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EDUCATION
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Wahabi extremists behind foreign aid workers' murder

By: Mohammed bin Sallam and Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SA'ADA, June 17 — Wahabi religious groups were involved in the kidnapping of the nine foreigners in Sa'ada last Friday, which led to three of them being found dead on Monday, according to a local source from Sa'ada who requested to remain anonymous.

The group had been on an outing on a farm in Ghuraz on the outskirts of Sa'ada city on Friday. On their way home, their 4x4 Toyota was intercepted by three armed men with beards in a black Suzuki Grand Vitara.

According to the source, a Yemeni nurse working with four of the kidnapped Germans at Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sa'ada said she received a call from the Germans as they were harassed by the kidnapers. She reported the attack to the local authority and Houthis leaders. We were not able to contact this lady as she refused to answer the phone.

The bodies of the Korean teacher Young-Sun Ium, 34 and two German nurses Anita Gruenwald, 25, Rita Stumpp, 26 were found by local shepherds on Monday. A German engineer, his wife and their three children as well as the Briton engineer are still missing.

According to Dr. Hambous Hussein, general director of the Sa'ada Health Office, the dead women were not mutilated. "I had seen the bodies myself and they had several gunshot wounds in the head, chest or back, as if the women were struggling and trying to escape.

We found their bodies three days after their death, so they were swollen and somewhat disfigured from being exposed to natural decay in hot weather."

Houthi spokesperson Saleh Habra speculated that Askar Zu'ael who is a local Wahabi religious leader and imam of a mosque in the Ghiraz area where the foreigners were kidnapped is involved. According to the spokesperson, Zu'ael is Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar's delegate in charge of jihad affairs.

Al-Ahmar is the military commander of North West Yemen, and is known for his extremist religious positions and relations with Al-Qaeda, he is allegedly in charge of training jihadis in Yemen before sending them to Afghanistan, Iraq among other conflict zones.

Paul Lieveverse, a spokesman for Worldwide Services, the Dutch-based aid group for which the women worked, told the German news agency DPA that the group places health workers on postings in the developing world for periods of up to two years.

Another 21 people from the same aid group are still present in Sa'ada city. The initial group of 25 people including the two murdered German nurses, missing German doctor and his wife represent Worldwide Services' biggest overseas operation.

Currently the 21 members of Worldwide Services working in Al-Jumhuri Hospital are taking extra safety precautions and the hospital, in state of emergency, has been shut down until

further notice. At least half of the workers of Dutch, German and Korean nationalities have already left to Sana'a on a private plane, while the other half is preparing to leave.

Similarly Al-Salam Hospital, in a Houthi dominated area, has been temporarily closed down as its staff and hundreds of others went to the streets in a bilingual demonstration condemning the terrorist act and sympathizing with the kidnapped foreigners.

According to The Independent, two of the murdered women belonged to a Bible school in Germany and had links with a Baptist charity operating in Yemen. The third victim was a Korean who worked for an aid organization with religious affiliations.

Some citizens in Sa'ada claim that these doctors have been doing missionary work and this is why they have been murdered, especially after local imams talked about their missionary work through providing medical aid.

Yet until last week, aid workers have been peacefully operating in Sa'ada and assisting Yemeni medical staff in providing health care for the community. Just two days before their tragic incident, the German nurses had been to district of Al-Safra to inspect the maternity services of the health unit there. The week before, they had been to Al-Maraheedh Hospital near the Saudi border to give medical support.

"We were just planning for an eye treatment camp with the help of a Korean doctor and specialists from the



A room in Jibla Museum is dedicated to the memory of Martha Myers, 57, a physician from Alabama, William Koehn, 60, an administrator from Texas and Kathleen Gariety, 53, a purchasing agent from Wisconsin who were killed by a religious extremist in 2002.

hospital," said Dr. Hussein. "Now with this tragedy all has been cancelled."

The murder is similar to the one in 2002 when three American Southern Baptist missionaries working in Peace Hospital, the former Jibla Baptist Hospital were slain by a religious extremist, Ali Al-Jarallah. The latter was executed in November 2005 while his accomplice Abdulrazzaq Al-Kamil, was also sentenced to death in February 2006.

In July 1998, three Roman Catholic

nuns were killed by automatic gunfire outside their clinic for the elderly and impoverished in Hodeida where they worked, by a suspected Muslim extremist. All were sisters of the Missionaries of Charity order. The victims were identified as Sister Zilia, 35, from Bihar, India, Sister Aletta, 37, from Orissa, India, and Sister Michaela, 37, from Cebu, the Philippines. The murderer, Abdullah Al-Nasheri, 22, was executed by a death sentence in April 2003.

Reports that two of the three German

children - a boy of one year and a girl four years old- have been denied by the official sources, especially since the bodies of the deceased have been delivered to Sana'a without mention of children.

State helicopters have been combing the area in search for the hostages or any clues leading to them since the incident on Friday. A German investigative team has arrived on Tuesday to help Yemeni authorities investigate the issue and hopefully find the hostages alive.

Yemen reports five swine flu cases

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, June 17 — Yemen confirmed a total of five swine flu cases in the country Wednesday and declared a state of emergency, less than a week after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the first pandemic in 40 years.

Swine flu had been inching closer to Yemen since it first entered the Middle East on April 28, with the first reported case in Israel. On Tuesday, Yemen reported its first case, a 16 year-old student, returning from the US.

All five cases, in Aden and Sana'a, are said to be students returning from the US for the summer holidays.

Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Jordan and Oman also have confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, which, according to WHO, brings cases in the region to over 100.

"We received the [first] call on

Monday [from Aden]," said Abdul Hakeem Al-Kuhlani, director of combating diseases and epidemic observation at the Ministry of Health. "The young man's mother, who is a medical doctor was able to notice the symptoms and contacted the authorities."

"Fortunately, most of the parents that do send their children overseas, like in the US, are educated, as they are either doctors or engineers, that helps in identifying potential cases," he added.

"The patient is being quarantined at home according to the international guidelines approved by the WHO and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta," he said. "Only one member of his family is in contact with him, and he is wearing a mask and taking medication."

"All five cases are recovering at their homes, in tandem with WHO measures," added Dr. Mohamed Jahaf, an epidemiologist who is also deputy

director of combating diseases and epidemic observation at the ministry.

Yemen seems to be moving quickly to detect and deal with any cases of the flu: "Our response is more efficient and quicker," said Al-Kuhlani. "When patients arrive at the airport they are not met first with the immigration officials, but by health staff. They measure their temperature to determine whether they have a fever, and check for any other symptoms."

Within days of the first case being discovered, Aden airport was also set up with a heat detector test: "Our staff is positioned in the airports so that, even if airlines do not ask passengers to fill out the health declaration forms, we get it done at the airport," he added.

"No international air passenger should be exempt from screening," said Al-Kuhlani. "Even the health minister was screened."

However, a diplomat who arrived in Sana'a last week says, "I wasn't screened, nor was I given a health dec-

laration form to fill out."

"In every governorate, including in the far off island of Socotra, we have a network for combating diseases. They are fully equipped with medication, diagnostic kits and trained health professionals," said Al-Kuhlani.

Ministers of health from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held a meeting on May 27 in Riyadh, said Al-Kuhlani. Yemen as head of the GCC on health issues chaired the meeting that discussed each country on a case-by-case basis.

"We unanimously agreed that we need to focus on airports," he said. "For ports, we agreed that each country knows their circumstances. We agreed unanimously that for arrival by sea there is no need to check for swine flu, but if there are more than 1,000, we could change our plans."

Last year, almost 50,000 refugees from Africa arrived on Yemen's shores. Two countries in North Africa, Morocco and Egypt have reported

cases.

Symptoms

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of influenza and of influenza-like illnesses in general, namely chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing, weakness and general discomfort.

The strain responsible for the 2009 swine flu outbreak in most cases causes only mild symptoms and the infected person makes a full recovery without requiring medical attention and without the use of anti-viral medicines.

The best defense, repeated again and again by doctors in recent weeks, is for people to wash their hands frequently, avoid touching their eyes, noses and mouths, and cover their mouths when they sneeze or cough and stay home if they feel ill.

While the vast majority of deaths have been reported in Mexico, the US

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has so far reported the greater number of infections. In the region, neighboring Saudi Arabia reported 14 detected cases since the kingdom early this month.

Scientists say the new strain of H1N1 is killing not only those in 'high risk' groups, for example the elderly, the very young and those with compromised immune systems, but also healthy people.

There were three pandemics in the 20th Century: the Spanish influenza in 1918, the Asian influenza in 1957, and the Hong Kong influenza in 1968.

According to the WHO, the 1918 pandemic killed between 40 million and 50 million people worldwide, making it one of the deadliest epidemics in human history.

According to the latest tally by the World Health Organization, 77 countries and regions have officially reported at least 36,000 cases of influenza H1N1 infection, including 163 deaths.

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Yemen asks for help in facing potential starvation

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

ADEN, June 14 -Yemen has asked for help from the World Bank and the European Union to face the potential upcoming famine that many officials and experts are currently warning about.

A joint team of members from the Yemeni government and the International Institute for Food Security Research is studying a national strategy for food security in Yemen. The study is financed by the German government through the GTZ and is worth 7 million.

The Yemeni government, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, has held many meetings and workshops recently to assess the impact of a nationwide price hike and a possible energy crisis. The government has urged the necessity to reconsider the structural formation of the agricultural sector in order to overcome challenges of poverty alleviation.

The government further asked for support from the European Union and the World Bank to prepare a food security strategy.

In response to Yemen's request, the World Bank and the International Institute have already proposed a comprehensive analysis for food security. The analysis takes into account economic issues as a whole in order to determine priority of investments in the agricultural sector, said a source in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.



One in three Yemenis already suffers from chronic hunger coupled with high rates of poverty at 35 percent

The source said that the final report of the new strategy would be launched at the beginning of September this year.

The strategy focuses on providing useful contributions to the sustainable improvement of Yemen's food security program and enhances the access of the poor to food. It also plans to increase agricultural production through traditional methods and raise awareness about the consumption of qat.

Experts say that major challenges currently face Yemen which will lead the country to certain food scarcities and maybe even famine. Some of the reasons for this are a declining economy, political instability and high population growth at 3.02 percent per year.

Moreover, International Cooperation and Planning Minister Abdul Kareem Al-Arhabi has said that the agriculture sector still has weaknesses, the main one being low production due to water scarcity and climate change.

He said that 31 percent of Yemeni's workforce are farmers who contribute 20 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

According to 2004 statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture, the total cultivated land in Yemen is 1,188,888 hectares. Crops cultivated include cereals, fruits, vegetables, fodder, and qat. The statistics also showed that cereals were cultivated on 685,491 hectares, producing 487,944 tons a year, while the cultivation of qat covers

122,844 hectares, with an annual production of 118,207 tons.

The Ministry of Water and Environment said Yemen was unable to produce wheat due to its limited water resources. The ministry also confirmed that water tanks built on mountainous areas go towards the irrigation of qat, the cultivation of which increases by 10 percent a year at the cost of grain cultivation.

Yemen is currently importing 90 percent of its food, according to the World Food Program.

Former Prime Minister and Presidential Adviser Abdulkareem Al-Eriani has warned that Yemen could suffer from famine next year because of drought, economic crises and continued political unrest that Yemen has been undergoing for months.

"The economic situation is very dire," Al-Eriani stated to Reuters, referring to the drop in oil prices worldwide as well as weakening local production. Oil revenue, which formed 75 percent of Yemen's public revenue and accounts for 90 percent of export income, sank 75 percent in the first three months of this year, down to \$365 million from \$1.46 billion in the same quarter in 2008, according to the Central Bank.

According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, one in three Yemenis already suffers from chronic hunger coupled with high rates of poverty at 35 percent, unemployment at 35 percent, illiteracy at 45.7 percent, high infant and child mortality rates as well as high maternal mortality.

Locust infestation threatens Yemeni Agricultural season

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

ADEN, June 16 — The current locust outbreak in the governorates of Shabwa, Hadramout, Marib and other eastern provinces is expected to expand as an invasion of locust swarms from the Horn of Africa is imminent. The swarm is expected to land in Yemen sometime during the next few days.

The southwest monsoon winds are expected to carry the swarms across the Gulf of Aden, following which they will arrive along the coast of the south-eastern parts of the country.

"The locust situation deteriorated in Yemen and northern Somalia where hopper bands and swarms formed at the end of May," said the latest forecast by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). "Although control operations have mounted in both countries as well as in adjacent areas of Ethiopia, there is a high risk that more small swarms will form by mid-June in northern Somalia and Yemen."

Early May, locust hatching occurred in the interior of Yemen along the edge of Ramlat Sabatayn, Al-Hazm, Ataq, Al-Abr and Wadi Hadramout. Hoppers formed small bands with densities up to 200 hoppers per square meter.

"Unless more rains fall, most of the swarms that formed in early June are likely to move into crops in Wadi Hadramout and the central highlands while some swarms could move towards Oman and across the Arabian Sea to Pakistan and India," added the

FAO forecast.

The Yemen Ministry of Agriculture previously declared that the Desert Locust Control Center (DLCC) is equipped with requirements for locust control and boasts a readiness to cope with the development of the locust problem.

The ministry said that the presence of shepherds and beekeepers in the targeted treatment sites is the main difficulty facing ground control operations, which could lead to an increase in locust breeding and spreading.

Yemeni ground control operations commenced from 24 to 29 May and have treated 1,275 hectares of hopper bands in Shabwah, Minwakh and southwest Thamud, according to the FAO.

Around 74 percent of the people in Yemen's rural areas rely completely on agriculture to make a living. Locusts moving into agricultural areas in valleys and central highlands are a significant threat to agriculture in these areas and may lead to a serious food crisis in the country.

Regarding the methods of fighting locust swarms, many Yemenis catch and eat them. Locusts are added to daily meals and sold in the markets in some areas as people believe they contain vitamins and nutrients. Some Yemenis even call locusts 'Sahara shrimp.'

In 2007, Yemen witnessed the worst locust infestation of its kind in almost 15 years. It caused serious damages to pastures which affected beekeeping and camel breeding.

Algerian-Palestinian hip hop in Yemen

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, June 17 — Yemen's young hip hop culture is to be spiced up, as a team of Franco-Algerian, French and Palestinian artists has landed in Yemen for a five-day workshop with local talent to culminate in a concert on Sunday evening.

Franco-Algerian DJ Malik Berki, DJ Malik on stage, has returned to Yemen for the second time with Gazateam, a Franco-Palestinian group, to celebrate this year's Fête de la Musique, an annual celebration of music in France to showcase its young talents.

The French Cultural Center in Yemen is organizing the event, which will give young Yemeni-based break dancers the rare chance to show off their talent, and feature Yemeni artists including singer Shurok and oud player Abdelatif Yacoub.

Berki first came to Yemen last year for a similar hip hop concert. Staff at Sana'a International Airport stared in disbelief as he made his way out from the baggage hall with his turntables but, he says, his first concert in the country was a great success.

This year, Berki and Gazateam will adapt one of the group's sets with local musicians playing the oud, tabla and violin.

The lyrics, in Arabic, are expected to speak to the Yemeni public, as are some of the topics addressed through their music.

"Gazateam come from Gaza [in Palestine]," explained Berki. "What they sing is not anti-Israeli, they talk about what they have lived. They demand justice, freedom to circulate and land. There are no added layers, it's intelligent."

Franco-Algerian rapper Naili first



Gazateam practice with Yemeni musicians for Sunday's hip hop concert, a performance to fuse the contemporary with the traditional.

discovered Gazateam's Palestinian artists on tour in the Middle East in 2005: "I was struck by the beauty and talent of their writing," he said. "I felt it was wasted talent, they had no structure to develop it."

"Gaza is the biggest prison in the world: It's high-tech, but it's a prison all the same," he said, explaining that, as their friendship grew, so did political tension and the intensity of Israel's embargo on the strip.

In January 2008, when the wall was brought down at Rafah on the border with Egypt, the three Palestinian members of Gazateam escaped into Egypt, and eventually made it to France where they joined Naili to form their crew.

"A lot of my friends use weapons, but I use music," said Khaled Abu Humaid, 24, one of Gazateam's rappers. "We want to show the whole human world that we want to live like all people. We want marriage, we want kids. We are still human beings."

Instead of taking up arms, Gazateam members Khaled Abu Humaid, Nour

Abueed and Mohammed Al-Najjar have traveled through France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Morocco to present the plight of their people in music. Gazateam now has 50 concerts and one album to its name.

But Palestinian hip hop is not US hip hop, said Abu Humaid, who likes US rappers' music, but not their explicit lyrics: "[In hip hop], you tell the truth," he said. "I want to change tomorrow, make it better for me. I want to see kids have a better life."

"In hip hop, there are no racial barriers, no frontiers," added Naili, who described the musical genre as a passion, a movement and set of principles in which he finds himself. "It's taking and adopting everything positive from all cultures."

The French Cultural Center's break dancers embody just this. From Yemen, Iraq, Sudan and Tanzania, they have started training for Sunday night's performance, for some even despite end-of-term university exams.

Led by French break dancer John

Martine, who has been spinning in the limelight since the age of eight, they are practicing their moves to ensure the French musical celebration is both a visual and acoustic sensation.

"When I came to Yemen, hip hop was something to do [instead of] chewing qat," explained Mohammed Ghazan, 22, an Iraqi Civil Engineering student at the Science and Technology University in Sana'a.

"Hip hop in Yemen is slowly growing and getting more popular, but, at the moment, it's still very underground," he added, adding that in Qatar, where he lives, hip hop is already much more public.

Break dancing is usually limited to private parties with friends in Yemen, agreed Ali Fadhl, 21, also an Iraqi student in Dentistry at the same university, who sat one of his final exams on Wednesday morning in between rehearsals.

"I love dancing with the beat," said Yemeni Yusuf Al-Wari, 19, who is part of a four-man break dancing team in Malaysia where he studies, "I love the footwear."

"Yemen is the cradle of civilization, and I am very proud to be here," said Naili. "Especially when one has a strong identity, one should not be afraid of all that is new and strange."

Arab hip hop has emerged over the last decade. Especially in Lebanon, the UAE and Qatar, male and even female rappers have taken up the microphone to tell the world about their concerns, and promote moral behavior in both Arabic and English.

Hip hop was born in the 1970s on the streets of the Bronx in New York City as African American youth used the medium to express their struggle and channel their frustration.

USD 80 million factory for electric cables established

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, June 15 — The Egyptian Assuwaiddi Company for Cables established a factory for electric cables in Yemen with an investment cost estimated at \$ 80 million. The company will start operating via a plan based on two main phases.

"The factory started production in its 'soft opening' phase but the factory is not formally open," said Director of Assuwaiddi for Cables - Yemen, Hisham Tala'at.

The factory, in its first phase, will produce lower pressure cables of different sizes and types. These cables are

made of copper and aluminum.

"The factory now produces 12,000 tons of cables annually as a part of its first phase of operations," said Tala'at. The first phase cost \$ 40 million. According to the company director, the factory will be expanded in the future to manufacture middle pressure cables and electric transformers.

Tala'at said that the company is now focusing on covering the Yemeni market with cables and in the future production will target markets in neighboring countries.

The factory provides more than 400 work opportunities for Yemeni and Egyptian administrators and labors

throughout its first phase, according to Tala'at. 80 percent of the workforce of the factory are Yemenis and 20 percent are Egyptians.

The Egyptian Assuwaiddi Company owns 70 percent of the factory's shares while the other 30 percent shares are owned by the Hasan Abdu Jaid Group of Companies. The factory is located in Lahj governorate in the south of Yemen. Although there were problems facing the project, Tala'at said that "we operated the project in record time and fulfilled all that we promised."

