study of language.* The key words are *linguistics, study, language*. By concentrating on them, you can understand



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the message of the sentence. The other words - *is, the, of* - can be read over quickly without missing the essential information that the sentence has to offer. The point is not to skip over or omit words in your reading, but to concentrate instead on the important words which convey the essential message of the sentence.

Another hindrance to speed in reading is the practice of moving your lips while you read. Moving your lips is simply a way of concentrating on the material that you are reading. It is a negative practice that tends to slow your eye movement down. You can put an

end to this bad habit by making yourself stop moving your lips. As your reading speed increases, you will not continue this bad habit because your eyes will be moving too fast.

Lack of concentration is another problem in reading. You can overcome this problem by practicing to improve your level of concentration every day. Set a short amount of time, such as ten to fifteen minutes on your watch. Have your book or other chosen reading material ready, and start reading. Do not care about any noises that you may hear. Make a conscious effort and ignore everything else in the room

except the material you are reading. When the watch goes off, immediately stop reading. Now, test yourself by recalling what you have just read. Check back to the text and see how much information you actually remembered. If your recall was not very good, re-read the text and time yourself again, then try to recall the information once more. Practice this reading exercise every day and increase your reading time.

Like everything else that is worth doing, practice makes perfect, and the more you read, the better reader you will become!

Cheating is corroding Educational system in Yemen



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O ne really feels sad and disappointed whenever one tries to have a look at the educational system of Yemen. In comparison to that of other countries, the educational system in Yemen is in a deteriorating situation. It is getting worse and worse every year. A lot of students are dependent on cheating. Whenever one asks them about this, they say that the students who cheat always get higher averages than those

who depend on their abilities. This is really the bitter fact that cannot be ignored.

I would like to bear testimony to this idea by citing an incident that took place a few months ago. One of the students got 91% as overall average in the secondary school exam. When I asked him how he got that high score there was a shocking reply. He said that he was a careless student. Actually he knew almost nothing. "We get everything solved during examination and so I didn't have to tire myself and study hard," he added. Nevertheless, he was not surprised when he received his result. "It is not mine and I do not deserve that," he said. He lately got a scholarship to a foreign country. He was very happy at the thought of going and studying abroad.

Unfortunately, he failed in the admission test and returned back home disappointed, blaming himself and all of those who helped him to cheat. "It was a disaster for me," he noted. Now he has dropped out of study and become idle. That is the ultimate out-

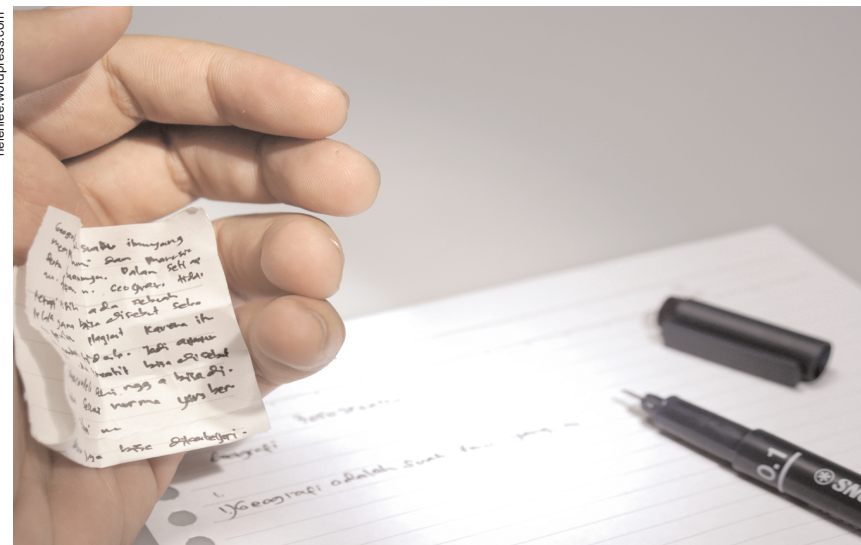
come of cheating! Who is responsible for this?! This question and many other questions should be answered by those who have the authority.

