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## After the head of Egyptian mission assassinated in Iraq Yemen denies appointing ambassador to Iraq

REPORTED BY:  
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YEMEN TIMES, SANA'A  
MOHAMMAD KHADIR,  
YEMEN TIMES, BAGDAD

July 9 (Yemen Times)—A source in the Presidential office denied the reports attributed to the Foreign Minister, of the Yemeni intention to appoint an ambassador in Iraq. Governmental sources confirmed that no fixed time was appointed for this matter as some Arab and local media said.

The source didn't say whether the Minister Alqirbi's release was true or was it just attributed to him.

16 September journal, the army mouthpiece had confirmed two weeks

ago, that foreign Minister Alqirbi announced steps to appoint a new Yemeni ambassador in Iraq. This was at the end of the conference of the OIC Foreign Ministers. The paper went on to say that he will be the first ambassador since the fall of the former regime. It also said that the appointment will be within few days.

Observers of Yemeni policy, think that the Yemeni delay for the appointment came after the murder of the Egyptian ambassador last week. Observers also believe that Yemen has promised the Iraqi Executives to appoint an ambassador. The last of these promises was in last month, when the Iraqi Foreign Minister visited Iraq to participate in the OIC conference.

Formal reports revealed that the most prominent nominee for that post was ambassador (Salah Alnashad), who worked in the Yemeni embassy in Washington. It worth saying that Baghdad had announced Dr. Tilal Jafar Al-abidi as its ambassador in Yemen. He visited Yemen and went back to Baghdad. He is expected to resume his work in Sana'a in October this year.

These statements have come after the killing of the head of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Iraq, which was denounced by the Iraqi government on Friday. The assassination, along with its ramifications, had from then beginning been characterized by political agenda. And even after kidnapping, dealing with it was not having a diplomatic characteristic in the form that might spare him death. The statement issued by the al-Qaeda organization in Iraq was very clear in reporting that the organization was in possession of much information on the man who had served for many years in his country's diplomacy, the matter that motivated his killing, as al-Qaeda organization reported. The Statement had also held the Egyptian government responsible for facilitating the invasion of the "disbelievers troops" of the Arab lands. The al-Qaeda organization statement added that the ambassador had come with an obvious message, having nothing of interest for Muslims but rather to deepen and consolidate the occupation presence.

On the other hand and out of a political stand Egypt's ambassador to the United Nations demanded to refer the file of Egypt's ambassador killing to the UN Security Council as soon as possible to be discussed, "we have today lost our ambassador to Iraq, who was murdered in a brutal way. I have met president of the Security Council and asked him that the council should discuss this problem urgently"



Ihab al-Sharif, the assassinated diplomatic in Iraq. (AP)

The Iraq side as it seems did not hold itself as responsible for consequences of kidnapping and killing of the Egyptian ambassador despite the strong statement of condemnation announced by the Iraqi Interior minister Bayan Jabr. "The embassies are under protection of the interior ministry and there is a special department shouldering the responsibility of securing protection of embassies. Any embassy is protected practically. When an ambassador, under these atmospheres, moves from one place to another, we do not have the right to follow up an ambassador's movements because such an act would be considered as violation of the diplomatic norms."

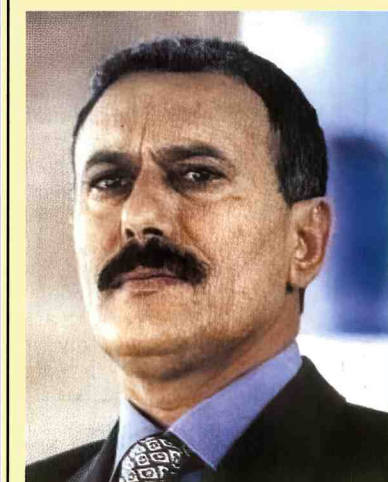
On his part the secretary general of the Arab League expressed regret to the result of the Egyptian ambassador issue, and expressing his astonishment

of the meanings of the al-Qaeda organization statement contained. The strange thing is the mixing between religions. Politics and the person. The matter has become not understandable. What is the charge that was against Ihab al-Sharif?" But religious trends in Egypt, such as the Muslim Brotherhood consider the American administration, by occupation of Iraq and spread of chaos and killing, we are responsible for the killing of Ihab al-Sharif. But variance in reactions may not change anything of reality; neither humane calls saved Ihab al-Sharif from his inevitable destiny or the condemnation would stop those who have put on their agenda fighting the states that they deem as offering support to the occupier.