Tala'at made it clear that the main problem facing the project is a lack of electricity, water and gas, mainly

because the project is located in a remote area of Lahj. "We bought a power station with an output of three megawatts to operate the factory and dug a well that provides water for us," he said, adding that the station cost the company \$ 1.5 million.

The project is the first of its type in Yemen, which suffers from electricity problems and imports all of its electric tools from neighboring countries.

Assuwaiddi Group of Companies is international and has branches in Sudan, Syria, Algeria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The company produces electric components like cables, lighting towers, transformers and meters.

Yemen prepares for local ruling with broader power

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Sana'a, June 17 — In preparation for further decentralization and in an effort to quiet voices calling for separation, the Ministry of Local Authority conducted conferences across the country last week.

Amid intensified security measures, and the remarkable absence of opposition parties including the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), these conferences began on June 3, and concluded on June 16.

About 16,000 people participated in these conferences including members of local councils, members of parliament, members of the Shoura council, representatives of civil society organizations and dignitaries.

The first conference took place in Abyan, and witnessed a huge protest against the central government in Sana'a, calling for separation.

Vice President Abdu Rabou Mansour Hadi, who is from Abyan, traveled from Sana'a to attend this conference. He listened to the people's sufferings, demands and aspirations. These demands included infrastructure projects, work opportunities, and care for poor and disabled people.

The people demanded that their sheikhs be treated equally to other sheikhs in the country and the reconstruction of the destroyed Khanfar district which witnessed clashes with security forces two months ago. They also demanded compensation for families of persons killed in these incidents. According to officials, the purpose of these conferences is to listen to people's demands, and to formulate a vision for the future to discuss at the forthcoming the Fifth General Conference of the Ministry which aims to boost local authority.

Member of Shoura Council, Ahmad Al-Kuhlani said the first priority of these conferences is evaluating this experiment (local authority) in terms of making decisions and recommendations.

Secondly he said, every year, a general conference for local authority is held on the national level in Sana'a only but this year, these conferences are held in all of the country's governorates.

Sa'ada, which is still suffering from the frequent clashes between the government and Houthi rebels which displaced nearly 40,000 people, also held

a two day conference chaired by Minister of Local Authority Rashad al-Alimi. The people there demanded to return to their homes and basic services such as health, roads, water and electricity.

"We did not want the war, we wanted peace and what has happened was a result of the war we wanted to avoid. This is the natural results of war," said al-Alimi, responding to some Sa'ada's residents' complaints.

The Sana'a Local Council Sub-Conference, held Saturday and Sunday June 12, 13 and chaired by President Saleh's political advisor Abdul-Karim al-Iryani, was unique. It reflected on a problem affecting the whole country: interior migration from across the country to Sana'a and the resulting increase in population.

"Despite great work and accomplishing many service projects, the huge population growth as a result of local immigration to the capital overshadows what we are achieving," said Mayor of Sana'a, Abdurrahman al-Akwa'a.

Al-Akwa'a presented a review in the conference about projects carried out in Sana'a. Most of these projects are infrastructure development, like building bridges.

He said the most important problem in the capital is the great construction expansion in the city. This expansion distorts the face of the capital by increasing unplanned neighborhoods, like Assunaina, Al-Matar, Mathbah and "Allail City," or the Night City.

The conferences across the country focused on people's support to the country's unity, security and stability. They also included gratitude to president Saleh as the one who called for holding the conferences in preparation for decentralization.

But not everyone agreed the conferences were a positive move. "Holding such conferences is nonsense. It means playing with public funds, no more," said Sultan al-Utwani, Chairman of Naserite Party, one of the opposition parties composing the JMP.

"These conferences will not do anything. They will not solve the southern movement and respond to people's demand. We want local rule with complete power not local rule with broader power," said al-Utwani, who was also the head of JMP's block.

"In fact, we want the political system to be changed," he concluded.

In Brief

Yemen to partake in Int'l Exhibition for Tourism, Travel

Yemen is to partake in the International Exhibition for Tourism and Travel to be held in Hong Kong city, China, during June 12 – 15.

The Tourist Promotion Council's Executive Manager Ahmed al-Bail told

Saba that the participation comes within the promoting activities and programs for the Yemeni tourist product and expanding Yemen's broad participations in the international events concerning of tourism.

He indicated that Yemen's participating delegation would exhibit the characteristics of Yemeni tourist product via a group of brochures, models, maps and introducing booklets.

Interesting in adventure tourism in Yemen emerged remarkably during Yemen's participation in Hong Kong Tourist Exhibition in 2007 after choosing Yemen as the best tourist destination for low-income families who search for adventure.

SAADA Al-Alimi launches 3rd phase of Saada reconstruction

Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs and Minister of

Planning and International Cooperation Rashad al-Alimi launched on Sunday a third phase of reconstructing affected regions in Saada governorate which is implemented by Saada reconstruction fund.

The phase includes offering compensation for 1,107 persons who their houses in Bani Muadh and al-Mahadh regions affected and 450 farms damaged in several regions due to rebellion of al-Houthi.

In the first phase, compensations at sum of YR 870 million have been paid for 946 persons who their houses damaged in Sahar, al-Safara, Razah and Qatabar regions. Around YR 1.2 billion has paid as compensations for owners of 1, 340 in 24 villages and housing gathering in the governorate.

Al-Alimi highlighted efforts of the fund that achieved 50 percent of its works in the governorate, saying that the security and stability are main conditions for development and going ahead with efforts of reconstruction in the governorate.

On the other hand, the deputy prime minister opened 125 projects at amount of 1.7 billion in fields of education, health, roads, electricity, water, sports and youths.

He also laid down foundation stones for 69 projects at sum of YR 2.6 bil-

lion including community faculty at total cost of YR 753 million funded by the government

AMRAN Yemen, IFAD discuss coffee, honey products cultivation

Director General of Agriculture and Irrigation Office in Amran governorate Khaled al-Haaj discussed here on Sunday with experts from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) work plan of the cultivation of coffee and honey products in Amran province.

During the meeting, Khaled al-Haaj briefed IFAD's delegation on some of the coffee areas in the governorate and the difficulties faced by the planting process.

The project of coffee and honey cultivation include improvement of irrigation systems, training farmers on ways of improving production, ways of dealing with the crop after harvest and providing them with modern systems for marketing products.

The project, at a cost of \$26 million, aims at supporting coffee-growing areas in Amran governorate and the cultivating in each of Sana'a, Dalei, Lahj, Hodeidah and Dhamar governorates.

TAIZ Child sexual exploitation workshop launched

Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture launched Sunday a workshop on the protection of children against sexual exploitation, organized by Democracy School.

The workshop will be held for three days with the participation of 30 representatives of law enforcement personnel, hospitals staff and police.

It aims to provide the participants with information on the mechanisms of child protection from abuse and sexual exploitation in nursing homes, police stations and hospitals.

At the opening of the workshop, director general of Taiz Security Yahia al-Haisami affirmed readiness to cooperate with civil society organizations in the protection of child rights against abuse and violence.

Chairman of Democracy School Gamal al-Shami said this workshop is the second workshop at the provincial level which comes within the program of child protection from sexual and abuse and exploitation implemented by Democracy School in cooperation with the Comprehensive Development Group for North Africa and the Middle East.

MAHRAH Omani official praises Mahrah development aspects

Director general of the National Heritage and Culture at Dhofar Governorate of Oman Said Qutten praised what have been achieved in Mahrah governorate in various aspects of life.

The Omani official, who is visiting Yemen currently to participate on the celebration of the 19th anniversary of Yemen unification, expressed his satisfaction with this visit during his meeting with Mahrah governor Ali Khawdam.

Mahrah governor affirmed that this visit reflects the depth of Yemeni-Omani relations and what have been achieved in the current stage of development between the two countries.

The Omani official also noted that such a visit is an opportunity to see the economic and architecture development in the province, in addition to the contribution to exchanging experiences in the artistic and cultural aspects.

There is cooperation in the cultural aspect of the two provinces during the coming period which will witness major cultural movement through the establishment of a lot of cultural activities and common heritage, he added.

ADEN Yemen discusses agricultural cooperation with Oman

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mansour al-Hawshabi held Sunday talks with the Omani ambassador to Sana'a Abdullah Hamad al-Badi on the aspect of bilateral cooperation between the two countries particularly in the field of agriculture and irrigation.

The talks dealt with the importance of enhancing relations between the two countries to serve their common interests, particularly in the area of trade, agricultural commodities and livestock.

During the meeting, they reviewed activities of both countries in the area of developing livestock including development of veterinary center in the ports of Yemen and Oman to reduce the spread of epidemics and protect animals from cross-border diseases, in addition to combating the smuggling of livestock.

Both sides affirmed the importance of coordination of livestock technicians and specialists between the two countries, particularly with regards to examination of the safety of animals to be free of diseases and coordination to hold a joint meeting of the veterinary professionals in both countries to talk about ways to protect the livestock sector and improve food security.

Their News

Arab media award for excellence in child rights and young people's participation in development

Media representatives from Middle East & North Africa are invited by UNICEF to share their dedicated efforts to highlight the situation for children and young people participating in the Media Excellence Award in 2009.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) motivates all journalists, children and adolescents in the Arab World to participate in the Arab Media Humanitarian Forum. The award is announced by UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa in conjunction with United Arab Emirates' Al-Bayan Newspaper and The Center for Communication Programms (Johns Hopkins University), in May 2009.

The Media Prize will be awarded for

excellence in reporting in Arab media on: Health Promotion and Behavioral Change. The reportage will be judged on its quality and in-depth analysis of local, national or regional.

Nominee works must adhere to the highest standards of journalism, including clarity of expression, accuracy, fairness and strict observance of ethical guidelines in reporting on children's issues and respecting the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Entries will be assessed by an independent panel of judges comprising media representatives, adolescents and UNICEF.

Prizes will be awarded for four different categories: TV, Radio, print and on-line (web based). The award is open to all materials in Arabic, English and French languages, published or broadcast between October 16, 2008 and

October 15, 2009.

UNICEF Yemen Country Office is welcoming submissions from interested participants in the Arab Media Award. Detailed criteria and the submission forms are available from UNICEF Offices in the five Governorates, Sana'a, Aden, Hodieda, Ibb and Al-Dale. All submissions must be delivered to UNICEF Yemen Offices on or before 01 September, 2009.

Later, for the final award, submissions will be sent to UNICEF Amman Regional Office for Middle East & North Africa. The jury for the final award will be composed of UNICEF/ex-UNICEF officials, media partners and members of youth-led media initiatives.

The winners will be chosen by the designated jury, and publicized in

November 2009 during the UNICEF's 5th Regional Media Forum.

Media reports that foster greater public understanding of children and young people's issues will be acknowledged by UNICEF Middles East and North Africa Regional Office in conjunction with UAE's Al-Bayan Newspaper and the Center for Communication Programms (Johns Hopkins University).

Call for Applications: Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowships

This fellowship is for democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and journalists at the National Endowment for Democracy.

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship Program at the Washington,

D.C.-based National Endowment for Democracy invites applications from candidates throughout the Middle East and North Africa for fellowships in 2010-2011.

The program enables democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change.

Dedicated to international exchange, this five-month, residential program offers a collegial environment for fellows to reflect on their experiences and consider lessons learned; conduct research and writing; develop contacts and exchange ideas with counterparts in Washington, D.C.; and build ties that contribute to the development of a global network of democracy advocates.

The program is intended primarily to support activists, practitioners, and scholars from developing and aspiring democracies; distinguished scholars from established democracies are also eligible to apply. A working knowledge of English is required. All fellows receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, travel assistance, and research support.

The application deadline for fellowships in 2010-2011 is Monday, November 2, 2009. Please note that we are currently transitioning to an online application system, scheduled to begin operation in early August 2009. For more information and application instructions, please visit www.ned.org/forum/reagan-fascell.html.

Contact us at fellowships@ned.org.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Partnership Project Officer
(Based in Sana'a- Yemen)

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces a vacancy for the post of Partnership Project Officer for the Safe Early Marriage (SAM) component of its project Integrated Action on Safe Early Marriage (SAM) & Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE). This post is for 4 years.

The role

- Contribute to overall project development by emphasizing appropriate approaches to introduce of a legal minimum age of marriage / monitor implementation of law on minimum age of marriage .
- Promote participation of beneficiaries/audiences in all activities implemented by the project and its partner organizations.
- Provide intensive needs-based technical support to partners with a special focus on organizational capacities, planning, reporting, and monitoring.
- Monitor project activities on SAM (both technical and financial monitoring).
- Coordinate with other Oxfam projects to collect case studies and other forms of evidence that support advocacy efforts at the national level
- Lead on the implementation of project's activities with a special emphasis on partner contracts, partnership development, coordination, capacity building, and monitoring.

What we re looking for

- Education to a degree level in social sciences or related discipline.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in work with development organization at local levels. Working experience with an international organization is an added advantage.
- Experience in working with CSOs
- An understanding of and experience of working in the development sector, and sensitivity poverty issues and gender equity issues
- Ability to analyze and documents related Early Marriage (EM)
- Demonstrated capacity of social and communication skills and ability to work with others and as part of the team.
- Excellent written and verbal communication (in English and preferably in Arabic) including representation skills, report writing skills and negotiation and influencing skills.
- Ability to work within a team and at an individual level
- Commitment to all aspects of equal opportunity and diversity including promoting gender equality and strong commitment to the aims of Oxfam's work
- Able to travel within Yemen and if necessary outside of Yemen
- Good organizational skills and an ability to work under pressure and to deadlines

To apply

Please send a copy of your CV with covering letter clearly outlining how you meet the requirements of the job to:

The Human Resources Department, Oxfam GB Yemen
P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen,
Fax no: 01 445 650 OR Email: yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk

Closing date: 24th June 2009

Reasons why Islam prevents child marriages

By: Shawqi Abdurraqib Al-Qadhi
Member of the Parliament
Committee on Rights and Liberties

A field study prepared by the Women and Development Studies Center, Sana'a University, says that it is more common girls to be married off at a young age that it is for boys. Up to 15 percent of married women were married before the age of 15, and up to 65 percent of them were married before they were 18. Most of these take place in rural areas. Girls under the age of 10 are forced to marry either because of tradition or their family's low living standards, with the family wishing to get rid of one of their members 'legitimately' while earning a little money from it.

Early marriage is an obstacle to development that deserves debated and remedied. Parents or guardians who force an underage girl to marry purely to satisfy personal interests violate the law and her rights. They forget that they have been entrusted with the basic responsibility to protect, educate and care for their children. This violation has grown into a plague that needs to be ended. "God restrains with force what He does not restrain with the Quran," and there are things that need to be achieved through the force of law, rather than by advice.

To realize the magnitude of the issue, all you need to do is visit a childcare institution. One young girl in one of them was forcibly married by her guardian, the very person to whose care she had been entrusted after her father had passed away. The latter was none other than her own uncle, who used her dowry to get married himself! There are other minors like this girl, 35 percent of whom are victims of the so-called 'tourist marriage'. These girls are betrayed by their own families even before they are exploited by strangers.

To protect these young girls, sharia was sent down to us to establish well-being and elude evil. We have sufficient evidence from the Quran and the Hadith [sayings of the Prophet Mohammed PBUH] and medical facts to rest reassured of the legitimacy of prohibiting early marriage, and work to draft a law that prevents such violations against children.

When scholars legalized the marriage of female minors hundreds of years ago, they set strict conditions to take into consideration the well-being of these children and show the rule is that marriage is for the girl who has come of age. Some of the many conditions are that the father is the only one who can conclude the marriage contract, and that the father should not have apparent enmity towards the mother. There should be apparent interest for the girl from this marriage, and she should be married to a competent and a good man. Moreover, she alone should have her dowry, and she should not be married to someone who might not make her happy such as a blind or an old man. Finally, Imam Al-Albani emphasized that a young girl should not be married to a man who is much older than she.

Should enthusiasts not at least reveal these conditions to the public to discharge themselves from the violations committed against these helpless children? Should the law not enforce penalties against those who violate their rights? These are only two of many questions that we wish advocates of early marriage would answer.

The parties who believe in the legitimacy of such a marriage agree with us that such matrimony is not an obligation or a preference, but is, at best, permissible as other matters that are to be debated within Islamic law's objectives, including the principle of warding off evils and attracting well-being. This is an original aspect of Sharia and the jurisprudence of the great companions of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) including Caliph Omar bin Al-Khattab (may God be pleased with him) who is known to all Sharia students as a daring man in limiting permissible aspects and disagreeing with what is established when public interest is involved.

No one has the right to forbid us from discussing this sensitive matter by basing their objections on unfounded claims and accusations. Some of the greatest Muslim scholars who prohib-



ed the marriage of underage girl include Ibn Shubrumah, Al-Asamm and Othman Al-Batti and they based their argument on the verse "... until they [minors] reach the age of marriage... [4:6]", which means that there is no point in marrying a girl who does not know the meaning of or qualify for marriage.

A contemporary scholar who calls for defining a minimum age for marriage is Prof. Yusuf Al-Qardhawi. He believes that the age of 16 is the best for a young woman and 18 is the best for a young man. Another prominent scholar who believed in this was the late Ibn Othaimin who said that he preferred underage marriage to be prevented. And because Islam is the religion of discipline, a father should never agree for his daughter to get married until she comes of age and expresses her consent. There are many other scholars, both ancient and contemporary, who adopt these positive views.

Refutable justifications

Furthermore, the arguments presented by those who promote this type of marriage do not prove us wrong. God says, "Such of your women as have passed the age of monthly courses, for them the prescribed periods, if you have any doubts, is three months, and for those who have no courses (it is the same): for those (who carry life within their wombs), their period is until they deliver their burdens: and for those who fear God, He will make their path easy [65:4]"

The meaning of "have passed the age of monthly courses" is controversial. Some scholars say it means young women while others think it means adult women whose periods were late or who have reached their menopause, or women who have never had periods. Scholars with the latter view were Abu Hayan Al-Andalusi, Al-Alwasi, Al-Sa'adi and Sayed Qutb. And the rule says that if a proof is open to possibilities, it is not to be considered as a proof. Besides, the above verse does not endear or encourage the marriage of underage girls.

They also present the proof of Aisha's marriage to Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) as evidence of early marriage, but this is not good enough for several reasons. Not only is there disagreement among scholars on Aisha's age at the time, but some also believe it happened before the Prophet ordained that a divorced woman should not be married until she expressly give her agreement, and no virgin should get married until she implies her consent and her consent is her silence. Such provision was dedicated to the Prophet (PBUH) who was the only one allowed to marry 12 women and, as Ibn Othaimin said, "Who could be a better husband than Mohammed (PBUH)?"

As for the consensus the advocates of early marriage present as proof whenever they fail to produce evidence from the Quran and Hadith, it is false proof because the marriage of underage girls has never been unanimously agreed upon, either in the past or the present.

A minimum age for marriage

God says, "Make trial of orphans until they reach the age of marriage; if then ye

found sound judgment in them, release their property to them, but consume it not wastefully, nor in haste against their growing up. If the guardian is well-off, let him claim no remuneration, but if he is poor, let him have for himself what is just and reasonable. When ye release their property to them, take witnesses in their presence: but all sufficient is God in taking account. [4:6]"

This is a clear proof that there is an age for marriage. And in interpreting this verse, Imam Al-Shafe'i, Abu Yusuf and others said that the proper age is 15 years, while Abu Hanifa said the appropriate age for young men is 18 and 17 for young women.

When Abu Bakr and then Omar bin Al-Khattab -who became later two of the greatest caliphs of all time- proposed to marry Fatima (may God be pleased with her), daughter of the Prophet, he told them that she was still a minor. Some argue that Ali bin Abi Taleb (may God be pleased with him) proposed immediately after them and the Prophet agreed. But this version is not verified and what is likely was that Ali proposed to Fatima much later because according to Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalani, one of the most prominent Muslim scholars, Fatima was either 18 or 21 when she married Ali.