Cheating is a very bad habit that every one in the society is concerned about. As education is the foundation stone of a civilization, Yemen will not make any progress unless such dangerous phenomena are rooted out.

The tragic situation mentioned above is not the only of its kind. There are many other tragedies which take place as a result of cheating.

Cheating brings nothing but disgrace and loss of future prospects. No successful individual has ever tried to cheat.

Teachers are much to blame for this ugly practice since it is their responsibility to make their students aware of the dangerous consequences of cheating. They should teach them to be able to distinguish the right from the wrong



and help them acquire self-confidence.

Cheating phenomenon has been and still is a challenge for the decision makers and a threat to the present and the future generations.

"Cheating phenomenon should be taken into account and put before decision makers in Ministry of Education.

Anti-corruption committee and civil society organizations should come out with practical solutions that could save the educational process from collapsing," said Hasen Aljameely, manager of Education office in Mawia.

"I think it is fair to say that most high positions in the society are prac-

ticing cheating which encourages the younger generation to cheat," said Abdullah Alhassani, teacher of English." It is a very complicated issue. You can see some unfaithful teachers or security guards who do help cheating students which is really catastrophic!" Alhassani added.

To sum up, the society, teachers, students, parents and the government are responsible for the disastrous phenomenon of cheating. We should take immediate measures to eradicate this evil; otherwise, it will be too late for correction. Cheating nowadays is not only confined in rural areas but has reached urban areas and the universities as well.

So, let us fight cheating and carve out a better future for Yemen. We should leave no stones unturned to show to all people how dangerous cheating is. Before it destroys us, we should stand firm and safeguard the country's future by the abolition of the phenomenon of cheating from all sectors in Yemen.

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

- What is a 'shooting star'?
a. Nebula
b. Nova
c. Comet trail
d. Meteor
- A virus infecting a bacteria is known as
a. Coliphage
b. Bacteriophage
c. Microphage
d. None of these
- What is Haemophilia?
a. Blood deficiency
b. Slow blood coagulation
c. Blood formation
d. Blood circulation
- Why do animals fluff up their hair in cold weather?
a. To cover exposed areas
b. To trap warm air
c. To look beautiful
d. Reasons unknown
- The oil rises in wicks of lamps because of
a. Surface tension
b. Capillary action
c. Evaporation
d. Unknown reason

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- We hear roaring when a sea shell is places near the ear because **due to multicurved inner surface it produces multireflections producing vibration which resemble sea roar.**
- The genetic material in human beings is **DNA.**
- The most abundant polymer present on our planet is **wood.**
- Fission process is a **nuclear reaction.**
- The immediate environment of organism is called **Macroclimate.**

POETRY CORNER

Welcome to Yemen

Rania A. Hagag

For the beloved place where I belong
My love blossoms in a song
I exhort my darling country and say
How glorious you are today, Yemen!
Where from shall I begin?
With old Sana'a I should start
Describing its beautiful white heart
Where old fashioned houses built of
mud enhance its grandeur
And people wear their traditional
attire
And children with big smile say
"Welcome to Yemen."
Standing on Bab Al-Yemen I
remember
When my old great country became
free
And history was rewritten
It proclaimed:
"Live as free as ever."
Look to the world with eyes of
wonder, and say
"Welcome" to everyone who comes
here.

Aden, O, Aden
Aden is Yemen's bride as she has
always been
White is her dress and blue is her sea
She is my dearest abode of peace
Where I can go down merrily
Giving myself to the waves
And with fishermen I can sail.

You can just be sure
In Ibb that you are
O, boy
On the green field I lie in peace
Gazing at the blue sky
And in silence I smell the fresh air
And listen to the vaquero's music
The rhythm of his traditional song
Ah, Yemen
How many places can you show me?
And every part of you's inscribed
inside me
You can come to Yemen to enjoy
The beautiful places that are forever a
joy
Live your dream in this enchanted
land
"Welcome to Yemen," I must add.