The Imam and preacher of Um al-Qura mosque Abdul Ghafor al-Samarraie said targeting diplomats in Iraq does not serve the interest of the people of Iraq, adding that there are covert elements working for driving the Iraqis in the quagmire of sectarianism. Sheikh al-Samarraie said, "We have to join forces and we don't accept targeting any diplomat and the targeting of diplomats is an act does not serve our issue or falls in our interest and it is a rejected act. We reject killing this ambassador, which is an act of enrages God and does not pour into the Iraqis interest. Therefore, we call to unify our ranks and join our forces and to stand up to anyone who wants to split our ranks and provoke sectarian seditions, and we have to work for the liberation of our country from occupation."

Continued on page 3

## Political crisis between Yemen and KSA flares up, al-Quds al-Arabi



President Saleh

By MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- The Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement that was circulated by Saba News Agency last denying all what has been published by the London-based "al-Quds al-Arabi" daily on signs of a new crisis between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The statement said the Yemeni-Saudi relations is good and there is nothing to hamper their development.

In its last Monday's issue, al-Quds al-Arabi daily said: "signs of the political crisis between Riyadh and Sana'a mount strongly due to security problems, particularly those related to fighting terror and the Saudi support to the Yemeni opposition abroad."

It added: "the crisis may be also attributed to the case of the Yemeni workforce in Saudi Arabia, and ties between the two bordering countries go on gradual deterioration and toward a political crisis."

"The security problem took the diplomatic ties between Sana'a and Riyadh to a seemingly blocked path and that Cairo played the role of mediation between the two sides to settle the crisis, but all these efforts have gone in awry due to the insistence of



Prince Abdullah

each side on its position about a number of issues topped by security," the newspaper commented.

"Yemen signed the final border demarcation treaty on June 12 2000 with its neighbor and offered many concessions in return for closing the border file. But regrettably, after five years, the government of Saudi Arabia did not offer anything and never kept its pledges and commitments to Sana'a, and the Yemeni capital believed that signing the treaty will improve links with the bordering country."

It further added: "Yemen appeared to have been mistaken when it signed the treaty that came in the wrong time and the wrong place and that Sana'a dedicated all its efforts for the sake of enhancing ties with Riyadh despite all the local objections to signing the treaty."

Despite the Yemeni and Saudi policies to silence rumors about the crisis, its smell comes out of both sides, particularly when Riyadh hailed the idea of arranging the financial situations of the former Yemeni Ambassador to Syria, Ahmad al-Hasani, after Britain rejected his bid for political asylum in its lands.

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## PEC technician murdered in the line of duty

SPECIAL TO THE YEMEN TIMES

Much of the work carried out by the technicians of the Public Electricity Corporation compels them to interact with the public around the clock. Many times, this subjects this dedicated force to many circumstances for which they become tragic victims – even martyrs – for faithfully carrying out their duty to provide electricity service that will enhance the welfare of their fellow citizens. There has been numerous occasions when technicians and engineers of the PEC have become tragic victims of lawless citizens who pull out their lethal weapons against them as they carry out their jobs, or when they are sometimes caught in the cross fire of feuding tribesmen or hungry land grabbers. Last Wednesday, November 6 at noon, a PEC technician was carrying out his duty of disconnecting a delinquent consumer, who has not paid his bills in a suburb of Sana'a, called Bain Hiwath, about 15 miles to the North of the City (near Sana'a International Airport). The consumer, who has a sizable farm and a home, both of which are significant beneficiaries of the services of PEC came out to the technician as he was carrying out his duty atop the ladder

that was resting on the electricity pole at the connection point. Armed with an AK-47, the consumer demanded that the technician come down or else he would mow him down with the automatic rifle. The technician came down, without completing the disconnection, as he saw the consumer adamant in his demand. Yet, for some inexplicable reason, the consumer still fired his weapon at the technician, as he was coming down killing him instantly.