This proves that the Prophet did not agree to marriage of minors although the suitors were two of the closest of his companions. The Prophet saying that a divorced woman should not be married until she expressly agrees and no virgin should be married until she implies her consent, and that her consent is her silence, further stresses this because permission is asked only from an adult, not a child.

An adult to have children

The Prophet says, "... and the woman is a custodian in her home and is answerable for those entrusted to her." But how can a child who, herself, is in need for care, be responsible for a house, a husband and children? It would be too much of a burden on her, something that contradicts the principles of sharia meant to make life easier for all people.

God says, "Those who follow the messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned (in their own scriptures), - in the law and the Gospel; - for he commands them what is just and forbids them what is evil; he allows them as lawful what is good (and pure), and prohibits them from what is bad (and impure). He releases them from their heavy burdens and from the yokes that are upon them. So it is those who believe in him, honor him, help him and follow the light which is sent down with him, - it is they who will prosper. [7:157]"

The saying of Prophet to the effect of urging young men and women to get married if they feel fit both physically and financially denotes that young men and women are ones indicated, not children who are not competent financially or physically.

Medical evidence

An essential Islamic legal rule provides that "There must be neither harm nor the imposition of harm" and that "Harm should be removed." Trusted people of medicine assert that there are serious

health consequences to young girls married off when they are too young.

Dr. Najeeb Ghanem, MP and former minister of health presented a medical paper to Parliament on the harms of premature pregnancy. The paper convinced many MPs that the marriage of little girls is wrong.

Ghanem said that there are dire risks for those girls including, but not limited to, anemia that often leads to death in cases of bleeding during delivery, miscarriage or blood poisoning. Other risks to very young mothers include severely high blood pressure, delivery difficulties necessitating a cesarean, and womb rupture owing to the narrowness of the pelvic opening as pelvic bone growth is not complete until the age of 18. Their babies are likely to suffer from weight loss, heart diseases and amentia.

Furthermore, underage wives are likely to suffer from acute psychological disorders and a gap is likely to form between them and their husbands and

community. Because they are still too young for marriage, they might even mistake their husbands for their fathers. They may feel trapped because they still need to have a childhood instead of taking on such cumbersome responsibilities. The ultimate, and not unlikely, result is the collapse of the fragile marriage.

Almost all sociologists and psychologists agree that there are real risks resulting from such marriage. Muslim scholars, after having learned this from such specialists, must issue the proper fatwa or advisory opinion on this matter, because there is no disagreement between logic and true Islamic provisions in accordance with the Holy Quran that urges them to seek information and advice from specialized people: "... ask those who possess the message. [16:43]."

Enough school drop outs

Another problem linked to early marriage is the increase of illiteracy because these children drop out of school when they are married. Our and our society does not need more dropouts. A study has revealed that 46 percent children of school age -about 2 million- have not joined schools and that about 71 percent of girls in the countryside are not in school for reasons that include poverty and premature marriage.

The problem is that the illiterate underage wife is expected to supervise the education of her own children later! Some men marry again under the pretext that their first wife is illiterate, forgetting the fact that they are responsible for her plight.

I believe that if sharia scholars were to discuss the matter with medical doctors, psychologists, sociologists, management experts and other specialists, they would be in the forefront of the groups opposing the marriage of underage girls.

In a survey conducted by Al-Saeeda satellite channel, 80 percent of those surveyed supported the prohibition of the marriage of female minors and

agreed that a law should be issued to that effect, while only 20 percent rejected prohibition. Doesn't this reflect society's suffering from such marriage? Could all those people be wrong?

We have asked some of the supporters of premature marriage if they would marry their underage daughters and the answer was no. Naturally! We suggest that any future questionnaire should start with these zealots.

Marry women, not girls

Adult women who are fit to marry increasingly remain without husbands, yet immorality among youth is on the rise due to many sources of immorality, lack of guidance and unemployment. It is only wise to encourage men to marry moral young women instead of underage girls.

It is also a good idea to encourage men, even through legislation, to marry widowed and divorced women as a means to limit the risks of debauchery and as a way to follow Prophet Mohammed's example whose wives, except for one, were all adult, formerly married, divorced, widowed and in charge of orphans. So where are the men who are willing to model themselves on the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)?

Most fathers or parents who marry their immature daughters do it because of poverty, a broken home or, as some of them wrongfully believe, to avoid a girl's 'shame'. But we should neither encourage these faulty practices, nor base our legislation on them.

Finally, after presenting all these legitimate arguments, scientific facts and logical justifications, to which God has guided us, we decisively believe in prohibiting the marriage of underage girls by law, in spreading awareness about this issue, and in encouraging marriage to grown-up women.

We do not oppose extraordinarily exceptional marriages in strictly specific situations provided that very firm precautions are taken, but the main rule must be to forbid the marriage of underage girls.



Monitoring Specialist

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam GB invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the position Civil Society & Gender specialist to work in the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit based in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPIC). This post is for 1 year , renewable.

We are looking for a dynamic and experienced monitoring specialist to support the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the MoPIC in monitoring the implementation of the 3rd FYP and promote partnership between civil society and government. S/he will also build capacity of partners specifically in monitoring.

The specialist will work within the team of M&E Unit and undertake a pro-poor and gender analysis of the M&E System used by the M&E Unit, study the existing M&E systems and identify gaps and potential areas for interventions, assist in capacity building activities, contribute into M&E reports, enhance the CSOs participation & gender in monitoring the implementation of the 3rd FYP, strengthen the communication among development partners, and provide ongoing technical support to the M&E plans.

The applicant must have proven experience monitoring implementation of government plans & policies with an understanding of poverty and gender equity issues. S/he must have degree in social sciences or related discipline. S/he must have proven experience in capacity building of CSOs in monitoring. S/he must have excellent command in the usage of computers and office software packages, excellent interpersonal communication skills, fluency in Arabic and English. Sound knowledge issues would be an asset.

To apply

Please send a copy of your CV with covering letter clearly outlining how you meet the requirements of the job to:

www.mpic-yemen.org. interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background may submit their applications by fax to 01239703 or email: kawara2005@gmail.com with a letter of expression of interest and C.V attached.

Closing date: One Week from the advertisement Date

(Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.)

U.S. nears Yemeni detainee deal

Many in largest ethnic group held at Guantanamo would be sent to Saudi Arabia

By: Jay Solomon
The Wall Street Journal

Yemen may agree to allow a considerable portion of the nearly 100 Yemenis held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay to be transferred to Saudi Arabia, officials involved in the negotiations said. A deal could accelerate President Barack Obama's plan to close the detention facility at the U.S. military base in Cuba by January.

U.S. officials say the Yemenis, who make up nearly half of the roughly 240 detainees remaining at Guantanamo, are among the most difficult to resettle because of their numbers and, in some cases, alleged direct or familial ties to al Qaeda. Washington is wary of repatriating the men because it fears Yemen's government won't be able to keep sufficient tabs on them.

The U.S. has been combing the globe for nations willing to take detainees who are considered eligible for release. On Tuesday, the government of the

Pacific island nation of Palau expressed its willingness to accept 17 Chinese Uighurs held at Guantanamo.

Senior White House and Central Intelligence Agency officials have been holding regular talks with the Yemeni and Saudi governments about sending a sizable number of the Yemeni detainees to rehabilitation centers in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Obama personally discussed the issue with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a phone conversation last month, according to Yemeni and American officials.

Yemen's government has demanded that all Yemeni detainees be returned to their homeland. But a U.S. official working on the issue said there appeared to be a move toward compromise, adding, "What's crucial is how many the Saudis will take."

Initial discussions have focused on a group of 20 Yemenis being transferred to Saudi Arabia, said officials involved in the diplomacy. The two nations share a border on the Arabian Peninsula, and many Yemenis share tribal and familial ties with Saudi Arabia.

"Steadfast negotiations between Sana'a and Washington will hopefully lead to a positive resolution to this pending issue in the near future," said Mohammed Albasha, spokesman for Yemen's government in Washington. "We've had particularly good exchanges with Attorney General Eric Holder."

Mr. Albasha said he couldn't comment about specifics of any negotiations, but stressed Sana'a remains committed to all its citizens returning home. A spokesman at the Saudi embassy in Washington declined to comment.

U.S. officials expressed hope that the Palau resettlement plan could be a harbinger of future agreements, although they cautioned that the Uighurs situation could prove to be an anomaly. A U.S. federal judge last year ordered the government to release the 17 men, who belong to a Muslim minority in China whose resistance to Beijing's rule has triggered violent flare-ups.

Palau, a former U.S. territory, has

more incentives than most nations to help the Obama administration. It receives substantial American aid and depends on the U.S. for its defense.

"This is but a small thing we can do to thank our best friend and ally for all it has done for Palau," President Johnson Toribiong said Tuesday, announcing his decision on the detainees.

Palau is one of the few countries that doesn't maintain diplomatic relations with China, which is demanding the return of the 17 Uighurs. Washington has refused because of fears the men could face imprisonment or torture in China.

The Obama administration denied media reports that Palau's decision was driven by an offer by Washington of \$200 million in economic assistance.

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly on Wednesday confirmed the talks with Palau but declined to comment on specifics of any detainee transfer.

U.S. officials said they hoped other countries would now offer to help in

resettling the prisoners, most of whom have been held more than five years without being charged with any crime.

A number of European countries, such as France, Germany and the U.K., are reviewing the files of some of the detainees.

European diplomats said they were likely to act only on cases directly involving their countries, meaning detainees, for example, with family ties or past citizenship.

These diplomats also said European nations were unlikely to move unless the Obama administration agreed to resettle some Guantanamo inmates in the U.S.

Yemen's President Saleh has been seeking U.S. financial assistance for Sana'a to establish its own rehabilitation program for many of its detainees held in Guantanamo. Yemeni officials said the program includes religious education, vocational training and family reunification. The program is partly modeled on the system Saudi Arabia has developed to reform al Qaeda and other Islamic militants

initially detained at Guantanamo or captured inside the Arab kingdom.

U.S. officials have questioned Yemen's ability to finance and oversee such a program. A key suspect in the 2000 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole in the port of Aden was released from prison by Yemeni authorities, though he was eventually re-jailed.

Other convicted members of Yemeni extremist groups have escaped from jail. Inmates from Guantanamo released in recent years have also reappeared as members of the Yemeni branch of al Qaeda, according to U.S. officials.

The prolonged detention of the Yemenis is taking its toll, according to Yemeni officials. Last week, a Yemeni inmate, Muhammad Ahmad Abdallah Salih, apparently committed suicide at the Guantanamo facility.

Among the Yemenis held in Cuba is Ramzi Binalshibh, who is accused of being a principal planner of the Sept. 11, 2001, al Qaeda attacks on the U.S.

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Southern Yemen totters dangerously on the edge of secession

By: Ginny Hill
The daily star

Political violence in south Yemen escalated sharply during May, with a small but unconfirmed number of fatalities, hundreds arrested, and several newspapers shuttered. Protestors first took to the streets two years ago, when retired officers from the disbanded southern army demanded higher pension payments. The southern movement has gathered momentum in recent months, partly due to the regime's heavy-handed response, and has built an untested coalition based around perceptions of southern marginalization. Protestors are now openly calling for independence.

The secessionist language deployed by protestors suggests they are seeking to reverse the creation of the modern republic in 1990, which united the Marxist People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY, South Yemen) with the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) at the end of the Cold War. Secessionists complain that President Ali Abdullah Saleh failed to implement the terms of the 1990 power-sharing agreement between the two countries and failed to honor the terms of the

ceasefire after a brief civil war in 1994.

Southern secessionists perceive the president's Sanhan clan, based in the northern mountain capital, Sana'a, to be running the country in its own interests. Grievances include land seizures, the forced retirement of southern security officials, the exclusion of southerners from northern patronage networks, corruption, and economic mismanagement. Tension in the south has risen further since parliamentary elections, initially scheduled for April 2009, were postponed for two years.

The southern movement is driven by popular frustration with the northern elite, but its leadership is still seeking to unite around a coherent agenda. The current coalition of tribal sheikhs, civic leaders, and prematurely retired military officers is allied to former leftist politicians living in exile. Former southern president Ali Salem al-Baidh, speaking in Germany in May, promised to "lead a peaceful struggle" to reclaim "the occupied south." Baidh denied he was seeking to revive the politics of the Cold War era: "I'm not in a party, and will not join any party, but after liberation I may like to be an adviser."

The new complexion of 21st century southern separatism was confirmed in April, when veteran Afghan mujahid

and presidential ally Tariq al-Fadhli declared his support for the secessionist struggle. Fadhli belongs to a leading family in the southern governorate of Abyan who lost their land during the PDRY nationalization program. Fadhli returned to Yemen after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and played a key role in the post-Cold War settlement in Yemen. He helped Saleh defeat the Socialists in Yemen's 1994 civil war and set about reclaiming his family land in Abyan. He remained a paid adviser to the Interior Ministry.

Fadhli's defection suggests that Yemen's extensive patronage system is under strain and the logic underpinning the modern republic is now in flux. Since unification in 1990, Saleh has relied on patronage to bind his proxies to the center and bypass the painstaking process of state-building. Patronage structures created the inequalities and resentments now articulated throughout the south, yet provided the president with a framework to minimize dissent when the money was available.

Yemen's oil sector provides 90 percent of export earnings and 75 percent of government revenue. But the country's oil production has passed its peak and daily output has declined from 460,000 barrels per day in 2002 to

268,000 barrels per day forecast for 2010. Total crude oil exports generated \$7.6 billion in 2008, reflecting the spike in global oil prices, but forecasts suggest revenue will drop to \$2.8 billion during 2009. The World Bank predicts that state revenues from oil sales will fall to zero in 2017.

Poor security conditions, unpromising geology, and questions about Yemen's socio-economic trajectory prevent extensive exploration for new fields by international oil companies. Anticipated income from a new liquid natural gas plant, which is due to start exports from the south coast later this year, will not replace returns from diminishing oil exports over the long-term. These economic pressures are already generating acute political tension. Presidential proxies (such as Tariq al-Fadhli) and opposition figures are looking ahead and considering their options.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia recently named Yemen as its number-one threat to internal security, following the merger earlier this year of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia. In an Internet statement released in May, Al-Qaeda commander Nasser al-Wuhayshi pledged his support for the southern separatists. "Ali Abdullah Saleh is an infidel and an agent," he said. "The time for the rule of Islam has come so that you could bask in the justice and tolerance it brings."

Saleh is calling for national dialogue and promising constitutional reform, decentralization, and economic diversification. Displays of military hardware during May's Unity Day parades celebrating the 19th anniversary of unification, however, showed that the regime is not prepared to take the chance that talks might fail. Negotiations will place pressure on both the northern elite and the leaders of the southern independence movement to overcome their internal differences and compromise with each other. The speed with which talks proceed will determine whether the southern protest movement is diffused, protestors continue to engage in sporadic clashes with the security services, or the confrontation escalates. Against this backdrop, the economic situation looks set to deteriorate.

Ginny Hill is a freelance journalist and author of "Yemen: Fear of Failure," a Chatham House briefing paper. This commentary is reprinted with permission from the Arab Reform Bulletin. It can be accessed online at: www.carnegieendowment.org/arb, (c) 2009, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

A nightmare of aggressive acts haunt doctors in Yemen

Doctors in Yemen are subject to repeated acts of aggression, including death threats, which prompted some of them to think of leaving the country at a time when citizens' trust in doctors has deteriorated. The murder of a Yemeni doctor by relatives of a patient created a state of concern and fear among doctors and workers in health care services. Dr. Derhem Al-Qadasi died this past January after a number of a deceased patient's relatives stormed the hospital where Dr. Al-Qadasi worked and stabbed and kicked him to death. Sources in the Yemeni Doctors and Pharmacists Syndicate said that some Yemeni doctors have immigrated to Arab countries such as the UAE and Oman.

A state of rage spread among popular medical outlets as Dr. Al-Qadasi's murderers haven't been arrested yet even though roughly six months have passed since the incident took place. The family of Dr. Al-Qadasi still refuses to bury him and a number of Yemeni cities, including Sana'a, witnessed a number of sit-ins staged by doctors and civil activists. Dr. Abdul Qawi Al-Shamiri, head of the Yemeni Doctors and Pharmacists Syndicate, considered the incident "a result of the insecurity under which the country lives." He made clear that the increase in aggressive behavior against doctors and workers in the health field aggravated the feeling of a lack of tranquility, particularly due to what he called "failure of the authorities to arrest the accused," which encouraged the continuation of the aggressive behavior.

Al-Shamiri said that some doctors have left the country and others are thinking of immigrating to work in other Arab and foreign countries due to the lack of a guarantee of a safe work environment for doctors. He accused media and government officials of instigating against doctors, pointing out that officials in the government participated in this instigation by presenting a bad image in their statements about doctors and their work. He pointed out that 13 cases of aggression against doctors and workers in the health field have been registered during the last few years, including murder. However, medical sources said that the number of aggressive acts is higher than what Al-Shamiri said as some of them are not registered in the doctors' syndicate or with official bodies but are amicably solved outside of the court system. Other incidents of aggression carried out by doctors against their colleagues for political reasons were also registered and splits still affect their syndicate.

It is commonly believed that Yemeni doctors are the last to pay attention to continuing knowledge after graduation

and that they care only about money. Their profession has become a subject for sarcastic drama works such as the one that depicted a mechanic who started to practice medicine. Official statistics say there are 228 public hospitals in the country. The Yemeni government suffers from a shortage in the capacity of hospitals as there are seven beds and three doctors per 10,000 citizens.

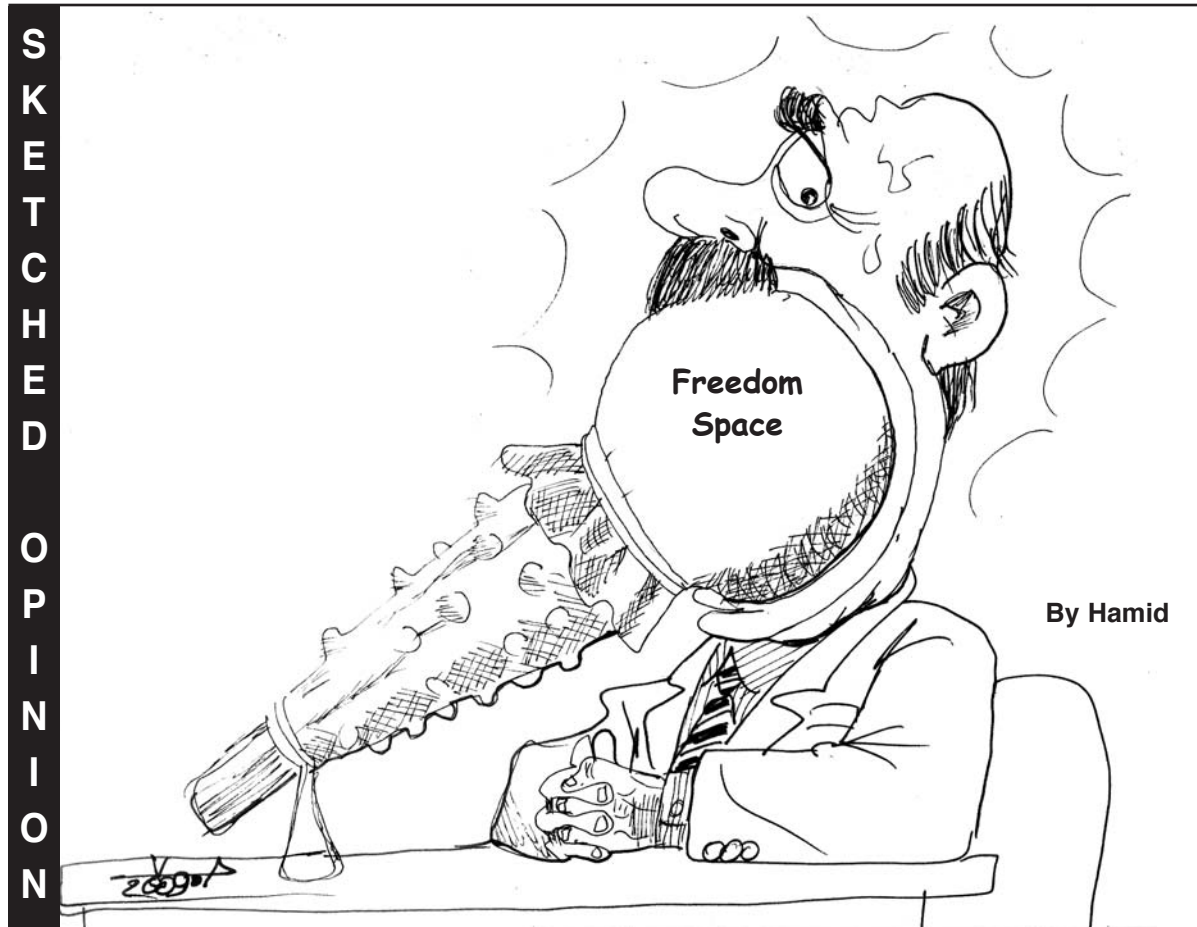
During the last ten years private hospitals have spread considerably, but this didn't stop the deterioration of trust in health workers. Instead it increased the mistrust, particularly as a result of the number of deaths registered due to medical errors, some of which took place during minor surgery such as tonsillectomy.