The word and its impact



Khalid Albahry
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Level (2)
Faculty of Arts
Dhamar University

T here are a lot of things that affect the feelings of people. The word is one of those that have a significant impact on the speaker. Words make a good or bad impression. A person can exercise control on his words before he pronounces them, but his word controls the person after he pronounces it.

Commonly, we hear some students say "I can't understand anything", "I'm a bad student", "I'm stupid" or

things like this. Those who say like this don't know what will be their effect on them. Therefore, a student who says, "I can't understand anything" really can't understand anything because when he says like this, the sentence enters his subconscious and creates a psychological barrier. Thus, his mind will refuse to receive any information because his mind is closed. Also when a person says "I'm stupid," this sentence can make its speaker really stupid.

Similarly, if we cultivate a positive attitude and accustom ourselves to saying good sentences with a positive meaning or implication, surely, these sentences will make a good impact on the speaker and the hearer as well. Therefore, we can say "I'm clever", "I have confidence", "I can and I will" instead of those defeatist words. In addition, we must believe that good words help us in our life and build our confidence.

Since the words can make a good or bad impact, you must remember that your words must be chosen carefully.

REPORT

ELT seminar on *New Aspirations*



Mahmood Akhter
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UST, Sana'a

of Science and Technology and Dr. Mahmood Shamsheer from Sana'a University.

The guest speaker of the seminar was Paul Selingan, who is an expert on teacher training and an assessor for CELTA. He has also co-authored *American English File* and *New English File* for Oxford University Press and contributed to a number of other reputed publications.

The seminar focused on the increasing need for general as well as academic English language skills and suggested the parameters and principles of an up-to-date approach for an efficient acquisition of English as a foreign language. The needs for communicating faster with a richer content and having a better control over English communication skills were discussed in the seminar. Deliberations also threw light on the ways to incorporate fresh ideas to cater to the changing communicative needs of a globalized world.



Participants from UST with Paul Selingan

Oxford University Press organized an ELT Teacher Training Seminar on the theme *New Aspirations* in collaboration with Yemen Book Shop on 19th March in Movenpick Hotel, Sana'a. The seminar was attended by a number of teachers and professors from Yemen including Mahmood Akhter and Dr. Ramakanta Sahu from University

INTERVIEW

Center of Languages, Ibb University: Foundation & aspirations

Establishment of Center of Languages has added a feather in the colored cap of Ibb University. It is the culmination of the university's endeavors to enrich the community's competence in a wide spectrum of languages. With a view to unfolding the university's perceptions and perspectives behind this project Mr. Abdu Talib met Dr. Abdul Hafeed Fakeeh, the Dean of the Center.



Dr. Abdul Hafeed Fakeeh, Dean

First of all, we would like you to give us a brief idea about the rationale of setting up the Center.

At the outset, I would like to thank Yemen Times for its coverage of the academic activities in all Yemeni universities as well as for giving me the opportunity to give a brief idea about the Center of Languages in Ibb University. Our university leadership headed by Professor Ahmed Shugaa' Al-Deen, realized the dire need of establishing the Center of Languages in order to (1) take care of the language requirement courses (i.e. English, Arabic and French) and (2) hold short and long term training courses in foreign languages such as English, French, German ...etc. for the university administrative and academic staff so as to improve their proficiency in language skills, particularly in English language which has become the global language in our modern time. Our university aims to offer different language programmes to the local community as well with the aim of strengthening the partnership between the university and the local people in the

governorate in a way that would contribute to the development of all stakeholders concerned.

How supportive has the university administration been to make the center operational?

The university leadership has been quite alive to meet the administrative and academic training needs of the university as well as those of the community. I take this opportunity to thank the Rector Prof Ahmed Shugaa' Al Deen and Vice Rector, Prof Al-Jawfy, for their endless support which helped me a lot to accelerate efforts to make the Center a reality.

What is the scope and areas of operation of the Center?