The suspected murderer immediately fled. The technician, 'Ammar Ali Kamil, aged 28, is employed with Region I in North Sana'a, in the Region I Sub-regional Branch of Bani Al-Harith. The Manager of the Sub-regional branch, Mohammed Ahmed Al-Hanbasi told the YT that the technician was a faithful employee of PEC, who was a polite and well mannered person, who could never have done anything to arouse the anger of anyone and certainly did never deserve to be murdered as he was only carrying out his duty. The village of Bani Hiwath has been out of electricity supply since the tragic murder, in the hopes that the people of the village can help determine the whereabouts of the fugitive suspected killer.

## Ubad insists on trying land plunderers

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- In a press conference held Wednesday July 6 within the framework of inaugurating the third phase of enumerating and documenting the endowment-affiliated lands and properties, Minister of Endowments and Guidance Hamoud Ubad demanded trying endowment land plunderers.

He mentioned that his ministry will sue legal actions against grabbers of endowment-owned lands and properties and said that the legal priorities rule does not apply on the endowment-related cases, particularly as it is associated with purifying the dead who endowed these lands before they were grabbed.



Hamoud Ubad

The minister did not mention the names of the influential people and the renowned sheikhs who grabbed the

endowment lands and properties but confirmed that their names will be revealed later on at the specialist court.

He stressed that the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance needs a mass of lawyers to appear for it before the court to defend its cases and that nobody can have immunity before the court.

Ubad said the field survey conducted by the ministry in 2002 covered lands with a total area of around one billion, 625 million and 112 square meters including agriculture and construction lands.

With respect to the direct supervision of the government on mosques, religious institutes and summer centers, he said the government supervision on such institutions will help protect children from the phenomenon of extremism recently cited in many parts all over the country.

The Minister of Endowments and Guidance noted: "we do not have a sectarian or official position to harm people and our principal goal is to protect mosques since it is in these places that people from different parties mass to discuss political matters turning away from worship."

### Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

#### This edition's question:

Do you think that Yemen should have a diplomatic representation in Iraq despite what happened recently to the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq?

- Yes, the insurgents in Iraq have nothing to do with Yemenis
- No, the situation there is unstable to start a diplomatic representation
- I don't know.

#### Last edition's question:

The Parliament has recently approved the sales tax. Do you think this will help improve the status of the national economy?

No 64%  
Yes 36%

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard!

## Course on foodstuff industries concluded

ADEN- A training course on foodstuff industries wrapped up on Thursday July 7. The course was held at the premises of Aden Governorate with the aim to train women and provide job opportunities for the poor families.

During the course time, participants obtained adequate training on the methods of foodstuff industries.

A large number of the participants worked hard in the past and offered vital services in the field of oil, wheat, sugar and jam industries.

At the conclusion of the course, recognition certificates were awarded to all the hard female workers to promote them to raise the quality of products.

## Three universities suspended for incompatibility with private education law

A source in the Supreme Yemeni Council for Universities, told the media that, it suspended the registration and admission of students in Al-Iman University, last Monday. Al-Iman University is headed by Sheikh Abdulmageed Al-zundani, head of the Shora council in Islah Party. The decision also included, in addition to AL-Iman University, Al-watania and The Applied Sciences Universities.

The source attributes this decision to the incompletion of these three universities with the standards of the private education law.

These Universities also didn't observe the regulations of the Supreme

University Council and the High Education Ministry. The regulation necessitates providing information on the admission policy to the supreme council for approval, before advertising admission in the media.

The source added that the council and the concerned parts have repeatedly requested these universities in vain, before taking this step.

Al-Iman University stipulates for admission that a candidate should be able to memorize and recite five parts of Koran. They don't pay attention to the student's qualifications, which are mostly intermediate certificate (corresponding to the present basic educa-

tion certificate).

The suspension of admission in Al-Iman and the other two universities comes as a result of warnings that the General Secretary of Supreme Council for Universities, Ali Gasim, had dispatched. These warnings included his confirmations that the Council will take legal measures against those universities that refused to hand in their admission policy.

The Government had closed down the Medicine colleges in a number of Private universities. It also closed the branches of these universities in Governorates. It retained the head quarters in the capital on condition

that they meet the standards of the private education law that was issued lately.