The government tries to convince its citizens not to travel abroad for treatment, and Dr. Al-Shamiri denied that medical errors are behind the aggressive acts they are subjected to. He said that medical errors take place in most countries of the world, including the US, where there are in fact more medical errors than in Yemen. However, doctors still work under poor security conditions. He confirmed that aggressive acts such as those against doctors in Yemen never take place in any other country, even in areas where the power of the state is absent, such as Somalia. He believes that aggressions against doctors and health workers is part of the aggressions that other workers in other fields are also subjected to in Yemen, considering it a direct result of the chaos that the country lives in.

Last month, military forces destroyed the house of the man accused of murdering Dr. Al-Qadasi. This act was met with censure from a number of organizations. Some are afraid that this may result in more acts of revenge instead of solving the problem. Official monitoring of doctors' performance in hospitals is still weak. Some doctors believe that not discovering new states of epidemic infections, such as bird flu and swine flu, might be attributed to weak epidemic surveillance, and classical diseases such as malaria and typhoid are still found in Yemen. However, there have been some successes: during the last month alone, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced Yemen to be polio free.

The government has already closed down all medicine colleges in private universities, with the exception of the college where Dr. Al-Qadasi was killed. In rural areas, nurses undertake the role of doctors in treating patients. Meanwhile, Dr. Al-Qadasi's murder has become a public opinion issue. His pictures are put on walls in cities and vehicles, and a website carrying his name was launched.

Source: London-based Al-Hayat newspaper



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What's behind the rigging of Iran's election for Ahmadinejad?

By: Webster Brooks

Saturday's announcement by Iran's Interior Minister that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was re-elected with 63 percent of the vote set off a set a wave of violent clashes between protestors and government forces. The upsurge has shaken Iran's ruling elite and exposed the election as a complete fraud before the world. As of this writing, protests are likely to continue despite the government's massive crackdown. Incoming reports indicate that cell phone service in Tehran has been cut, thousands have been arrested and 50 protesters are rumored to have been killed. Police stormed the headquarters of Iran's largest reformist party, the Islamic Iran Participation Front and arrested several leaders. Facebook reports that Mir Hossein Mousavi, Ahmadinejad's chief rival and Mehdi Karroubi are under house arrest. Access to Mousavi's website has been blocked.

Manipulation at the margins of Iran's election results is not new. However, the blatant irregularities and the lengths Iran's establishment has gone to in order to secure Ahmadinejad's "landslide" victory in the 2009 elections exceeds of all previous elections. How and why Iran's clerical rulers and the power ministries controlled by the Revolutionary Guard overreached so badly, and then misjudged the peoples' reaction to the rigged election is the question? The impact the protests will have on the Iranian establishment's ability to consolidate power around Ahmadinejad's tainted election

may be far reaching. The shameful election is also a big source of concern that will complicate President Obama's diplomatic overture to Tehran.

The Iranian ruler's actions clearly show Ahmadinejad was the consensus pre-election designee. More importantly, they wanted nothing less than a landslide victory to demonstrate to the international community solid national support for their controversial leader. The nation's elite concluded there was no need to change leadership as Iran has dramatically expanded its footprint across the Middle East over the past four years. Iran is now the undisputed leader of the anti-U.S. Middle East camp which includes Syria, Qatar, Hezbollah and HAMAS. Although Ahmadinejad's statements denying the Holocaust and his strident anti-Israel rhetoric has earned him the reputation as a pariah in some international circles, the fact is that Iran is much more popular on the "Arab street" than the United States. Notwithstanding Ahmadinejad's unsophisticated manner, Iran has a reputation of being the only nation that steadfastly defends the Palestinians, and the only Middle Eastern power that consistently delivers the weapons, food, financial assistance and social services supports on time. In fact, an argument can be made that Ahmadinejad's inflammatory statements serve as useful distraction, that allow the "real work" of Iran pursuing its imperial ambitions to be conducted more effectively below the radar screen.

With President Obama on the defensive in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan,

Iran's leaders are confident they can press ahead with their nuclear enrichment program. Ahmadinejad embodies Iran's confrontational posture with the U.S. that has pushed America back on its heels. He is also the favorite of the hardcore conservative anti-American Revolutionary Guard, who Ayatollah Khamenei must keep on side to preserve the locus of their ruling partnership with conservative clerics.

Accordingly, the ruling elites did not want a run-off election between Ahmadinejad and Mousavi, if he failed to win fifty percent of the vote—which apparently was going to happen. Not only would Ahmadinejad look weak, the nation would appear to be divided. As Saturday's eruption on the streets proved, fixing one election is difficult enough. Rigging two elections in the space of seven days could have a big downside, even for an authoritarian state. Indeed Mousavi was gathering momentum. His criticism of the government and the energy unleashed around his candidacy breached the boundaries of an "acceptable opposition" candidate of the establishment. Ayatollah Khamenei had no choice but to short circuit the elections after the first round and endure the political blowback. When Ayatollah Khamenei issued a statement of congratulations on Saturday, two days before election results are normally announced and certified by the Electoral Commission, he was attempting to present the fraudulent results as a fait accompli that the electorate would have to swallow whole. What Iran's clerical elite didn't anticipate was Mousavi's defiant

stance and the fierce reaction it provoked among the youth. At a press conference after the polls closed on Friday, Mousavi said "I am the absolute winner of the election by a very wide margin. It is our duty to defend the people's vote. There is no turning back." Mousavi all but called on his supporters to prepare to go to the streets. Reports are circulating that on Saturday morning Mousavi was on his way to see the Ayatollah Khamenei when he was picked up by state intelligence officials. He never appeared for a scheduled 10:00 a.m. press conference on Saturday morning.

In addition to the protests in Tehran activities have broken out in other cities around Iran. While anger over the election results is widespread, many of the protestors who took to the streets are not necessarily Mousavi supporters, but youth who are targeting the entire establishment. Within the ranks of the "moderate camp" it has been reported that former President Hashemi Rafsanjani has resigned his position and head of the Expediency Council in protest of the results. Ahmadinejad ruthlessly attacked Rafsanjani during the election as stooge of the United States, colluding with America to undermine the Iranian state. Parliamentary leader Ali Larijani, Iran's former chief nuclear negotiator and critic of Ahmadinejad has been dispatched to Qum to talk with the clerical leadership.

The clerical elites are now on the hot seat to sell Ahmadinejad's rump election. Iran's Interior Ministry reported Ahmadinejad won 24,527,516 votes (62.7%) compared to Mousavi with 13,216,411 (33.7%). The two were fol-

lowed by Mohsen Rezaei with 678,240 votes (1.73 percent) and Mehdi Karroubi with 333,635 votes (0.85 percent). According to some of results released Ahmadinejad carried almost every province with a similar percentage of the vote; a big departure from past elections where votes in the ethnic provinces have large variances than those from Iran's core urban areas. Ahmadinejad won the large northern city of Tabriz, the hometown of Mir Hussein Mousavi; a result most people agree is astonishing. He also won the city of Tehran where he popularity has plummeted due to his inability to deliver on economic reforms and mismanaging the government. Even less believable is the fact that Mehdi Karroubi did not win one percent of the vote. Possessing broad name recognition, and having run for president in 1995, Karroubi almost certainly should have gotten more than one percent of the ballots, especially in sections of Western Iran, where he remains a popular figure.

Where the struggle is headed in Iran over the next few days and weeks is hardly a settled question. Undoubtedly, the government will continue its crackdown and intimidation to end the protest. Whether they succeed is another matter. There is also the question of what to do with Mir Hussein Mousavi. He is an international figure now. Simply locking him away in jail or keeping him under house arrest hardly seems like a tenable position for the ruling elite to take, but they may certainly do so, while engaging to character assassination and possibly bringing charges against him for sedition.

As for the Obama Administration, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton tried to put as much distance between the United States and the Iranian government as possible. Clinton said "We are monitoring the situation as it unfolds in Iran, but we, like the rest of the world, are waiting and watching to see what the Iranian people decide." The White House issued a two sentence statement saying there are "concerns about irregularities" that occurred. Although White House officials privately concede that Mousavi's position on the nuclear issue did not substantially differ from Ahmadinejad's, they certainly were hoping for a Mousavi victory. Presumably the Obama administration has been waiting for Iran's presidential elections to end before more seriously testing the diplomatic waters with Iran. President Obama has made several overtures restating his interest in diplomatic engagement with Tehran; all of which have met with a cool response. With Ahmadinejad's tainted election victory, Obama's pursuit the prospects of engagement with Iran has probably taken a turn for the worse.

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Grassroots change we CAN believe in Khaled Diab

One of Barack Obama's winning campaign slogans was "change we can believe in". And with his presidency, everything has changed and nothing has changed when it comes to US foreign policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Compared with his predecessor, Obama has already delivered a substantive rhetorical shift in US foreign policy, with his pledge to rely less on military intervention and more on international diplomacy and dialogue. But this shift is not substantial enough to revive the peace process and set in motion a new dynamic, so I believe that it is up to Palestinians and Israelis to find their own way forward.

The speech Obama will give in Egypt this week is part of his charm offensive to win—in that hackneyed and overused expression—"hearts and minds" in the

Arab and Muslim world. And Obama's efforts seem to be paying off. A recent poll reveals that, even though more than three-quarters of Arabs regard the United States as the second greatest threat in the world, Obama's approval ratings hover around the 45% point—a vast improvement on George W Bush's public villain number one or two status.

This change in tone and recent signs of a more robust and hands-on approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have led to a certain amount of optimism in some quarters. Writing in the Egyptian al-Ahram Weekly, Emad Gad interpreted Obama's insistence on a settlement-building freeze as a sign that "an independent Palestinian state is a definite possibility".

At least at this juncture, I find it hard to share this optimism. Obama and Bush might be as different as earth and fire, but the United States they lead is not that radically different. One key reason why the

peace process broke down is that Washington has never succeeded in playing the role of an honest and impartial broker. How likely is it that Obama, as a self-described "friend of Israel", will lean hard enough on an Israel led by the populist, rightwing Binyamin Netanyahu and his demagogical deputy and foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman, to make the necessary compromises to reach a settlement with the Palestinians, especially with the presence of the equally extremist Hamas sitting among the Palestinian leadership? It is worth recalling that, according to some, the Oslo process was sabotaged largely by Netanyahu and Hamas.

Some hope that Obama will be able to make the most of Egypt's longstanding mediation role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But, rather like Washington, Cairo also has its own credibility problem: it is not trusted by the Israeli and Palestinian right wings. In addition, the

closure of the Rafah border crossing and other actions that have worsened Palestinian suffering have fuelled a sense of severe disappointment on the part of the Palestinians and anger on the streets of Egypt.

In fact, reform-minded Egyptians feel let down by Obama's visit because it implicitly expresses support for an unpopular regime with a chronic legitimacy deficit. "Some of us hoped for a more frosty relationship between the Obama administration and the Egyptian regime," said Karim Medhat Ennarah, a young Egyptian who provides legal aid for refugees.

In my view, what the Middle East, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian question, needs is not more US involvement, but less. The change that most endures is the kind of change that is organic and comes from within. To help this process, Washington does not need to oppose the

regimes in Cairo or Riyadh actively, but to withdraw its current support, such as the \$1.3 billion of military aid that goes to Egypt each year.

Likewise, Palestinians and Israelis need to find their own way to peace. The way the United States can help this quest is by removing its massive distorting influence, such as the \$3 billion in military aid it gives to Israel each year.

Since the dynamic among the players—whether antagonists or brokers—has hardly altered since Obama's arrival on the scene, I think it's time people give up on top-down solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At this point, gradual grassroots efforts offer the best hope for a breakthrough. One option I have advocated in my writing is to transform the conflict into an incremental socio-political struggle dealing with concrete civil rights—such as freedom of movement, the right to live in security and safety, the

right to education and employment, the right to vote, the right to citizenship—rather than abstract notions of nationhood and thorny questions of borders.

Such a bread-and-butter civil rights movement will improve the situation on the ground and could erode the ugly and exclusionary nationalism that has fuelled this conflict for the past six decades.

Khaled Diab is an Egyptian born journalist and writer based in a Brussels. He writes about a wide range of subjects, including the EU, the Middle East, Islam and secularism, multiculturalism and human rights. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

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From Egypt to the Promised Land

Dr. Terry Lacey

The last thing anyone wants to do is to discourage the attempt by President Obama in his Cairo speech at a fresh start both in relations with the Muslim world, and on the Middle East peace process. But the road-map and its final destination must be reviewed, or those traveling down it, like Moses, might spend a long time in the desert before they see the Promised Land.

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepares his keynote speech to set out the Israeli bargaining position after his initial talks with President Obama, it is time to confront new realities. The Israelis have changed, and so have the Palestinians. The twin state

solution may have become out-of-date.

First, there is not going to be a fully-fledged Palestinian State that can freely decide foreign policy and military alliances, without restraints. If a Palestinian State wanted a military agreement with Iran to train its army, its neighbors would go ballistic (if that is an appropriate expression).

Second, the twin state solution is impossible without Palestinian national reconciliation, including that the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem can be ruled by one administration, backed by elections and perceived as legitimate.

The previous policies of Israel and the West to somehow destroy or reduce the power of Hamas (respectively) have failed and been counter-productive, making Hamas stronger in Palestine, and

probably in Israel too. So there has to be reconciliation with Hamas for Palestinians and Israelis.

Third the whole process cannot be concluded and lasting peace obtained until one last issue is resolved, and it would be a great illusion to think otherwise.

Israel and Israelis have to be clearer on the future of the State of Israel. As a Jewish State that will contrive to maintain a Jewish majority, for ever and regardless of demographic trends, or a democratic State of Israel, with a secure home for the Jewish people, but which may one day itself not have a Jewish majority, or be part of a Middle East Regional Common Market or Confederation with an Arab majority.

This decision on the future of the state

will be the one that decides if the conflict continues or not, and not the decision on how to constitute a Palestinian state alongside Israel, or its alternatives.

In other words Israel in an inherently unstable entity as long as it remains isolated in the region and because of its ethnic majority policy given its location, mixed population and the higher Arab birth rate, so it must decide how to become stable, instead of projecting its inherent instability onto its neighbors.

Avigdor Lieberman and Yisrael Beiteinu understand the demographic realities and talk about them openly, which is better than pretending they do not exist.

Therefore Lieberman advocates more land swaps and population movement than now envisaged in the twin state

solution. But this tactic only delays the growth of the non-Jewish Israeli population. Many Israelis, and perhaps the Supreme Court of Israel, will not agree to remove citizenship from Israeli citizens.

But if Israel is to keep a Jewish majority over say two centuries, then depending on demographic starting positions, it would have to periodically attract more Jewish migration, or from time to time change its boundaries and push out Arab citizens.

Lieberman is however correct that full rights of citizenship should involve full obligations to military service, or alternatives. Israeli liberals have evaded these issues and that is now a weakness. But none of this justifies a racist state or pushing citizens out.

This is not the time to jump head first

into the twin state negotiations which were fundamentally and perhaps terminally flawed by the heavy-handed approach of President Bush and his Peace Quartet, who moved from negotiation to coercion, to boycott and blockade, in the pursuit of an imposed peace.

Neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis can or should be forced into a peace agreement they do not want and cannot support. It would be ludicrous if the US and the West still insist on the twin state if it becomes evident that the majority of Israelis and Palestinians do not support it.

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

"I never faked any antiquity"

Is the Roman-era burial box or ossuary in position of an Israeli collector the only physical object directly connected to Jesus or is it a fake?

By: Matthew Kalman
The Media Line News Agency

An Israeli antiquities collector accused of faking the burial box of Jesus' brother and other priceless historical items says he is confident that new scientific evidence will prove that he is innocent.

Oded Golan, 58, has been on trial at the District Court in Jerusalem for the past four years, charged with forging an inscription on a Roman-era burial box or ossuary that says it contained the bones of "James, son of Joseph, brother

of Jesus." The discovery caused a sensation when it was first announced in 2002 and displayed at the Royal Ontario Museum. But on its return to Israel, the ossuary was seized by Israeli police and Golan was arrested.

He was accused of faking the ossuary and other items in order to trap gullible collectors. In December 2004, he was indicted with four other defendants and accused of being at the center of an international antiquities forgery ring.

"They took original antiquities and added inscriptions and decorations, which turned the artifact into something valuable – and some of the antiquities we're talking about are worth millions of dollars. One example is the ossuary of Jesus' brother," said Commander Shaul Naim of the Jerusalem police.

"We have the basis to believe that there are many more fake artifacts cir-

culating, both in private collections and museums in Israel and abroad that we haven't found yet," Naim said.

"We know there are antiquity forgeries – it's not a new thing. But the extent and the drama in attempting to fake history didn't allow us as a government body not to become involved," said Shuka Dorfman, head of the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

"I believe we have revealed only the tip of the iceberg. This industry encircles the world, involves millions of dollars," said Dorfman.

Golan and his co-defendants went on trial in the summer of 2005, but after more than 70 prosecution witnesses and 8,000 pages of testimony, Judge Aharon Farkash warned the prosecution that he was not convinced they had proved their case and advised them to consider halting the trial.

"After all the evidence we have heard, including the testimony of the prime defendant, is the picture still the same as the one you had when he was charged?" Judge Farkash pointedly asked the prosecution in October 2008. "Not every case ends in the way you think it will when it starts. Maybe we can save ourselves the rest."

"Have you really proved beyond a reasonable doubt that these artifacts are fakes as charged in the indictment?" Judge Farkash said. "The experts disagreed among themselves. Where is the definitive proof needed to show that the accused faked the ossuary? You need to ask yourselves those questions very seriously."

In an exclusive interview with The Media Line at his Tel Aviv home, Golan said he was confident that new scientific research undertaken by defense

experts would finally exonerate him. Prosecution scientists had accused Golan of faking patina – a thin layer of biological material covering ancient items – in order to make the inscriptions on the artifacts seem old.

"No, I never faked any antiquity," Golan told The Media Line. "During the last several years there were several tests and examinations of those items by prominent experts from different countries in different laboratories and I think we succeeded to prove that these inscriptions could not have been inscribed in the last century. There is a thin layer of patina – it's a thin layer of crust made actually by a micro-organism that was developed inside the grooves of the inscription and this product made by the micro-organism could not have been developed in less than a hundred years."