The Center will contribute enormously to the academic development of the university in terms of designing teaching materials for the university requirement courses in both Arabic and English and constantly improving them. The Center plans to offer short-term and long-term qualifying language courses tailored to

What is distinctive about the Center?

The Center has highly qualified and committed faculty. They all have wide experience in teaching foreign languages. In addition to promoting professionalism it will be a rich resource center in the area of study of and research on the foreign languages concerned.

Do you face any obstacles? If so, how do you plan to overcome these?

The greatest obstacle on the way of achieving sustainable development for the Center is the financial constraints imposed by the Ministry of Finance which has reduced 50% of the running costs of all Yemeni universities because of the world financial crisis. We had for sometime a problem of finding out the most suitable and attractive location and building for the Center: but we overcame it by making some arrangements with the College of Commerce and Administrative Sciences and the Faculty of Arts. We exchanged buildings assigned for classrooms and offices. Now all parties are happy and satisfied. We have now a separate location and headquarters for the Center.

Do you maintain any links with any other similar centers in the other universities?

Of course, we have envisaged an efficient network of personal and professional relationship. We maintain good links with almost all Centers and Faculties of Languages in Yemeni universities. We usually exchange information and benefit from each other's experience. We have asked our counterparts in Sana'a and Taiz universities to provide us with some technical assistance since our Center is newly established.

As the Dean of the Center, how do you visualize its future growth and development?

Since the Center is newly established, we need to work hard in order to meet the hopes and aspirations of both the university and the society. We have to continue to strive for academic excellence which will make the Center and the University a distinguished and prestigious institution of learning. We need to plan in advance for better strategic success and work hard within the framework of a studied policy. I am hopeful that the Center will achieve its future short-term and long-term academic goals pertaining to both the university and the local community.

We shall leave no stones unturned to enhance the visibility of the Center as an institution of academic excellence of an international standard. We believe that action speaks louder than words.

Any last comments?

We have our own ambitious plans, in terms of delivering good language training program modules, developing and updating the university requirement courses and expanding the scope of our experience and services to the local society based on the market needs. We have plans as well to improve our infrastructure and capabilities for a better future.



Mr. Abu Talib in conversation with Dr. Abdul Hafeed Fakeeh



The Center of Languages, Ibb University

YOUTH FORUM

Pressure of exam

In life there are a lot of situations that make people worried and nervous. Taking an exam is one of the most common situations that make students very anxious and terrified. As a university student I can say that I am one of those students who feel awfully disturbed in the exam hall, however well-prepared they are for it. Of course being in the university for some time, I have developed fear resistance and slowly am learning the art of overcoming learning difficulties. I would like to share my experience in this regard with fresh students who are very likely to confront similar obstacles in future.

To overcome fear of exam, I have developed some practical strategies - I go to bed early, have proper diet, enough rest, and go to exam hall well on time. Preparing for the exam should not be a task for the night before the exam. Actually it should start a few days before the exam. Getting enough time helps you store a lot of information that you need for your exam. Praying to God and obeying parents give you relief and self assurance.

My handwriting is normally legible; but when I come to do my exam it gets very bad and hazy. This is partly because I am worried and my hands shake because of my fear of the exam. I, like many other students, have slips of pen as well. This is why I get low marks in the exam. When invigilators talk in the exam hall I get even worse. I cannot concentrate on what I write. What a poor girl I am! I wish my teachers took all those factors into account when they evaluate students' papers.

In general, I can say that the first year in college with all its ups and downs is a new experience for fresh students. It helps them discover their weaknesses and go ahead, develop new study skills, overcome difficulties and take exams confidently. To achieve all these a college freshman needs to have a good circle of friends who instill self confidence into him or her. This may not seem too easy for some, but it is a good strategy to achieve success.

Tagreed Ali Sarhan Al-Meklafi
Level one, English Department
Faculty of Education, Taiz

Another problem I faced is my

The best teacher

Teacher is as a leader. He is a candle that always burns itself to light others' life. Since he has all these attributes, he is supposed to transmit the information efficiently to the students without any difficulties.