The government has taken these decisions on the basis of the recommendations of the Supreme University Council, Ministry of Higher Education and the Supreme Council for Education Planning. These bodies have carried out a field study that was conducted for a full year. It came out with a comprehensive report on the situation of these universities. The governmental report considered these universities, including Al-Iman university- as not mounting up to the standard of modern education.

## VACANCY



CARE has an immediate vacancy for a Project Accountant/ Book Keeper, based in Hodaida. The purpose of the Book Keeper is to ensure the project finances and project office are run in compliance with CARE and Donor policies and procedures, and that all record keeping is done in a transparent, organized manner.

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- At least three years experience in finance and accounting. Working with NGO managed projects' is an advantage.
- English and Arabic written and spoken.
- Computer literate in Excel, Word, E.mail, SUN systems
- Resident in Hodaida.
- Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

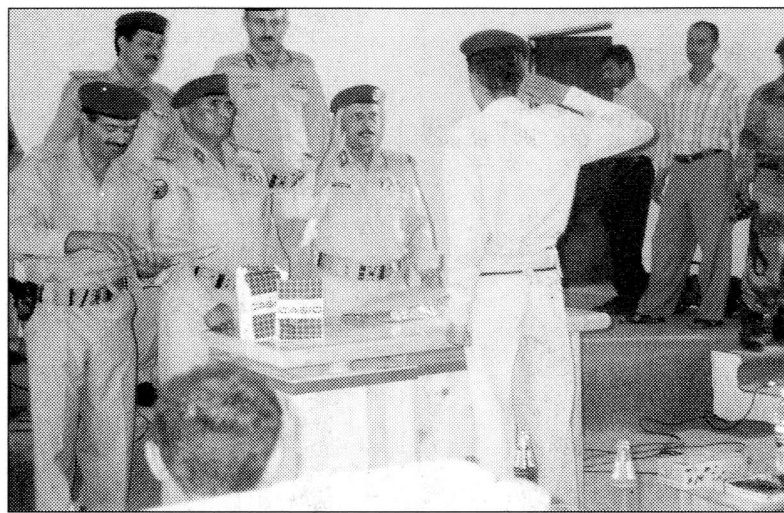
For a detailed job description, call in at 68 Arwa School street or e-mail [care@y.net.ye](mailto:care@y.net.ye). With the subject heading "PA Vacancy" Application deadline ( CV and a covering letter) is 20th July 2005. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

## MIL celebrates new batch of graduates

SANA'A- The Military Institute for Languages MIL celebrated on Wednesday July 6 the new batch of graduates numbering up to 170 after they obtained adequate amount of studies in the field of foreign languages.

The new batch includes officers, sergeants and soldiers from different military divisions who finished a 9-month study and were conferred the degree of diploma in the English, French, Russian and Amhari Languages, the last of which is the language spoken in Ethiopia.

At the graduation ceremony, Brig. Qasem Abdussalam al-Shaibani, Chairman of the institute talked about the new technologies used at the MIL



Prizes and certificates of merit awarded to graduates

and the available facilities that help learners master any target language during a short period of time.

Al-Shaibani commended the donor countries, mainly Britain, France and Russia that provide the institute with the sophisticated syllabuses and facilities needed for a better progress of learners.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the Yemeni Military Attachés in Britain, France and Russia and a number of military commanders.



Military commanders attending the graduation ceremony

## Public Electricity Corporation Aden Branch

### Announcement for Tender No. 76A/2005 & 78A/2005 Supply of: 11kv Indoor Switchgear & Auxiliary Equipment

Tender No.	Description	Opening Date	Tender fees	Announcement	Finance
76 A/2005	11 kv indoor switchgear and Auxiliary Equipment	25/7/2005	50,000/-R.Y	Second Time	GOVT Intestment program
78 A/2005	11kv indoor switchgear and Auxiliary Equipment	25/7/205	50,000/-R.Y	Second Time	GOVT Investment program