"It's impossible to generate artificial patina, which takes a long, long time to be developed. It normally takes a hundred years in nature to be developed. Technology has not developed yet any technology to make it in a short time in a way that you will not be able to recognize it. You may do something similar, but this is not a forgery. This is like reconstruction of a building with similar materials," said Golan.

"I am sure that most of the people who originally claimed that it's a forgery recognized later on – just look at the articles and the researches that were done later on – that it should be ancient. I cannot guarantee that it belonged to the brother of Jesus Christ but it's definitely ancient. I have no doubt about it," he said.

The Israel Antiquities Authority and Justice Ministry refused to comment.

Yemeni entrepreneurs' psychological characteristics and performance

This study looks at the psychology of Yemeni entrepreneurs and the influence it has on organizational performance. One hundred male and female entrepreneurs were surveyed and their stories were analyzed and compared with management theories on entrepreneurship.

Study by: Elham Al-Gohaly
Summarized by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemeni entrepreneurs believe that learning from others' experiences is a crucial to maintaining one's pioneering spirit. They don't believe in taking chances, and they work on the basis of sound planning. Many Yemenis also have a family background in business or trading and have worked as entrepreneurs since childhood. This family background greatly affects their success in the future.

Advanced education, however, was not found to be an important predictor of success in business. More useful for the entrepreneurs were life experiences and a wide knowledge of the local and international business environment.

The need for achievement, Locus of Control (which is a psychological term for a person's belief about what causes the good or bad results in his or her life) and tolerance for ambiguity (the ability to perceive ambiguity in information and behavior in a neutral and open way) are seen as important entrepreneurial personal characteristics.

A Yemeni entrepreneur, regardless of his or her level of education, gender, experience, and family background is ambitious, proactive, a planner, a risk taker, innovative, and a decision maker. They challenge the unknown and even when they fail, they keep trying until they achieve their goals.

Entrepreneurship has become a desirable profession to many Yemenis because of the appealing life style it promises which includes power and wealth. But Yemeni entrepreneurs do not necessarily see themselves as inventors of new products or services. They turn ideas or prototypes into profitable realities.

Examples of successful Yemeni entrepreneurs

There are many successful Yemeni entrepreneurs, such as the late Ha'el Sa'eed A'nem, the founder of industrial renaissance in Yemen. Although he had a harsh childhood, he started a career as a tailor, selling whatever he produced. Through this profession he learned the basics of trade. Later he moved to Aden, which served as his home base as he travelled between Somalia, Aden and France doing business. Today, his legacy is carried on by his relatives who have grown his business into one of the strongest multinational companies in the history of Yemen.

Another famous Yemeni entrepreneur was late Abdo Thabet, the father of Thabet Brothers, Ltd. In 1925, he started a sea vessel fuelling service during tough times in Aden. Eventually, Thabet created one of the country's most reputable marine services companies. In later years, his children diversified the business.

There are also female Yemeni entrepreneurs such as Hamida, a restaurant and hotel owner in Shibam. She started working because of financial necessity, and because she wanted independence and personal success. Her father died when she was a child and her mother was blind, so she learned the value of an income early in life.

Hamida sold bread to soldiers and taught herself to cook. She worked in a kitchen and before she was 20 years old, she opened her own restaurant. Hamida talks about her life as if it were the most natural things in the world to do what few other women of her generation dared, opening her own business and succeeding in a male dominated society.

"It is in the nature of human beings to work in order to sustain their family, and their children" Hamida explained. And although her early career was a struggle, she said that everything became easier after the 1962 revolution.

She Hamida married, work remained an important part of her life. She had ten children, but continued to manage both her family and her career, and her business grew. First, they moved the restaurant into a bigger house. Then, the one restaurant became two. Later, they opened a hotel.

Hamida confidently pursued her

career without renouncing traditional values. Cooking is traditionally considered the female domain, but without her sense of entrepreneurship, she would have been restricted to cooking in her husband's kitchen.

Another successful female Yemeni entrepreneur is Amina Al-Amrania, the "Queen of Oranges." When you go to the big market on the outskirts of Sana'a, you will find her sitting in the back of one of her trucks loaded with oranges, giving orders to her workers, all of whom appear to be accustomed to heeding to her high pitched voice. She wears traditional clothes and is veiled, but that is the only sign that she is different from others sellers. Her authority seems to be accepted by everyone.

Last year, Al-Amrania travelled to Berlin to participate in the International Food Fair as a member of the Yemeni delegation and as a representative of Yemeni wholesale agents for fruit vegetables. In Berlin, she was amazed and pleased to see so many women working in the commercial domain because she is accustomed to being the only woman at home.

Al-Amrania started working when her husband was working in Saudi Arabia. He was unable to send enough money to support her and her daughter so she began doing what she had watched him do, buy and sell clothing. In the beginning, she was not very successful, because she did not have any experience in sales.

But in 1975, Al-Amrania's career began in earnest when her mother gave her YR 3000 she made from selling her gold. Al-Amrania bought coral neck-



laces with the money and sold them to women for a good profit.

Al-Amrania later got into the fruit business by accident. Some of the women who owed her money decided to pay her back with fruit from the next harvest. When harvest time came, Al-Amrania bought a truck for YR 43,000, loaded it with peaches and drove to Taiz, where she sold the peaches for a fantastic profit. She soon learned how much money she could earn by exploring the differences in Yemen's regional harvesting periods, and the resulting price differences.

Today, she is the leader of about 50 wholesale agents, and even her rivals admit that she has a natural instinct for profitable deals. She also has 35 years of experience and the respect of her colleagues and competitors. Her parents and siblings, however, were initially ashamed of her career and told her she was not welcome in the family home. Only her husband encouraged her work.

"He became lazy, so that encouraged me to work even more," she said with a smile.

Al-Amrania eventually cared less and less about what people thought of her, and she began to ignore negative comments. Today, her family has had a change of heart, and she visits her elderly mother.

Al-Amrania also has eight daughters who, unlike their mother, are educated. Some of them plan to go to university. They help their mother with accounting work and make Al-Amrania regret that she never learned to read or write.

Al-Amrania's success provokes different reactions in modern Yemeni society. Her mafraj (guest room on the terrace) is decorated with photographs of her shaking hands with government



"I call my invention 'The Wheel,' but so far I've been unable to attract any venture capital."

ministers and even the president who, in 1998, gave her the nickname, "Queen of Oranges."

She is a very proud of this title and her achievements, but is well aware that not everybody appreciates them. Last year, a bomb was placed in her car and detonated at 5 o'clock in the morning, only minutes before she was due to leave the house to go to work. Her rivals have attacked even her bodyguards. But she still encourages women to work.

"There are so many women in need of an income," she said. "But they do not know how to go about it, or they are afraid of society's reaction."

Al-Amrania cannot imagine a life without work, and gets antsy on her days off. She says she does not want to become rich - she works for a living because she likes it. Her dream is to someday export fruit to other countries, and for Yemen to become strong, proud country, because she has always been

goal is to be successful, not "the best." They feel energetic when they work in a dynamic business climate, and that it is important to look for new business opportunities for their organizations. They agreed that an organization needs to experience radical changes now and then in order to develop, and successful business transactions foster pride.

Entrepreneurs agreed that finding innovative solutions for problems is enjoyable and character building. Yet they seldom spend a considerable amount of time making their organizations function better.

They also agreed that a strategy, mission statement, and other documents detailing the commitments of their organizations are useful tools, and that administrative systems provide good value for cost.

The need for achievement of female entrepreneurs is higher than male entrepreneurs. Yet the internal control of surroundings and ability to face ambiguity was higher for men.

Various sources point to a tendency for men to use objective measures of career success such as salary, rank or promotion. Women, however, tend to measure their success through subjective measures such as personal or professional satisfaction, the quality of their work, or their sense of growth or development. All the women surveyed expressed a high need for achievement, and when describing their perception of career

Psychologically of entrepreneurs and organizational performance After surveying a sample of 100 entrepreneurs - 65 men and 35 women - the results showed that the most commonly seen Yemeni entrepreneur is male, between 30 and 39 with a bachelor's degree. He has less than 10 years of experience and mostly works in the private sector. He most often starts his business independently, without involving relatives in the business.

The most commonly seen female entrepreneur has the same characteristics but is more likely to be younger. 48 percent of female entrepreneurs are between 20 and 29 years old.

Demographic factors	n	%
Gender	Male 65	65.0%
	Female 35	35.0%
Age	20 - 29 years	35.35.0%
	30 - 39 years	45.45.0%
	40 + years	20.20.0%
Education level	High school	28.28.0%
	Bachelor	52.52.0%
	Master	20.20.0%
Years of experience	Less than 10 years	48.48.0%
	10 - 19 years	39.39.0%
	20 + years	13.13.0%
No. of family involved in business	No one of the family	41.41.0%
	One person of the family	40.40.0%
	Two people of the family	14.14.0%
	Three people of the family	5.5.0%
Kind of organization worked in	Private sector	80.80.0%
	Public sector	13.13.0%
	Own business	7.7.0%

The entrepreneurs surveyed agree that to be successful they must spend time planning. They spend a considerable amount of time analyzing their future business needs before allocating any resources.

The entrepreneurs said they don't feel bad when they don't work hard enough to improve their business, and that their



success, they placed greater emphasis on attaining challenging and satisfying positions to the more measurable success favored by their male counterparts.

The survey also found that entrepreneurs who have three people of their family involved in business have a higher need for achievement than entrepreneurs who are financially independent, or have fewer family members involved in the business.

Entrepreneurs with a high school level of education only have a higher need for achievement, while entrepreneurs who have a college degree also tend to have a stronger belief in their ability to control events and a high tolerance for ambiguity.

The research shows that companies with an entrepreneurial orientation are more prone to focus efforts on opportunities that lead to better organizational performance. Entrepreneurs with 10 or more years of experience higher need for achievement, while those have been in business less than 10 years have a stronger locus of control, and tolerance for ambiguity.

Theorists illustrate the role of crisis on strategic planning and risk-taking. They advocate that entrepreneurs tend to have a higher locus of control after a crisis situation, especially if they have come through the crisis in a stronger position. However, a high locus of control sometimes is the cause of crisis WHICH RESULTS IN resulting in the stifling of

innovation and a resistance to change that appears from their better performance in their organization.

Entrepreneurs also believe that psychological factors correlate with their organization's performance. For instance, the survey shows that the need for achievement comes as the No. 1 priority for the entrepreneurs who viewed it as the most important character affecting the organization's performance.

Some management theorists argue that people who have a high need for achievement possess five critical attributes. They take personal responsibility for finding solutions to problems. They like rapid feedback on their performance so that they can judge whether they are improving or not. They avoid what they perceive to be very easy or very difficult tasks. They also dislike succeeding by chance, they prefer striving to achieve challenging yet attainable goals. And finally, they are interested in concrete knowledge (money as a measure of success) of the results of their decisions.

The research ends with a number of recommendations for the entrepreneurs, society and for the government. It encourages new ventures and financial independence, especially for women.

This article is based on research conducted by a joint MBA program at the Open University of Malaysia and the University of Science and Technology International College.

Career advice for new women entrepreneurs Your first 3 steps to financial freedom

By: Mechele Pellebon

If small business is the heart of the emerging business economy, then women entrepreneurs are its pulsating heartbeat. Despite the economic malaise riveting the headlines, women business owners are outpacing men 2 to 1 with their visions of financial freedom. From financing tips to business plans, beat the small business blues with a 3rd generation entrepreneur's career advice for new women entrepreneurs.

Career Advice for New Women Entrepreneurs # 1:

Create a big idea that helps millions of people and investors will throw money at your manicured feet.

Donald Trump once said that it's easier to raise 100 million dollars than it is ask for 1 million. He's right. Most angel investors and venture capitalists will rally around a big idea with a chance to make history and maximize their investment, instead of a small business with 50 customers that will fizzle out in 1 year.

Think big as a new woman entrepreneur. Rather than starting a blog, fashion line or consulting company that will serve only 500 women, create a media company, make-up line, or clothing store that will help 25 million women distribute their products, manage their stress, save money or increase their self esteem.

Takeaways

The operations plan is more important than the business plan.

Create a name for your company that your core audience can identify as the solution to their problem

Investors will "show you the money" if you think like McDonald's 10 billion burgers served.%



Investors will "show you the money" if you think like McDonald's 10 billion burgers served, instead of a fledgling seamstress with 5 dresses sewn.

Career Advice for New Women Entrepreneurs # 2:

Create a great marketing-based name first, an operations plan second followed by the business plan.

The business plan is an analysis of projected sales, your experience, finances required and the viability of your idea. Its primary focus is the future. Banks and investors will be interested in your future income statements, experience and marketing approach first. The operations plan, however tells investors how you plan to run your business, now.

A timely tip for the new woman entrepreneur: The operations plan is more important than the business plan. The business plan explains why your idea is viable. The operations plan says how you

will maintain and grow the viable idea. How you answer the phones, treat customers, manage employees, plan for future growth, and create order can contribute to the demise or success of your business. Investors and customers will expect consistency in the execution of the plan. The operations plan sets the tone for your employee manual and revenue goals. In the chaotic world of business, the most organized company wins.

Career Advice for New Women Entrepreneurs # 3:

Name. Name. Name is just as important as Location. Location. Location.

The name of your business and product is as important as the location of your headquarters. Create a name for your company that your core audience can identify as the solution to their problem. Calling your service business Jesus' Hallelujah Cleaning Service might alienate or offend your Jewish, Atheist, and Muslim customers.

Choose a name that identifies with your customers' problem. Naming the company after yourself is great if you want to brand your name, but can backfire if people can't pronounce your name or tie it to the product. Your goal is to integrate this revolutionary product or service into their busy lives. It's easier for your customer to remember Geek Squad as a computer repair service, than Puniler Professional Technology and Consulting Services when their computer fails.

Erratic business behavior, poor sales and inconsistency in the customer experience - reeks of poor operations planning, lack of a big idea and ineffective marketing focus - not lack of capital. Use your innate female multi-tasking powers to attract the best investors and plan for wealthy and healthy business growth.

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Warning

Based on the Trademark /brands protection law, stores of Mohammed Abdulwahab Al-Zubiri and its partner confirmed that they are the sole agent of PHILIPS products in the republic of Yemen. The products which are marked by the international commercial brands PHILIPS are produced by the Netherlands electronic company.

The agent is wakening its customers and all PHILIPS users that there are attempts to counterfeit and fake the PHILIPS brands as well as its products. The original PHILIPS produces are characterized by good qualities, reliability, long service and have the confidence of consumers in the local and international markets.

Zubiri stores are warring that they will take all the legal measures through the official authorizations against any one attempt to import any of PHILIPS products into Yemen. In additions, such products would be subjected to confiscation, destroying, and compensation.

In June, 3, 2009, and based on the judiciary verdict issued by Hodeida Primary Trade Court, quantity of fake trademarks of PHILIPS have been destroyed, with the attend of a committee consisted of a representatives of the court, representatives from the concerned bodies, including General Authority for Standards and Specifications, Environment Health, prosecutor, and local reports.

معاً حياة أفضل



PHILIPS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Good Governance Project Officer (Based in Sana'a- Yemen)

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces a vacancy for the post of Project Officer, for its project Good Governance. This post is for 9 months.

The role

We are looking for a dynamic and experienced Project officer to support civil society in policy engagement and monitoring, planning and budgeting but also promote partnership between civil society and government. S/he will also build capacity of partners specifically in networking.

What we're looking for

The project officer will have proven experience of working with development organisation at local level with an understanding of poverty and gender equity issues. You must have degree in social sciences or related discipline with the ability to analyse and document related civil society and poverty issues. Communication skills both written and Oral in Arabic and English is essential as well as the ability to work with others as part of the team. Knowledge of computer skills, willingness to travel and eagerness to learn about organisational and financial procedures will be an added advantage.

To apply

Please send a copy of your CV with covering letter clearly outlining how you meet the requirements of the job to:

The Human Resources Department, Oxfam GB Yemen
P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen,
Fax no: 01 445 650 OR Email: yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk
Closing date: 24th June 2009



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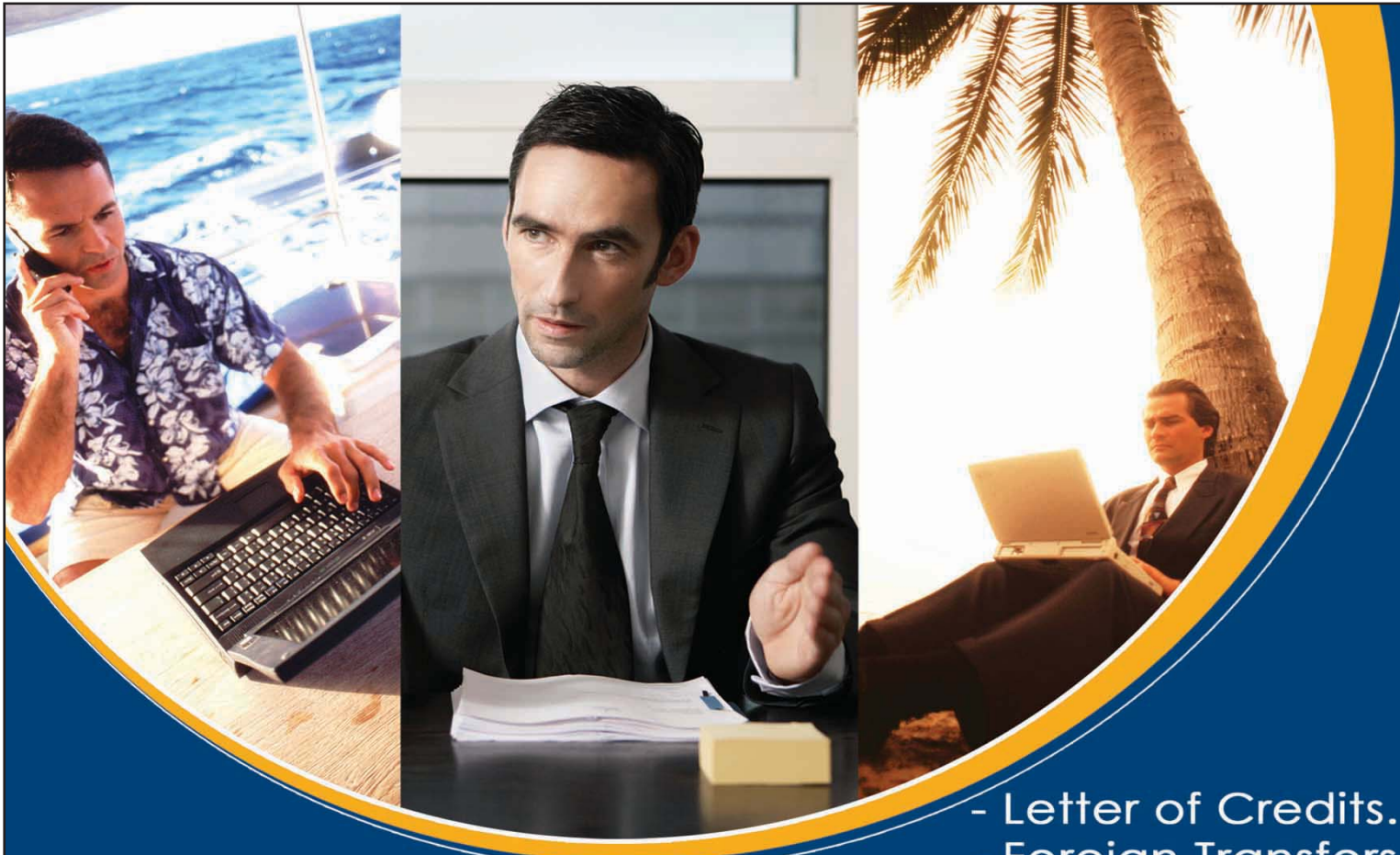
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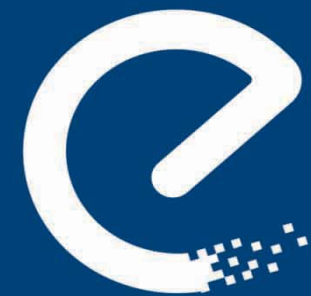
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- **Ability:** Demonstrated ability to control the class and teach in a student — centered manner using the Communicative Approach and to establish a positive classroom learning environment.