From my point of view, I can say that the ideal teacher should be honest with himself before being honest with the students. He should zealously acquire, assimilate and retain knowledge as if it is a piece of ornamented glass which must be carefully preserved, scrupulously protected and duly delivered to the target audience. Patience is another important feature which must be found in his personality. One method to attract the students' attention is to deal with them as if you are their elder brother. I am still a student, so I know and feel the students' thinking.

Another important point is that the classroom should be quiet, relaxed, controlled and full of interest and enthusiasm. And the one who can really achieve all these is the teacher who has excellent pedagogical skills. Students always need someone to ask and con-

sult when they have any difficulty. So the teacher should have a large heart in which the entire world is projected. Teacher's duties are to ask students about their problems and guide them to face these boldly. He should always guide them and give the solution for their problems. Furthermore, to ask students if his way of teaching is suitable or not, is one of the teacher's duties. The good teacher is expected to know whether the lessons that he teaches are understood by students or not. Besides, teaching is an art; it is not a matter of earning salary, no, it is a religious message as Allah the Almighty has delivered in the Holy Qur'an.

To sum up, I can say 'teacher' is a great word which means a lot of responsibilities, kindness and morals. I am really proud to utter the word 'teacher'. Teachers, you are the prophet's heirs.

Wafaa Saied Salem Bashataly
Level - I
Department of English
Faculty of Arts
Ibb University

University ship

When you are beginning the trip, you have emotions, feelings more than when you are at the end of that trip.

I just characterized our life at university as a trip on a ship.

When we come to the university, we are in a stage of life in which we can shape our personalities, emotions and so on. We have left the childhood behind and are through adolescence. We have reached a stage of independence when we can say 'No' for the wrong things and 'Yes' for the right things with big open mouths. Besides, on board of the ship, we have faced the good and the bad, felt relaxed and terrible, experienced light and darkness around us with a strong heart. We feared sometimes or stopped at other times but we haven't weakened because we have a desire to excel. 'If there is a will there is a way.'

In fact, through this trip, we cried and laughed together. We passed the storm that faced us in the middle of the ocean with a strong faith and a high degree of confidence. We are now ready to arrive to the port in which our ship is going to stop for sometime to fuel and to take other passengers. Each one of us is going to go his or her own way and choose another ship that takes him to the next destination.

Anyway, I am not going to say 'good bye' because I hate this word but I'm gonna say when we are together again I'll remember you my friends, my teachers, my university because I have all your pictures in my mind.

Hayfa'a Annamer
Level 4, Education
University of Science and Technology
Sana'a

To Gaza

Khalid Khalid in yarmouk,
Put the Zions under boot,
Let their leaders under foot.
Mr. Mr. you forgot.
It is a crime to sink the boat,
Our weapons will be hot,
In Faluja they have taught,
Mr. Mr. you forgot.
Gaza Gaza wear the coat,
It is time for the fight.
If the enemy will be caught,
It is better not to shoot.
Never mind never thought,
Our Grad will be brought.



Omer Makarem
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Level 4
Faculty of Education
Siyun

Difficult to feel

It is so difficult to feel that you are full of love for someone, but your love can't be revealed although it lies still in your heart. It may be called *sleeping love* which no one knows. What is a solace, however, is the feeling that the one you love feels the same as you do. True, there is a certain amount of wishful thinking from each of you, but you still optimistically look forward to the hour when you can reveal what goes in your heart. Time goes and doesn't wait for any one or come back. So, we have to boldly break the ice.

Yahia Al-Sabri
Level I
Dept. of English
Ibb Univ.

READERS WRITE

Dear Dr. Sahu,
Thank you for the educational issues in the Yemen Times.

Abeer Mohammed
Level 4
English Department
Taiz University

Dear Dr. Sahu,
You're the most helpful professor in Yemen. I owe my improvement in English to you.

Mohammed Al-Qahtani
qahtani22@yahoo.com