#### PUBLIC ELECTRICITY CORPORATION - ADEN BRANCH HEREBY ANNOUNCES THE ABOVE MENTIONED TENDERS WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. The bids should be submitted in one original plus two copies
2. The bid should be submitted along with 2.5% bid bond or payable cheque through any local bank in Yemen and bids must be valid for 120 days from the date of opening the tender.
3. Local bidders must submit valid copies of trade registration, income tax certificate, insurance and zakat certificate and letter of authority from Foreign Companies.
4. The bids should be submitted with the same offer currency valid for 120 days from the closing date of tender.
5. The bids should be entitled the local income tax applied in accordance to the Law of the country.
6. PEC have the full right to split the tender to meet general interest.
7. Delivery of goods CIP PEC warehouse Maalla - Aden.
8. KEMA certificate must be presented along with manufacturer's offer or any other accepted certificate.
9. Bids must be submitted along with invoice of manufacturer.
10. The tender documents consisting of general conditions special conditions, draft of agreement must be stamped by bidders along with their offer.

PEC will not consider any offer which does not consist of specified conditions above, the bids should be presented in sealed enveloped stamped with red wax not later than 11.00A.M. No offer will be accepted after this time. Offer can also be dispatched by courier to following address.

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Mandarin Oriental	Kuala Lumpur	\$ 1390	\$ 930 X 2 \$ 1860	\$ 2260	\$ 1375 X 2 \$ 2750	\$ 125	5star / Deluxe
JW Marriott	Kuala Lumpur	\$ 1225	\$ 845 X 2 \$ 1690	\$ 1930	\$ 1200 X 2 \$ 2400	\$ 105	5star / Deluxe
Berjaya times square	Kuala Lumpur	\$ 1090	\$ 785 X 2 \$ 1570	\$ 1685	\$ 1080 X 2 \$ 2160	\$ 90	5star / Standard Suites
Corus	Kuala Lumpur	\$ 830	\$ 670 X 2 \$ 1340	\$ 1250	\$ 665 X 2 \$ 1330	\$ 55	4star Run off the House
JW Marriott	Jakarta	\$ 1295	\$ 945 X 2 \$ 1890	\$ 1645	\$ 1295 X 2 \$ 2590	\$ 130	5star Deluxe

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BBC World Services Trust for

# Better reporting on coming elections in Yemen

Around 200 reporters and editors from the Yemeni printed press, radio and television will benefit from training of election reporting, funded by the British Embassy in Sana'a. The US\$ 650,000 training program is designed to prepare the media for improved coverage in the lead-up to the 2006 elections.

The training aims to provide participating journalists with high-quality practical techniques of reporting on elections in an objective, fair and accurate manner. The training is being organized by the BBC World Services Trust in partnership with the local civic rights NGO, the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDF). A series of media symposia, training courses and on site consultancies will be held across Yemen for one year. Participants will include journalists from government-owned, opposition and independent media outlets.

The funding is coming from the British Government's Global Opportunities Fund, which is also funding several projects in Yemen to strengthen the rule of law, promote good governance and increase the participation of women in decision making.

In this regard, the British ambassador

Mr. Michael Gifford, along with the Mr Jaldeep Katwala, Training and Development Manager at BBC launched on Wednesday 6 July 2006 and signed an agreement of the project.

Commenting on the new project, the British Ambassador, Mr. Michael Gifford, said "The BBC's global reputation for excellence is well-known, and I am delighted that the BBC World Service Trust is our partner organization for this project. Raising the professional standards of the Yemeni media, especially in the context of reporting next year's elections, is a key part of Yemen's democratization process. We are not here to impose any western, BCC or British model on Yemen. But what we want to do is to raise the professional standard for media people and how to cover the coming electoral elections fairly and properly. I think it is one of the biggest projects we have done in terms of money. But the money is not important, the most important is the outcomes."

Dr. Phil Boyle, political, press and project secretary at British Embassy, said "The BBC in the UK are very keen to help out and train the journalists in Yemen. There are excellent journalists in Yemen but they have not been

exposed to training and because the 2006 elections are coming up we along with BBC expertise thought to help them and train them how to cover the elections in an objective, fair unbiased way. We will train Yemeni staff then they will train the other people. So we can keep the flow of information going from a journalist to journalist.

We think that Yemeni journalists should have the opportunity to learn from experts from BBC. We use this program to try to help out the Islamic countries to develop good organizations in their countries to build a good self society to participate in all aspects of country run. We wish this project to be successful and hope to see high-standard of reporting later on."