All candidates are asked to submit a cover letter and CV to the School Building — English Section — Boys Branch, off Sixty — Meter Road, behind AI—Eman University, fax: 373212, or call us at (777489789 — 733535707).



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Obama Cairo Speech

By: Dr. M. Iqtedar Husain Farooqi
mihfarooqi@gmail.com

President Obama's Cairo speech was remarkably honest and straightforward. It was a mighty fine piece of oratory with depth and insight from an outstanding mind. The speech was so thoughtful and impressive that I wish it to resonate across the globe.

Obama spoke on democracy, terrorism, economic development and reli-

gious tolerance, referring candidly to the intolerance by some Muslims in their own lands but demanding tolerance in foreign lands.

Obama's hope that "the sooner the extremists are isolated and unwelcome in Muslim communities, the sooner we will all be safer," is genuine and must be listened to throughout the Islamic world, including Pakistan.

What appealed to me most in Obama's speech was his views on women's rights. He rightly observed that "countries where women are well-

educated are far more likely to be prosperous." He elaborated by saying, "Our daughters can contribute just as much to society as our sons, and our common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity - men and women - to reach their full potential. I do not believe that women must make the same choices as men in order to be equal, and I respect those women who choose to live their lives in traditional roles. But it should be their choice."

Muslims all over the world in general and India in particular must under-

stand that one important reason for their fall from grace during the last four centuries is definitely the treatment given to women in Muslim societies, particularly with respect towards their education. Obama's support for women's rights in Muslim lands is most welcome and is a bold initiative. It is a worthy effort.

There is no reason to disbelieve President Obama's honest declaration that America has a common cause with Islam and never will be at war with the faith.

Response to Silver Lining article on the Salafis

Coalition with Salafis a Menace

Adel Mohamed Al Ashtal
ashtals@gmail.com

I think Dr. Mohammed should have thought well before accusing the Salafis and selecting an inappropriate title that is considered a generalization lacking any evidence. Salafis are among the most peaceful people and the most decent and reputable scholars. They oppose totally using any sort of violence and never called for any sort of harm to any human, whether Muslim or non-Muslim. I think it's totally untrue and incorrect to accuse Salafis of being a threat or even teaching views that lead

to terrorism.

Salafis exist in all Gulf states and they have never participated in any terrorist attacks. There is a consensus among all governments that Salafis have never represented any sort of threat to the state or its people because Salafis believe that revolting against the ruling government is prohibited.

Based on this belief, they never pose any sort of threat to governments or their people. They have lived very peacefully in the Gulf states and in other part of the word and never called for violence or terrorism.

So, Dr. Mohammed, I wish you hadn't selected that title for your

article, and I also wish you hadn't accused Salafis as a whole by using such broad generalizations. It is very easy to come up with judgments, but I think we have a great responsibility towards our nation and we have to respect our ways of life and respect the fact that every person has the freedom to choose his way of life without raising accusations towards large communities.

Finally, if there is a tendency to criticize the government, there are many issues that can be talked about instead of accusing one of the largest Muslim communities.

We have to look for proof first and we should focus our effort towards the

people who actually do commit any sort of harm towards others. I think all of us should stand against any sort of accusation that lacks proof, especially accusations that lead to disorder and confusion in the nation.

It would have been a good idea if you had visited any Salafi scholars groups; then you would've really been fair to them.

I personally think that most of the peace that we are enjoying here in Yemen and the low rate of crime as compared to other countries can be attributed to their efforts and frequent directives that call for respect and the prohibiting of harm to any living creature, even the animals.

The search

By: Samira Ali BinDaair

They ask me why I wander off into unknown valleys... seeking lonely mountains as my abode;

They ask me why I look beyond the horizon... to untrodden paths behind the Sun's glaring blaze;

Did they ask Abbas bin Farnas or the Wright brothers about soaring the heights...

Or the Pharaohs' dream of eternal life and winged chariots... walking into turbulent seas of drowning glory...

Einstein looking beyond space... into nothingness and infinity?

Or Faust's quest for everlasting youth... lured by Lucifer into the damnation of Sin;

I traveled long and far... into wild jungles... the epitome of Orwell's Animal Farm turned human... capturing the voices of history... the great dream of the physicists... mingled with the confused sounds of the present in the rushed tumble of

life....

Robots... turning this way and that... at the push of colored buttons... puppets on a string... pulled by whimsical hands... dancing... always dancing thoughtlessly to unknown tunes... with no joy... no real music in their bloodless hearts.

I walk further in search of myself... I see a lonely shepherd boy on a rugged rock,

Playing on his flute... and stop in my tracks mesmerized... his bright eyes like shooting comets belying the sad tune... In a dignified row... I saw standing on that mountain... Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, Alkhwarzmi, Al-Jahidh... with downcast heads... looking at the downtrodden valleys of Posterity.

I remember the little girl whose legs moved faster than sound... running to catch the wind... and dancing in the rain. Oh, the joy of climbing the highest tree... hugging the Moon and catching the falling stars...with the fervent joy of innocence.

Or the young woman who, like Omar Khayyam, wanted to break the world

into pieces and like Imam Al-Shafee put it together again into the perfection of Saints. Always dreaming... dreaming of a world... beyond human imagination.

I see a stranger... a middle aged woman standing there... with her sighs of broken dreams; Her perplexed gaze and childish face unbefitting the grey on her worn head;

Still searching? Perhaps you and I can become friends... I hold out my hand but she looks past me. Still searching through "Lost Property" of many airports... so many trains gone by... yet she stands there unflinching... searching with the hope of adolescence... a historical anachronism... in those timeless realms.

Many years have gone by... rewriting history... unraveling the present... unable to carve the future tree... hugging the Moon and catching the falling stars...with the fervent joy of innocence.

All the Prophets came this way and went... the legacy thrown asunder by careless hands. Their footsteps fading with the harsh tread of Sacrilege...

Messages falling on ears muted by the high decibels of haywire engines... going to unknown destinations... a geographical catastrophe!... as with hedonistic greed they nibble away at the human spirit.

She walks on among familiar faces... a Stranger... amidst false smiles... mirthless mirth... craving for the laughter and abandonment of childhood that moves the heart to new heights.

She searches beneath the rubble of lost Purity... turning so many stones... Shall she, like Imaam Al-Ghazali, go back to the mountains to muse... and find herself?

Or stay with outstretched hands towards other strangers wandering in the dark... together line the horizon... to find the fading light... Then... with beating heart and quickened pace... like Tareq bin Ziad storming Gibraltar... she moved towards the dispersed clouds... the illumination almost blinding her... she was no longer a Stranger amongst the angels who bestrode the earth.

Response to a story by Salwa Aleryani

Dr. Yasir Hameed

I read with interest your story entitled A Government Hide and Seek, published in the Yemen Times, issue 1233, on 12 February 2009.

I admire your talent in writing in English which is clear and understandable. You used the symbols cleverly in your story to expose some of the sad aspects of the suffering of our people here in Yemen.

I highly respect people like you, those who stand for what they believe in and struggle to make their voice audible among the chaos of the crowds.

But I was deeply saddened by the unjustifiable attack on doctors which was very clear and aggressive in your story.

As a doctor in Yemen, I really believe that the standards of health care here are far from adequate and are well below the least expected of a country's health system. But why does the media always target doctors specifically as the cause of that crippled system?

We, as doctors, are just part of that system, some of the players in the field. We don't have the power to change the system; only those who devised it and control it have this power.

The health system in Yemen is the product of the allocated health budget

from the government, a sum which is very low and inadequate for providing acceptable healthcare for the public. The key officials in the Ministry of Health, heads of the health offices, and hospital managers are the key players in that system.

The doctors only obey the rules and try to provide the best of what they have to ease the suffering of their patients.

We cannot exert pressure on the government to change the system; we can do that only through honest and brave unions and syndicates which we lack at the moment.

So why blame the doctors for the faults of the health system here?

What about the other health professionals? They are as important as doctors and yet we rarely see the media attack them explicitly as they do with doctors.

What about unqualified nurses who are working in our hospitals without having a degree in nursing? What about the unqualified pharmacists? Most of them don't know anything about drug names and dosages.

What about the greedy hospital managers? Some of them lack any proper understanding of hospital management and their main concern is their own financial gain from patients suffering.

We see a lot of medical errors

happen every day in our practice, but we tend sometimes to ignore them because if we do the right thing all the time we will not find a place to work in here in Yemen.

You mentioned in your story some of these errors which I would like to address here. One is the forgotten instruments inside surgery patients, not bed sheets as you mentioned, or anesthesia overdose.

Actually, these two errors are blamed on scrub nurses and anesthetists more than the surgeon.

Ideally, in any decent health system, the scrub nurse has the essential duty of making sure that everything inside the operation theatre is working properly and that all the instruments and gauzes, or pieces of clothes used to stop bleeding, are returned back to her/him.

The nurse will count every gauze pad the surgeon uses, and then when the surgeon finishes, the nurse will collect them and make sure that they are disposed safely.

And concerning the anesthetists, do you know that a large numbers of operations are done without an anesthesiologist? The majority of anesthesia is given by assistant anesthesiologists.

These are health personnel who have graduated from institutions where they get a diploma in anesthesia; however,

they have not graduated from medical school. This is due to the fact that the number of anesthetist doctors in Yemen is very small in regard to the large number of health facilities.

And lastly, you mentioned that people die from errors in diagnosis or treatment made by doctors. You are also partially right here, but you are not looking at the big picture.

The errors in diagnoses are not because we are lazy thinkers, or that we lack intelligence. It is because the lack of the essential tools of diagnosis here in Yemen, such as proper laboratory and radiological services.

For any given case in the medical textbooks, you will see at least 5 tests are given to confirm the diagnosis. But here we can only rely on 1 or 2 tests to diagnose the patient's illness. This is due to the lack of availability of such tests or the high costs or both.

Given the opportunity to administer all available tests, we are making right diagnoses in most of the cases that we see, and sometimes the percentage of the correct diagnosis and treatment approaches the rates in the western developed world.

I apologize if my letter is too long, but I just wanted to tell you, and all other people who write for the media in Yemen, be just and fair to doctors. They are doing the best they can to survive another day on duty.

Through The Mind's Eye

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



Current education in Yemen, a call for reconsideration

First of all, for personal reasons, I did not publish my article last week and I am sorry for that. Secondly, thank you to Ms. Faihaa Al-Taib for commenting on my article entitled "Is there love for the sake of love?" She did not, however, say clearly whether she is for or against the idea of love for the sake of love. I wish she made her viewpoint clearer.

Today I am not going to talk about social issues regarding women or men. I will talk about a matter that concerns every individual in this country. I am talking about the primary and secondary school examinations that are about to take place.

I am not going to praise the educational system for its efforts in preparing for the process of the examinations. I shall attack decision makers who make education a matter of personal gain, and think examinations are a season for collecting money. The victims are the students, and ultimately the nation.

Corruption starts when examiners and the heads of examination committees are nominated. Usually, in each district, two lists are prepared, including the names of the would-be heads of the examination committees. In one of the districts in Taiz, I personally know the people who prepared the two lists. One list includes the best and the most honest people, while the second list includes the worst and the most dishonest people.

The selection between the first and the second list is left to the educational management of the district. Can you believe that the second list, which includes the most dishonest candidates, is selected? This selection does not consider the students or the improvement of the educational process. It benefits the personal incomes of examiners who pay off the management of the educational office of this district.

This is education in Yemen. The decision makers do not pay any attention to the future of Yemen.

The problem is not only with management. It is also lies within the students themselves, and more dangerously in the students' parents, who sometimes support cheating in order to pass the exams. Some parents give children money to pay the examiners. Other fathers accompany their sons to the examination centers and provide them with the answers to the questions. These fathers think they are helping their children pass the exams, but they are actually unknowingly killing their educational and cultural future.

As a result, students no longer think of education as a matter of knowledge and qualifications but as a matter of certificates. Some think knowledge will be of no use to them, and for this reason they think school is a way of a passing time before they go to work in a field that doesn't need such useless knowledge. Others consider education a way of getting certificates in order to get public jobs, and pay money to pass the exams. If this is the way children learn to deal with life, what will be the future for Yemen?

This article was not written for the people working in educational affairs because I am sure that they know this well, and do not care. It is a call for the students, parents, and the government to make a step towards improving the educational process in Yemen.

It is also a call for those organizations and countries which support education in Yemen to make positive changes for the future. They should not pay millions for something useless for a country they are trying to help. They should set standards, observe the process and offer support based on schools' actual educational achievements. If they do not supervise the process, their support is meaningless because the funds get misused.

Violations in the examination process reflect the current corrupted status of education as a whole. Education in this country must be reconsidered. Otherwise, the future will get worse, and worse.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

The Moon

By: Basheer Al-selwi

Basheeromaralselwi@yahoo.com.
Sana'a University, faculty of arts.
English Depart.

Go whatever you desire to go,
and let me stay here smile to the beautiful moon.

You have never seen the happy moon,
smiles and dances over the clouds.

You have never heard the moon,
at the middle of night sing a song.

Song of love, song of happy mood,
song that no singer in the world can sing or composed.

You know that, I have to go,
due to the moon left the sky, and left me alone.

See the moon in the sky smiles to me,
but who knows, may be he is in agony!

Since you left me, the moon appears every day to me,
who knows!? perhaps his beloved abandoned him!

You have cut the only light in my heart,
and left me alone,
but the moon gives me ray of hope, in the same time that you have gone.

My Unity

By: Monassar Mohssin Al_sabahi
monassar_moh2@yahoo.com

Damned enemy with no dignity,
That tries, ruining my unity,
Whose mind is never wise,
Must know and realize,
No more we can be isolated,
soon that will be defeated,
As long as we fight together,

Unity will remain forever,
All generations of my country,
Will celebrate May's victory,
Reliving martyrs' memories,
For many more centuries,
Wrong that who believes,
People live like slaves,
All feel free in Yemen,
The gift by Lord is given.

باسم محمد عبده الشيباني
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Language maintenance and shift in Yemen



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Language maintenance and shift

When a speech community gradually starts acquiring another language, then we say that a *Language Shift* is taking place, but when a speech community

tries to keep the language(s) they have always used, it is termed as *Language Maintenance*. Standard examples would be different migrant communities migrating to the USA and losing the use of their native language for English. There are also some migrant communities in the USA like Punjabis (Sikhs), who have maintained their native language, Punjabi, while living in the USA and are using English. Sometimes there has also been a case of reversal of Language Shift, in which a speech community may go back to their abandoned native language as in the case of Jews migrating to Israel and start speaking Hebrew or Yiddish which were their native languages in the past.

Why language maintenance?

Language Maintenance can take place because the speech community doesn't want to lose their cultural or religious identities, or because of other factors like not being able to assimilate themselves in the target community completely.

Why language shift?

Language Shift can take place if the speech community wants to assimilate in the target community or be like them culturally or religiously. It can sometimes take place for instrumental reasons as well, like getting a job or other economic benefits.

The Yemeni scenario

Over the centuries, Yemen has been transformed from a predominantly Arab monolingual society to a dynam-

ic multilingual/multicultural society. Different migrant communities have landed or been brought in Yemen by various political, religious, or economic factors. Although there is no clear-cut data available on the exact number of different migrant communities in Yemen, it is said that their number is in millions.

The migrants

Many Indians were brought to Yemen by the colonial British Empire as laborers or to work for the British army. Some migrants have also come from India for religious factors e.g. Bohra community people have migrated to Yemen because their religious leaders are based in Yemen. There is also a large number of African migrants coming from countries like Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, and

other African countries for the sake of getting a better economic life and security.

Language maintenance and shift in Yemen

It is observed that there is a clear trend of language shift among the Indian (mostly based in Aden) or African migrant (spread across Yemen) communities in Yemen especially among the younger generations. There is a gradual decline in the knowledge of the language of their forefathers, e.g. Adeni Indian children speak little or no Hindi/Urdu compared to their parents or grandparents who speak Hindi/Urdu relatively well. This may be because their attitude towards Arabic/Arab culture is getting stronger or their attitude towards the language of their forefathers is getting weaker

or neutralized. It could also be because their desire to assimilate in Yemen has gotten stronger. The same is the case with most of African migrants. There is a sharp decline or total absence of the knowledge/use of their native African languages especially among the younger African migrants. A similar conclusion as mentioned above could be drawn for this too. Along with above mentioned integrative reasons, there could also be some instrumental reasons that may be responsible for the Language Shift that is taking place towards Arabic in Yemen.

To sum up, it can be said that a continuous Language Shift is taking place among the migrants communities in Yemen. It is another issue that identifies the exact reasons of the Language Shift which needs empirical research and investigation.

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (105): Effort

Basically, effort is the use of physical or mental energy to do something. It is reflected in any venturesome undertaking, especially with an uncertain outcome. Effort may also imply a series of actions advancing a principle. Sincerity, industry and patience are the hallmarks of any sustainable effort.

- A: I give up. French is not my cup of tea.
B: Don't say that. In fact, you have made good progress.
A: I doubt that. However I try, I can't learn the rules of grammar.
B: Never mind. Learning the grammatical rules is not all that important. Just learn how to use the language in different situations.
A: I try to, but I'm afraid I make a lot of mistakes.
B: Don't you worry too much for mistakes. It is natural to make mistakes when you learn something new. Try and try again. And you will succeed.
A: You give me hope. Let me try again.

Note:

not my cup of tea: the sort of thing one likes.
never mind: do not feel sorry, sad or troubled.
I'm afraid: polite 'sorry' for something that has happened or is likely to happen.

II. How to Say it Correctly

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

- Yesterday being a very hot day, I didn't permit my wife and children to go out from the house.
- They loved each other so much that they thought of no one else even when they remain away from each other.
- I shall be leaving tonight for Delhi to congratulate my cousin on his good fortune.
- It must be said to his credit that he stood towards his friend through thick and thin.
- A man who had cheated me was arrested yesterday by the police.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- It is not my practice generally to dispute minor instances of misinformation **by** the press.
- The greatest of his **contributions** to science was made after he had joined the police service.
- After hearing him patiently, the manager told him that what really **mattered** was how he did his job.
- As an organization **shifts** from one system to another, transitory problems will no doubt arise.
- Before publishing the advertisement, the eligibility **criteria** for the job were carefully scrutinized.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Use movements of the hands, arms, or head instead of speaking.
- Movement of the hand or head to indicate or illustrate an idea, feeling, etc.
- Talk fast or make meaningless sounds like an ape.
- Causing the feeling that everything is turning round.
- Laugh in a nervous and silly way

Improve Your English: 330

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- Polite and well-bred, suitable for the upper class society: **genteel** (adj)
- Really what it is said to be: **genuine** (adj)
- Science of the earth's history as shown by its crust, rocks, etc.: **geology** (n)
- Science of the properties and relations of lines, angles, surfaces and solids: **geometry** (n)
- Period of carrying or being carried in the womb between conception and birth: **gestation** (n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- meet, meeting
- brief, short
- free thinker, freethinker
- hail, hale
- indexes, indices

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- clarity** (n) (clearness): There is clarity in his argument.
- clearance** (n) (making clean: a sale or clear out unwanted or superfluous stocks of goods): The company has announced a clearance sale this week.
- confidence** (n) (faith, full trust): The minister resigned when the Prime Minister lost confidence in him.
- confidentiality** (n) (secrecy): By talking about the matter in public, you have destroyed its confidentiality.
- wastage** (n) (that which is wasted): According to the World Bank, a major problem of the third world countries is the wastage of their resources.
- waste** (n) (used, damaged, or unwanted matter): Industrial waste is an important reason for environmental pollution.
- instant** (adj) (urgent): The flood victims are in instant need for relief.
- instantaneous** (adj) (happening at once): When the minister made an appeal for help for the flood victims, there was an instantaneous response from the audience.
- drop** (vt) (to fall or let fall in drops): When he was drenched in the rain, water dropped down from his head.
- droop** (vi) (to hang or bend downwards): The flowers drooped in the blazing sun.
- imply** (vt) (to express indirectly; suggest): The manager's words imply that he would accede to the employees' demand.
- infer** (vt) (to draw the meaning from something): I infer from your letter that you agree with conditions put forward by us.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

i) Synonyms

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

- We rushed to a **refuge** when there was a storm.
a. waste b. dirt c. shelter
d. shift e. reject
- People constantly **retreat** to Socotra island to

rest, relax and lick the wounds of office.