Mr. Jaldeep Katwala, Training and Development Manager at BBC, gave a brief account about the project "I am project director responsible for training and development. I am here really to establish ground work for the project. After weeks we will appoint a project director based in Yemen to carry the project out and the trainers will be brought in after that. The procedures will take place by a 4-media symposia in September then we will have raining

editors and then journalists.

We aim to train 220 across Yemen to help them improve electoral coverage. Election reporting is what we want to help some people to do it in objective, balanced impartial reporting, how to cover election process, probably how to do with pressure of political parties for example, how to operate enough fair reasonable way. We work with CDF which was very close to monitoring the previous elections in the country. It is very important that we are not here to tell Yemeni journalists how to do it, we are here to offer our experience. We are here to help the Yemeni journalist to find their own way working and to find the best means of operating in this context. We are here to learn as much as we can. We know that there are substantial journalists here and we want to make them better."

Mr. Abdualmajeed AL-Fahad, the head of CDF, also expressed his happiness about the launching of the project "The last elections witnessed a lot of problems and now we have the coming local and presidential elections and the aim of the project to train the media people how to cover peacefully and in a logical way."

## Influential people grab graveyards

ADEN- A large number of citizens expressed their strong denunciation at the crisis witnessed by a number of Aden graveyards and the lack of enough spaces to bury the dead. The situation is also similar in most of the Yemeni governorates.

Many influential people in the city of Aden were cited to grab cemeteries and exhumed graves to use them as lands for their personal interests. This raised concern among locals since there is no respect for the rights of the dead.

In the same context, Sheikh Tariq Adhahiri General Director of Aden's Endowments Office said such lands should be protected whether how old or new they are.

He confirmed that a number of influ-

ential people showing dominance over several graveyards caused immense crisis that hampered burying the dead bodies and there are many procedures to be taken against them by the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance.

Al-Dhahirani signaled out that Aden's Endowments Office expended precious efforts to make available large pieces of land enough for burying the dead.

He denied the credibility of grave exhumation and cemetery grab.

The General Director of Aden's Endowment Office made a mention of the situation of mosques and the conflicts between religious sects as well as the attacks upon mosque preachers under the pretext of discussing non-religious matters.

Continued from page 1

## Yemen denies appointing ambassador to Iraq

Some observers said al-Qaeda affiliates believe that the Egyptian government is unbeliever and anyone working for it, even there lowest in rank employee, as unbeliever and since that government had sent al-Sharif to Iraq as ambassador it consequently means a recognition of the Iraqi government and anyone recognizing the Iraqi government does consequently recognize the American occupation of Iraq. They have their own legal interpretations, believing such things as supporting the occupation and thus it is allowable to fight them. These observers believe that the al-Qaeda organization, unlike other similar ones, does not respond to calls, negotiations and mediations. As long as the al-Qaeda organization

is the side that committed kidnapping, it is certain that the kidnapped would be liquidated except if there was a chance for the security forces to find the place where the victim was kept, there might be a chance to rescue him. There is no previous example that al-Qaeda organization had before released anyone kidnapped by it, unlike other similar organizations.

Heads of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Baghdad was kidnapped outside his residence a few days ago and then al-Qaeda organization in Iraq announced its responsibility. The organization broadcast statements and information about the Egyptian diplomat and promised to kill him, and actually it did that.

## Political crisis between Yemen and KSA flares up, al-Quds al-Arabi

According to "al-Quds al-Arabi", the Yemeni sources considered the step taken by Saudi Arabia a sort of resuming the finance and arrangement of situations of the Yemeni opposition elements abroad. The efforts of such opposition elements emerged with calls to coupe against the regime in Sana'a starting from Britain under several banners.

The prominent items of the border treaty signed between the two countries in Jeddah in 2000 included the commitment of Riyadh to halt the spiritual and material support for the Yemeni opposition abroad, improving situations of the Yemeni workforce in Saudi Arabia and backing the Yemeni desire to join the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Five years passed after the treaty without achieving anything in favor of Yemen while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia obtained all it wanted, topped by the demarcation of borders with Yemen at the border points drawn by Riyadh.