- escape
- invade
- refresh
- resume
- retire

3. At Aden we booked a **suite** for one night.

- castle
- garment
- mansion
- petition
- room

4. We tried and tried, and **ultimately** decided to give up.

- absolutely
- accurately
- completely
- exactly
- finally

5. You must pay **heed** to your dress and appearance.

- attend
- beware
- care
- disregard
- notice

6. The hotel has all the facilities expected in an **elegant** holiday resort.

- beautiful
- classical
- graceful
- natural
- polished

Answers to the previous issue's questions

Word	Synonym
1. dip	reduction
2. pruning	economizing
3. tricky	difficult
4. hands-on	practical
5. surge	increase

(ii) Antonyms

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

- He forgot himself to watch the **serene** beauty of the sea.
a. ruffled b. tranquil
c. clear d. scenic
- There is an **obscure** island in the sea.
a. well-known b. infamous
c. notorious d. admired
- There is an **explicit** order from the government to restructure the secondary school curriculum.
a. wrong b. no
c. ambiguous d. inadequate
- The hailstorm will **adversely** affect the standing crops.
a. badly b. internally
c. favorably d. deeply
- There should be **flexibility** in classroom methodology.
a. pliability b. complexity
c. density d. rigidity

Answers to the previous issue's questions

Word	Antonym
1. marginal	significant
2. authentic	fake
3. prosperous	destitute
4. viable	impracticable
5. adulation	condemnation

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. amagement b. amezement
c. amedzment d. amazement
- a. ampiguous b. ampigious
c. ambigious d. ambiguous
- a. ambition b. ambishan
c. ambissan d. ambison
- a. ampulance b. ambulance
c. ambulans d. ambulaens
- a. amunition b. amunishan
c. ammunition d. ammunison

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- allowance
- allusion
- allurement
- aloof
- ambassador

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentences of your own

- packed like herring in a barrel
- none the worse for (something)
- risk their necks
- shell (someone) down the river
- pick one's way

Answers to the previous issue's questions

- be spoiling for a fight** (to be in an argumentative mood): I can guess from her foul mood that she is spoiling for a fight
- keep something under wraps** (to keep something secret): He has got a job in Sharjah, but is keeping it under wraps until he really joins the new station.
- mind one's p's and q's** (to be very careful): In a foreign land and an alien culture you should mind your p's and q's.
- on the ball** (alert and sharp-witted): People who are on the ball with the current issues are difficult to defeat in discussions on those issues.
- have the bottle to** (do something) (to be brave or bold enough to do something): You should have the bottle to stand up against your parents if you want to marry your beloved against their will.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Complete the following conversation with the correct form of the verb in brackets

- Rosy:** Hello! How are you?
Sue: Fine thanks. And you?
Rosy: Ready for a holiday! If I (not get) — a break from all this work soon, I (go) — crazy!
Sue: Yes, I know the feeling. Where are you going this year?
Rosy: Well, if we (have) — time, we (go) — to Spain and France.
Sue: Didn't you do that last year?
Rosy: We were going to. In fact, if the children (not to go) — to a Scout camp, we (spend)

— three weeks touring there but we couldn't because of the camp.

Sue: If you (have) — a longer summer holiday every year, what (you do) —?

Rosy: If I (have) — the time and the money, I (travel) — round the world — but that's not likely to happen!

Sue: True! By the way, if you (give) — us a lift last weekend, we (never reach) — the train.

Rosy: Oh right. Glad we could help.

Sue: Oh, and if you (see) — Jim, (tell) — him I've got the information he wanted last week.

Rosy: Will do. Bye!

Answers to the previous issue's questions

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

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

**147: COMING TOGETHER IS BEGINNING
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS**

Answers to the previous issue's topic

**146: OUR LIFE IS A LONG AND ARDUOUS
QUEST AFTER TRUTH**

"Life is short and time is swift,
Roses fade and shadows shift."

Ebenezer Elliott

Life is short. But, as Seneca observes, "Life is long if it is full." Life gives us time and space. But it's up to us to fill it up. Mahatma Gandhi, father of India, characterized his life as an experiment with truth. He said, "Truth is the law of our being." Life is an uphill journey. It is a quest to understand the ultimate reality or truth. Truth is a fair and durable thing. It is eternal and the son of heaven. The measure of a man's life is the well-spending of it in pursuit of truth, and not the length. Seneca testifies to this precept when he says, "We should strive, not to live long, but to live rightly." Sheridan echoes this moral principle in his statement: "They only have lived long who have lived virtuously." We have to build our own lives with our own thoughts and energy of mind based on truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Sri Sri Thakur, an Indian sage, puts it thus: "Be zealous for self elevation and devote yourself to the truth.... Do dwell in truth... Do light the lamp of truth with the wick of wisdom."

**V. Pearls from the Holy Quran
Of Allah, to Whom belongeth the dominion of
the heavens and the earth: there is no god but
He: it is He that giveth both life and death. So
believe in Allah and His messenger. —S7: A163**

VI. Words of Wisdom

The young have aspirations that never come to pass, the old have reminiscences of what never happened. —Saki

ELT Panorama

Learning Arabic as a foreign language



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words. Moreover, most of advanced grammar they learn in school fade away from their memory after finishing a language exam. Let's stop worrying about the rules and focus on how to learn Arabic the natural way, which is the main focus of this article.

Just think about the way small children learn Arabic as their mother-tongue. They don't sit down with an Arabic language dictionary and start memorizing flash cards as soon as they're able to speak. Instead, they learn their mother tongue naturally through the process of immersion. The process of immersion involves surrounding yourself completely with the new language until you start to pick up the nuts and bolts that will eventually facilitate your acquisition of the language.

There are several benefits to learning by immersion. Your sentence structure and pronunciation won't be as stiff and forced as the people who learn Arabic using traditional home guides, since you'll be picking up

these elements from real native speakers. In addition, you won't experience the frustration that many Arabic language learners feel trying to work out the language on their own. Consequently, you'll be less likely to give up, and more likely to reap the benefits of speaking good Arabic.

But how do you begin to learn a language naturally? You don't need to live with a host family. Instead, all you need to do is to spend time in public places where people speak Arabic.

As you do your grocery shopping, try to listen to the conversations going on around you. In addition to getting a feel for how the language is spoken, you'll also pick up many helpful words for food and beverage items.

Going to a barber's shop for your haircut can be an educational experience in terms of exposure to conversations in real-life settings. Yemenis like to talk a lot. Utilize this opportunity and converse with them whenever and wherever you meet people – at work,

in a bus, at home, or even on the telephone. Luckily for you, Yemenis never feel fed up talking to foreigners for long hours. They respect and laugh with those who try to pick up Arabic. Involve yourself in the act of learning – talk, laugh and feel natural.

If you aren't yet comfortable conversing with groups of native speakers, you can also immerse yourself in books and magazines in Arabic. There are some useful books for this purpose. Take the help of a Yemeni friend and get one or two from the nearest bookshop. If you have a favorite book in your native language, pick up a book in Arabic and compare the two. Read everything you can get your hands on and take notes on words or phrases you don't understand. As you look them up, practice speaking them out loud and try to form sentences using the new words. With time, the process of immersion will help improve your comprehension and speaking ability, until you feel fully conversant with Arabic.

Translation: Linguistic and cultural considerations

Translation involves the transposition of thoughts expressed in one language by one social group into the appropriate expression of another group. As cultures are increasingly brought into greater contact with one another, multicultural considerations are brought to bear to an ever-increasing degree. Now, how do all these changes influence us when we are trying to comprehend a text before finally translating it? We are not just dealing with words written in a certain time, space and socio-cultural milieu; most importantly it is the "cultural" aspect of the text that we



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should take into account.

As translators we are faced with an alien culture that requires that the message be conveyed in anything but an alien way. That culture expresses its characteristics in a way that is 'culture-bound': cultural words, proverbs and of course idiomatic expressions, whose origin and use are intrinsically and uniquely bound to the target culture. So it is required to do a cross-cultural translation whose success will depend on our understanding of the culture we are working with. If we do not understand the cultural biases and historical perspectives of the target audience, we are doing a huge mistake.

Finally, it is easy to look up the translation of a certain word in a dictionary, but if we do not have an understanding of the target audience, we might pick the wrong word and use it in our translation. So it is essential to get an understanding of the various cultures for whom we are translating. This can be done in many ways, the best of which probably is to live among those for whom our translation would be intended. Short of that would be to frequently visit such places, keep up-to-date on news concerning them, read magazines, watch channels such as BBC, CNN, etc., in short, soak up everything we can.

Developing a learner-centered approach in classrooms



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Educators all the world over are greatly concerned over exploring efficient and effective methods of teaching which would result in learners' learning. As a result of constant thinking, theorizing and classroom experimentation various approaches, methods and techniques have emerged over the past decades to suit different teaching-learning styles and contexts. A classroom teacher is expected to be familiar with all those to be able to choose from among them the ones that suits him/her considering the constraints of his/her teaching-learning situation. In other words, the classroom teacher needs to adopt an 'eclectic' approach as there is no 'best' method.

There is a broad agreement among theoreticians, educational planners and classroom teachers that if we want to make the foreign language classroom a place which facilitates the language acquisition, we have to adopt a learner-centered approach, discarding the traditional teacher-centered approach. Now, what does a learner-centered approach

imply?

A learner-centered approach, as the term suggests, involves devising and adopting ways and means so as to make the learner an active participant in the learning process. The central premise of this approach is that learners' communicative ability is developed through their involvement in a range of meaningful, realistic, worthwhile and attainable tasks.

In order to be meaningful participants in the learning process, the learners must be aware of the following:

- language learning is necessarily a *process of discovery*. One moves from the known to something which is unknown;
- active participation* in the classroom is a must for effective language learning. Hence they should not feel shy. They should feel free to interact with others without any inhibition;
- doing/making mistakes* is very natural to the learning process. No one has ever learnt anything new without making mistakes at some stage of learning. But one should learn from the mistakes and not repeat those.
- learning in a group* is more useful than learning alone. Classroom interaction becomes a pre-step to social interaction.
- There are three phases to learn something:
 - learn it* (through exposure)
 - assimilate it* (through memorization, internalization)
 - use it* (through practical contexts of application)
- Learning about learning* strategies is important because that

gives us an insight into how we learn and how to quicken the process of learning.

In order to make teachers' 'input' learners' 'intake', we have to make the learners participate in the various language activities in the classroom. So, our efforts should be to put *Ahmed* (a typical foreign language learner) in the driver's seat, asking him to drive and in the process to experience 'learning by doing.'

In the second place, a learner-centered approach envisages motivating the learners to want to learn. As we all know, it is possible to drag the horse to the pond, but it is not possible to make him drink. We have to produce in the learner a genuine desire to learn the foreign language by clarifying how he/she would benefit from learning it (*instrumental* motivation) and how to promote a generic love for it (*integrative* motivation). Once the ball is set in motion, it would roll itself. Once the learner's interest is activated, he/she would find ways by himself/herself to get more of the language.

In the third place, the approach emphasizes building up a congenial environment in the classroom saturated with the foreign language to trigger unconscious acquisition of the foreign language. All we have to do is to try and build up the knowledge and experience of the learners to make him a fitting recipient of knowledge.

Acquisition of the grammatical structures in the target language is not enough unless it is backed by opportunities for their practical use in normal, real life contexts. In view of this, the learner-centered approach, in the fourth place,

emphasizes the development of learners' ability to use the target language appropriately, accurately and willingly for the purpose of effective communication.

All this obviously call for granting greater autonomy to language learners. We must realize that they are no longer 'empty mugs to be filled with knowledge' by the teacher, or innocent 'guinea pigs' to be led along the route of learning, but in some ways leaders, decision makers, problem solvers who know where they are going and why, as well as how to achieve the goal. A learner-centered approach acknowledges that all learners have a hidden agenda to learn. The best that we, parents or teachers, can do for them is to let learners assume greater responsibility in learning. We can achieve this by:

- letting them learn the ways of coping with their present linguistic resources and building on these;
- helping them to learn the ways of coping when their existing linguistic resources are not adequate;
- teaching them sound study skills/learning strategies;
- promoting in them the ability to monitor their progress and assess their own performance;
- developing in them the ability to identify and solve learning problems.

If we succeed in our mission to fulfill the above, greater learner autonomy can be achieved, making the learner more self-reliant and less dependent on external help. We have to bear in mind that learner autonomy is a gradual process which needs to be patiently and carefully fostered by the teacher.

A letter to the learners of English: 22 Something nice to read and learn from

Dear student friends,

Here is another message from my email-friend (shall I call him 'e-friend' here-after?) for you to read and enjoy and also to learn from. I have, you should also have, come across people of the kind you are going to read about in this message. Life is like that and you can't avoid such people in your life, but reading about them and knowing them will alert you in times of need. So, read, enjoy and be careful about such people when you want to make friends with them.



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There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she's blind. She hated everyone, except her loving fiancé. He is always there for her. Blind girl said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her fiancé immediately. One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to the blind girl and then she could see everything, including her fiancé. Her fiancé asked her, "now that you can see the world, will you marry me?" The girl was shocked when she saw that her fiancé was blind too, and refused to marry him. Her fiancé walked away in tears, and later wrote a letter to girl saying, "Just take care of my eyes dear."

Moral: This is how human brain changes when the status changes. Only few remember what life was before, and who's always been there even in the trying time.

I hope you have understood what you have read. Do you now realize how people behave differently at different times paying heed to their whims and fancies? Now tell me, haven't you come across such people in your life? Be cautious with them.

Do you have e-friends? Do they send you such mails? If you get such mails, it is good if you forward them to your other e-friends? I get plenty of forwards, thanks to my e-friend, who was a former colleague of mine at CIEFL, Hyderabad, India. Emails are becoming an interesting source of learning and so it is important you develop the habit of emailing to your friends. Try to learn more and more English from your emails. Good luck.

Try to smile off your sorrows; no worries at all.
(Kural)

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

ANY GUESSES?

- What do you mean when you say you 'cotton on to something'?
- What's the difference in meaning between 'discuss' and 'discuss about' something?
- What is the meaning of 'My backhand is rusty'?
- 'Turn one's head-' what does it mean?
- What is the difference between 'I am reading a book about animals' and 'I am reading a book on animals'?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- When you say 'I watched TV from 6.00 to 7.00', it means that you started watching TV at 6.00 and finished watching at 7.00. So this sentence specifies the time when the activity began or when it ended. But when you say 'I was watching TV from 6.00 to 7.00', you are not really sure when the person actually started watching TV. The person could have started watching at 6.00 or he might have started watching earlier. This sentence doesn't specify the time when the activity began or when it ended. The only thing we know is that the person was watching TV between 6.00 and 7.00.
- 'Apropos of ...' means 'with reference to, concerning.' Example: 'Apropos of the recent flood in Hadhramout, I feel...'
- 'He has gone' means 'he has left.' 'He is gone' emphasizes the state. It means 'he is absent; he is no longer here. She was here a few minutes ago and now she is gone. I don't know what I'll do when you are gone.'
- 'To weigh in with' means 'to join in a discussion, an argument, etc. by saying something important or convincing; to contribute confidentially. Example: *When the government's policies were being severely criticized by the opposition members in the parliament, the minister weighed in with strong arguments in support of the government.* 'Weigh on' means 'to make somebody's mind anxious. Example: *Inflation is weighing heavily on the minds of the public.*
- 'I remember doing my homework' means you have already finished doing your homework. You're remembering the fact now. but if you say 'I remembered to do my homework' it means you reminded yourself that you had to do your homework and then proceeded to do it. In this case, the remembering comes first and it is followed by the act of doing your homework.

Encash reading skill in English



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The need for English has increased many-fold in the present age of information and technology. Attainment of proficiency in English is augmented by an increasing exposure to the language which is achievable by focusing on the reading skill.

Reading is an activity that involves both our mind and eyes. Even those

without eyesight could read by touching their reading materials and could comprehend the matter. So reading is justifiably a sensory and a mental process

It is by allowing the learners to read any material followed by discussion in a more of an informal way that they can get the maximum benefit out of reading.

As an EFL (English as Foreign Language) teacher in Arab countries, my experience in Republic of Yemen and Libya has been that the students at Universities are keen to improve their reading skill. Daily newspapers, computers, mobile phones are a few tools that serve as an opening for promoting reading skill.

The days are not far off when the students will become good readers and derive the benefits of extensive reading. If reading is integrated with listening, speaking and writing, proficiency in reading will lead to an efficient use of English as a language of wider communication.

Widen your mental horizon



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A lot of students graduate from universities not having enough information about life around them. They lack adequate background knowledge and have almost no practical life-skills. It is really a pity that they spend about four years and graduate with nothing worthwhile in hand.

A small-scale survey involving ten students revealed the pathetic inadequacy of general knowledge on the part of some students. Seven of these students did not know anything at all about computer. They could not even use the mobile phone properly. Two of them were able to use computer but were not able to access the Internet. Only one of them was able to use the computer and Internet both. This was just a simple study, the results of which shocked me and made me ponder about the future of our educated youth.

Actually, such insufficiency of basic knowledge of students can be attributed not only to the teachers and government, but to the students themselves. We may say that the problem lies with the syllabus which doesn't properly equip the students in essential skills in a proper manner. Students should not stay idle. Rather, they have to widen their mental horizon and sensitize themselves in the newly emerging fields like computer.

It is really frustrating to find that a lot of students do not care for increasing their awareness about their cultural background. All that they care about is getting high marks in the examination. This is the crux of the problem which has thrown so many students into a certain future. First and foremost, they have to work hard and try to read more and more about their major and other fields. They need not too much worry about marks. In fact, marks will come to them in the natural process if they worked hard in the right direction.

Take for example, the case of a student who got the highest mark in the class; but whose fluency and cultural background are not up to the mark. What's the use? In the labor market,

nobody will look for such a person. One has to bear in mind that one won't be acceptable in the job market unless s/he is a dynamic and multi-faceted person.

Examinations in Yemen do not test the students' abilities but their power of memorization of lessons. It is very easy for any student, who is good at memorization, to get high marks. But this success will not stand him in good stead in future.

I would like to make my idea clear by mentioning a living situation. I had a friend who was very good at memorization. He studied English and was able to memorize every single lesson. No wonder, he got the highest marks among all his classmates. Months later, he applied for a job in a foreign company in Sana'a. He was called for an interview. Unluckily, his fluency and cultural background were not up to the mark. Therefore, he did not pass the interview. He was terribly disappointed but, in spite of that, he made a promise to start doing some serious work so that he can get back what he had lost in the university. But this decision came after his failure in the interview. So please think twice and ask yourself, "How do marks matter if this is the net result?"

In this context, as a promising student, what are you supposed to do? First and foremost, do not depend only on your teacher and your syllabus. Rather, broaden your horizon by reading books on different branches of study. You should manage your time perfectly so that you have some time for acquiring general knowledge regardless of your major. Second, you should not spend your holidays uselessly. If you get a chance to pursue the study of computer or any other useful course of study, never hesitate to do so. If you are a student of English, do not spend your holiday studying only English. In fact, if you study hard in the university, you will realize that you do not need extra coaching at institutes to improve your language skills. I am actually not opposing the idea of studying English at institutes, but I want you to widen your horizon by studying hard at the university and studying something else at the institute during holidays.

You still have the time to widen your horizon. Never ever say, "It is too early and when I finish my study I will be free to read and write." From now onwards, start a new style of life. Always look ahead, look at the stars and never ever try to look back. From the bottom of my heart I tell you, 'Strive, seek, find...' 'Time has arrived to widen your horizon, and the moment is now'

Perspectives on the Quranic sciences



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Science, which is undoubtedly one of the most important aspects of a Muslim's life, is also the most significant source of power for both worldly life and spiritual development. Indeed, it is a systematic way of thinking which

reveals the answers to the questions who we are and what we are. What makes human beings different from the other entities is the special gift to comprehend what realities exist beyond the lines of events. At a time when the potential of science as a catalyst for future development and prosperity is not fully recognized especially in the Muslim World, it is high time we realized the substantial role which science plays in our life.

Firstly, science bears different meanings for different people. In the past when ignorance prevailed, the Western Communities regarded it as "charm" and "spells". Until now nothing has been changed, it is still the precious "gem" for them. From this perspective, the universe is a perilous enemy to deal with. The fact remains that science is the only way

to confront the oldest and the most mysterious opponent until it surrenders.

As for us, science represents the beginning of a novice's journey to the Everlasting One. Humankind, being the most complex talisman, has been looking for contentment not only in this world but also in the next. For this reason, even the persons with the simplest understanding are questioning whatever they behold, in a professional way. That is to say, everything glittering with a gleam of life is a sound source of information about hidden treasures for the human beings.

From the view point of the Holy Qur'an, the human being consisting of two main realms, corporeal and spiritual, is the key to the mystery of creation. Therefore, science is one of

the most direct revelations to the mystery of creation. The more we *Muslims* get used to it and its systematic method peculiar to itself, the more we shall become aware of ourselves and the other creatures around us.

Finally, science is not merely an inheritance of the Western Communities. Rather, it is obligatory upon every Muslim to understand himself or herself. Furthermore, it is repeatedly urged by both the Holy Qur'an and our Beloved Prophet (PBUH). Therefore, what we are supposed to do is to get rid of laziness, ignorance and heedlessness as soon as we can. We should take into account the significance of science in understanding the Attributes of God, Who is the Creator of everything.

The New World Consciousness



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Many of the old ways of mythical thinking and living have proven to create more problems than solutions. Those individuals who will aid in the emergence of the New World Consciousness are now readily relinquishing the old methods altogether and are turning wholeheartedly toward the new presentation of truth. A great change of attitude is underway throughout the world and it is being recognized, particularly in the West, that the old ways of self-oriented spiritual advancement no longer apply as they once did, and that the search for personal enlightenment cannot be a part of the new world-ethic. In the new era, self-spiritual ambition will be entirely superseded by earnest dedication to the collective good. Those who are awakening today to the need for change have learned from the old ways and they are ready to surrender them for something much more currently significant, vital, opportune and expansive. Intelligent humanity is now ready to transcend blind faith and the need for external objects of worship, religious intermediaries, techniques of self-liberation and complex philosophical

ideals. These methods are simply no longer serving the present spiritual needs of mankind. A growing number of aware and thinking people in the world today are recognizing that personality must give way to impersonality, self must yield to Spirit if peace is ever to reign upon Earth, and it is these awakening individuals who comprise the critical mass which shall enable the New World consciousness to be born and to become permanently established.

In order that the new world-paradigm of a united awareness may become a reality, ideas originating from the spiritual planes must make an impact upon the consciousness of mankind, for the mind of the race is the only available instrument through which the Providence Plan manifests itself upon Earth. The sublimation of the world-mind is most necessary in order to heal our ailing planet and the incoming energies of regeneration that constitute the new enteric blueprint for the construction of the New World which may only be evoked by selfless and co-operative attitudes and activities.

The New World Consciousness emerging today is qualified by righteously-motivated co-operation for the common good, by altruistic example and by a purposeful dedication to serving the world. The New World consciousness is of a gregarious nature: a group consciousness. Such genuine solidarity mind-set, and only the potency of synergetic union as a collection force for good can dispel the accumulated darkness of ages past, overcome global negative, and thus manifest the present world objective.

The New World Consciousness

understands that the only way to reverse mankind's suicidal course toward disaster is by using Law against Law, the Higher Forces against the lower, effectively transmuting all that is obsolete and understanding where there is ignorance, showing compassion where there is blame, returning charity for greed and by giving love in exchange for empty. By exemplifying a united awareness, individuals who demonstrate the essential qualities of the New World Consciousness are already today introducing a higher vibrational pattern within the Earth's auric field, and the new spiritual frequencies of energy evoked in their positive activity are contributing to the restoration of our planet together with all its diverse life-forms.

Today, the first glow of the New World Consciousness is emerging in the Western world, for it is destined that the Western races will move forward in the Aquarian age-believed to herald worldwide peace and harmony- into spiritual pre-eminence, without obliterating the Eastern contribution, and the functioning of the Law of Reincarnation holds a clue to this necessary cyclic pattern. The tide of life moves from east to west as moves the sun, and those souls who in past centuries excelled in Eastern mysticism, are back again today as compassionate servants of the race, happily embracing the more advanced principles and laws that pertain to Western occultism.

The Latin word "occultus" means hidden. The occult, then, is the science of that which is hidden from the five physical sense-organs and the intellect. The previous reference to occultism signifies the attainment of

an intelligent understanding of universal laws and esoteric principle, and, driven by unselfish motive, a conscious wielding of the hidden forces of Nature for the good of the whole. It does not imply sorcery, black magic, lower psychism, common mediumship, etc. It is difficult for those who know nothing of the occult to realize just how great, how serious and how all-pervading are their own limitations. The understanding in the new cycle regarding the inner life and the occult dynamics of the universe of which we are an integral part, will generally be much broader than ever before, and mankind will, therefore, carry a brighter lamp of awareness throughout the world, thus helping to illuminate the road ahead for humanity.

Those who epitomize the New World Consciousness are already constructing a bridge from the old to the New. In blazing a lighted trail into the Aquarian age, they are today preparing the way for all those who choose to follow. They inspire others to take advantage of the present and unprecedented spiritual opportunity, and so help to convert current potential into a splendid reality for every person who would know success at the Harvest Time. The expansion and radiation today of the New World Consciousness, actively present in the hearts of all awakening individuals, is one very potent reality which can salvage mankind, enable humanity to move forward onto the spiritual path, and thus evoke the New Spirit which can and will build the New World. The rapid growth of networking and self-sufficient community-living around the world is already indicating how the future will unfold.

Profitable reading



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Readings, in general, is regarded as a significant source of acquiring knowledge. It is an important element in building and forming the personality of readers. It enriches human mind which appears through the behavior of a person. Let's analyse some factors that contribute to the success of any reading act.

First of all, the reader has to select a good and interesting subject which would help him/her to receive more information in a short time. He/she

ought to choose good subjects regardless of whether they are books, magazines or newspapers. It is not necessary to know the identity of the writer. Therefore, choice of a good subject or topic is necessary for taking advantage of reading.

Secondly, the reader's mind must be ready and pretty active. The reader has to know that reading is not measured by the hours or the number of the pages that one has read, but by the benefit one has got out of it. Moreover, one has to find the most comfortable place and the most suitable time for reading, as these may make one's mind ready to comprehend in a short time different information. Therefore, the reader ought to take into consideration the environment around him/her; because they may affect the rate of understanding of the subject well.

Try to find a restful place and an expedient time which would help you to grasp better. Don't care about the size and the number of the pages that you have read. Merely concentrate on the benefit and utility that you have derived from your reading. By following these, I am sure, your reading will be profitable.

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

- The time period of a geostationary satellite at a height 36,000 km is 24 hrs. A spy satellite orbits earth at a radius R=6400km. What will be its time period?
 4 hrs
 1 hr
 2 hrs
 1.5 hrs

- Energy associated with a moving charge is due to
 Electric field
 Magnetic field
 Both electric field and magnetic field
 None

- What is the structure of NaCl?
 bbc
 fcc
 inter-penetrating fcc
 None of these

4. Which of the following solutions has highest pH?

- 0.1 MnaOH
 0.01 MnaOH
 0.1 MHCl
 0.1 Mch3COOH

5. Which of the following is essential for chlorophyll synthesis?

- Mn
 Mg
 Cu
 Fe

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Meteor is a shooting star.
- A virus infecting a bacteria is known as **Bacteriophage**.
- Haemophilia is slow blood coagulation.
- Animals fluff up their hair in cold weather to trap warm air.
- The oil rises in wicks of lamps because of **capillary action**.

POETRY CORNER

A shadow



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Yesters are gone, eclipsed into unknown,
Dissolved in flowing streams of bygones.
All our blunders blotted, buried deep into Time's self
No more remorse to unearth invisible cell.
Oh, cast them off, as autumnal apparel!
Present is pleasant nostalgically prevail

Festive carnival, rock and roll.

To-morrow ushers a galaxy of twinkling hopes,
Blazes trails of vigour between dusk and dawn.
Yet, burnt stigma dreads, never leaves alone.
Host of fading shadows forms caravan.
Indelible odious memoirs and sea of penitence,
Trails and travails glimpses toss as weary waves
Replica of shadows overlaps pushes and pangs.

Droughts of vine, vainly chariot to salvage
Buried secrets perpetually haunt, howl at sedate mneme.
Shadows never go to slumber-Trod and tread, hover for ever,
Ah, an insolvent, buffoon,
Ever harangues Sun as a loyal incumbent,
Lingers relentless as spectre in dark dungeon.

CAMPUS CAUSERIE

Debate: Women's place is not at home

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Every year, English Dept, Taiz University holds cultural activities, usually organized by Level 3, Faculty of Education. These include competitions in essay writing, spelling test, poetry recitation, short story writing, drama acting and debates.

In the debate of this year, the topic was "Women's place is not at home." Some students spoke against the motion of the house. They argued that the woman's responsibility is to bring up children, fix up the house, or just serve the husband. On the other hand, those who supported the motion said that the woman is needed in many sectors of life. She can be a nurse, a teacher, a secretary or she can work in order to provide the family with the means of livelihood if the bread win-

ner is absent.

There was yet another opinion that women's place in the family depends on the contingencies of the situation.

In the considered opinion of the writer, we should not specify fixed responsibilities to partners of life, either the husband or the wife. The two of them should have a sense of sharing. The father should not escape from bringing up children, because a child needs guidance of both, or else something vital will be missing. The mother also should not stay at home in comfort while the father is outside doing his best to earn their livelihood. How can she be so heartless to let her soul-mate struggle alone? Therefore, she must share with him life's ups and downs in order to lead a happy cooperative life. Confining the woman to the prison of the house indicates the selfishness of men as well as the laziness of women.

To conclude, women's place is not at home; she should go out, smell fresh air and face the realities of life

Failure is the first step to success



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We all have aims in our life, and we are looking for opportunities to achieve them. Actually there are many opportunities in one's life which, if seized properly, will bring success easily. If we abide by the following points, we are sure to be successful.

First and foremost, try to have a well-planned style of life because without planning, one can do nothing

desirable. Secondly, never give up and never feel depressed until you achieve your aims. Try to learn from your mistakes. For instance, if you have failed in doing something, try to figure out what was the main reason and get rid of it. If some methods are not working with you, try to change them for the better. In other words, do not try to follow the same ways which may appear to be wrong.

Failure is the pillar of success. Don't be disheartened over failure because to err is human. Swallow your pride and confess your failure. Do not blame any one about your failure, because a bad workman always blames his tools. Promise yourself that you will confidently leave no stones unturned to get your goals accomplished. Try to keep on doing beneficial things which make your way of achieving your aims easier. Do not let time crash you, but crash him first. Remember always that failure is the first step to success.

READERS WRITE

Dear Dr. Sahu,
Words fail to describe my love and respect to you. I have to say 'thanks a million' for what you have done

and are still doing for me and for all the students of Yemen.
Thank you again

Rashad Al-Maghrabi

YOUTH FORUM

Amend yourself

Someone once said...

"When I was young and free, and when my imagination was limitless, I dreamt of changing the world. But when I was mature enough I discovered that the world would never change; so my wish was unfulfilled. Hence I decided to change my homeland, but that seemed very hard. Then when I reached adulthood I decided to just change my family, but unfortunately I couldn't accomplish that too."

And now that I am in the closing stages of my life, I suddenly realized that if only I changed myself first, then I would have the ability to change my family, make my homeland a better place, and change the world."

So now that we are all old and matured enough, we should all arise, awake and do something worthwhile. It doesn't have to be 180 degrees veer, even a slight alteration is more than enough to make the world, our world, a better place. Let us begin by transforming ourselves before trying to change others and if we accomplish that, then we would have a valuable

contribution towards making a better world order.

Let us keep in mind that one hand cannot applaud, so let's join hands and together sail through the obstructions of life and, with God's will we will overcome them and eventually make a difference. However, whatever we do, we should evaluate our steps before we take action because it is the compass which leads us towards our target.

We can't change the past but the future is still in our hands to make it better than the past. We cannot go forward in life until we learn from our past failures and learn to adjust. Last but not least, let us take one step forward in the right direction because if we don't, we won't get anywhere. After all, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step.

Let us start today, because tomorrow can be too late!

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Lady in black

Lady in black
Sitting there like a peacock
And staring like a wild cat
In her eyes I read
Depth of the ocean and full of passion
Lovely red nails on the fingers
Resemble heaven's sweet roses.
The kohl on her eye lids
White henna on her beautiful skin.
Lady, who are you?

May you be Mona Lisa?
Were you in Leonardo's dream?
The veil covers your face
Like a bride you're shy
You're like a twinkling star
Lady, I wonder what you are.

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When you smile

When you smile
My heart does
Sways happily and bloom.
When you laugh,
Your charisma relieves all my gloom.

What a lovely face you have
What a shape and form
When I saw you at first,
There was a tumult in my heart.

No star glares in the sphere
As shiny as your face
Mermaids of sea, my dear
Warble before your pace.

Superb ease, and elegance, you share
Your spirit pulsates in my heart
Whether you're far or near

I see your face,
sweetheart, in my
mind's mirror.

I feel with you content
Nothing more than
you I need
Nature, without you
Is much poorer, my
love, indeed.



Majed Ahmed
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Let love be a candle and lead us both
They fail not whom love edifies
No hurry, no worry, no sloth,
But love as river elegantly flows.

I want silence to live

Although these words are simple and few, yet they are so effective, especially, these days. You need to be silent all the time, even your lips should not whisper.

You have to be silent, to lead your life peacefully in a world full of struggle and strife. However, silence some times becomes unbearable because when you are stimulated or provoked,

you are tempted to open your mouth, but if you do so you are most likely to touch the red line and after that there may be no forgiveness.

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Teacher as a shepherd

Punishment is the worst thing that frustrates the process of learning. Many teachers think that using this technique helps them to raise the level of the students and keep a good control of the class. In fact, it affects the students' interest and motivation to such an extent that they become completely frustrated and greatly disappointed.

When students see their teacher is standing on the stage and counting their mistakes, the process of learning will not continue any more. As a matter of fact, committing mistakes is an essential part in the learning process. It indicates that students are totally involved. Consequently, learning is taking place. Above all, it helps the teacher to know what students still need to know and he still has to do. But when there is no mistake, this means that learning is not taking place. Therefore, a conscientious teacher is supposed to pick up the most serious mistakes in his class and correct them in an indirect way, not by raising a stick whenever a student makes a mistake. For example, if a father starts beating his son whenever he is wrong, the child may not commit the same mistake, but will be frustrated and will not have the courage to

learn through his mistakes.

This habit is common in Yemen. My cousin Mohamed is a good evidence for this. When he was a five-year old child, his mother used to tell him that the teacher is a man who spends most of his time playing with the children in a place called school. After two years, Mohammed went to school. The moment he entered the class, he saw the man called the teacher beating the children in the class. Mohammed soon left the class weeping. This was the only day for him in the school. I do not know what type of training did that teacher have in the university.

In conclusion, since a teacher is the messenger of knowledge, he has to be patient enough in doing his job. This way the children will be interested to cooperate with the teacher.

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An invitation to life

Take your brush now and paint your life
Valleys, meadows, hills, struggle and strife
Joy and woe finely woven, still very rife

Wipe dust from your eyes and see the right in truth's light
Spread your dreams with rays bright
The morning is your friend and also the night

Go ahead, do your best
Excel your world
And you will be the best

Dreams entice to live, do not let it waste

Birds fly in the sky;
How can I be here?
I must move, I want to be there
Stones are here and stars are there

I want to be here, and
I want to be there
So, my dear, you too can be there.

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Quest for a heart

I need a heart
To instill in me spirit
I need someone whose
Heart is full of compassion
That has feeling
Beating with love
Full of hope
Filled with emotion

That's considerate
Can feel, see, sense
Is sensitive, nurtures others' feelings
Is conscious of expression in one's face or eyes
I need a heart
To instill in me spirit.

Sarah Mohammed

Speaking

Speaking is one of the important skills of English besides writing, reading and listening. I think, it is more important than other skills, because speaking means direct, face to face, interactive communication between people. If you learn this skill, you will be able to communicate with others; native speakers or your teachers. I think it is necessary to allocate time everyday to speak English with your classmates, and your teachers. If you want to become a good speaker, you must allocate one hour or more everyday to practice this skill.

Some students neglect this skill; they speak in Arabic all the time even inside or outside the class. Some of those students say that they haven't enough vocabulary, but speaking doesn't entail knowing many words. If

you have one thousand words, you can use some words as noun, adjective and verb at the same time. Then you can communicate; express your ideas or what you need.

The person, who is a good speaker in his mother tongue, can be a good speaker in the foreign language as well. Last but not least, if you want to speak more, you must listen more.

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Whither Students: Achievements or marks?

Achievement and craze for high marks are two opposite passions the students are ruled by during their academic career. Correspondingly, understanding and mechanical memorizing leading to high score divide students into two types: one group with a positive attitude, willingness for hard work with insight; the second type with passion to memorize information and reproduce them on the exam paper and get high marks by any means, fair or foul.

However, all we have to know is that we live a practical life which rewards speech only if it is translated into action and learning only if it is applied to benefit the society. It may sound "Easy to say, difficult to apply." Yet in practical terms what can be applied to benefit the society is the right one and what cannot be is the illusive one. In fact, if the day of the exam is the day of information

unloading, we all have to acknowledge our role as contributors to the death of real education.

Yes, a student can attain excellence if he can achieve marks on the one hand and knowledge on the other. Thus, there should be a balance between what is in the diplomas and what is in his mind.

So let's live in the reality, free ourselves from illusion, deal with realities of life and achieve excellence.

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Forget-me-not

Early in that morning saw I a flower in the pot.
I realized at once that she was my forget-me-not.

As the weather was hot,
Which irritates me a lot.
I brought some water to water my forget-me-not,
But too late it was;
Because in her death bed my darling was,
Which made me feel sick
And eager to give her a pick
But desisted she with a drop of tear
And a cry that I could hear,
So I could not bear
Her crying, her tear;
I left her in a state of sadness,

Leaving her to die in her happiness.



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