"The two governments tend to calm down the nature of the exacerbating disputes between them and what is cited reflects the existence of a relations crisis that is expected to develop and call back the atmospheres of the cold war, which culminated before signing the border treaty at the beginning of the last decade," the London-based Newspaper noted.

"The Yemeni government feels oppressed because Saudi Arabia does not abide by the accords reached as part of settling the border

disputes allowing around one million Yemeni to work in Saudi Arabia after they were deported during the second Gulf war."

Regarding the Yemeni-Saudi ties, al-Quds al-Arabi daily concluded: "if the news leaked by the Yemeni side is correct that Saudi Arabia supports the mounting Yemeni opposition, the relations between the two Arab countries will go from bad to worse and Saudi Arabia will be the big loser since its security situation is more fragile. If the Yemeni government does not have a hand in stopping all the operations of weapon trafficking to members of al-Qaeda Organization in Saudi Arabia, this will destroy the successful achievements scored by the Saudi security authorities over the last few months in besieging and contracting al-Qaeda activities."

Additionally, Saudi Arabia experiences border crises with most of its neighbors such as the U.A.E., Qatar and Kuwait, its relations with Oman and Bahrain is not good, and its relations with Iraq are somehow mysterious, according to the London-based Newspaper.

## Erratum

In an article entitled "ILO office opened in Sana'a" published on July 10, 2005 the International Organization of Migration (I.O.M.) was referred to as the International Immigration Organization (IIO). The correct name of this organization is the International Organization For Migration (I.O.M.). The Yemen Time apologizes for any inconvenience this mistake may have caused.

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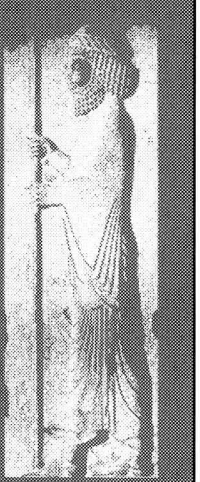
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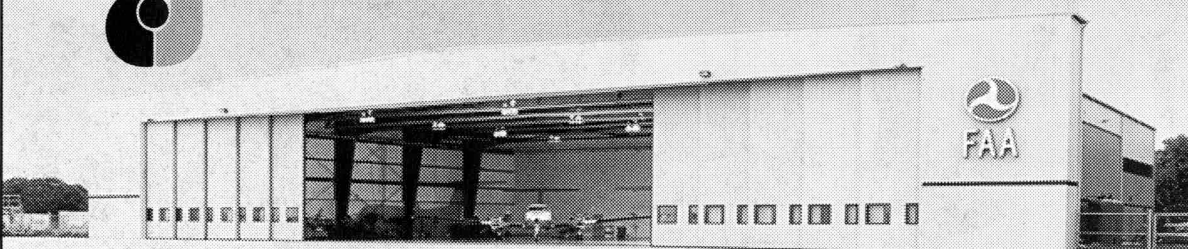
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S.Y.I



# Deputy Chief of Yemeni community in Riyadh to YT: "Yemen is in our hearts and we will do all we can to support its development"

BY SAIED AL BATATI  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES  
AL-MUKALLA, HADHRAMOUT

The collapse of Marib dam has caused a massive immigration from Yemen to many countries. And that is the reason why many tribes in Egypt, Syria and other countries are descendants from Yemen.

In the modern age, due to difficult living circumstances, Yemenis left their homes to many destinations, especially to the neighboring Gulf countries. For example, in Saudi Arabia there are over 450,000 Yemenis who have been living there for decades. Most of them immigrated after the oil exploration.

In the oil-rich state, they have very lucrative jobs with wages ten times more than wages in Yemen. Consequently, they are well-known businessmen with fame not only in Saudi Arabia but in the world as well. The expatriates haven't forgotten their homeland, it is still uppermost in

their minds. Annually, the border between the two adjacent countries is flooded with thousands of the expatriates who want to spend the vacation with their relatives. However, others have a nodding acquaintance with Yemen and are yet to decide to resume their contacts with the place of birth.

Omer Yahya al Batati, deputy chief of the Yemeni community in Riyadh, and other prominent figures of the community were in al-Mukalla to share the Yemeni people on the re-unification day. He kindly and courteously responded to my invitation for an interview with the Yemen Times. He took me to a tent on the coast of al-Mukalla arranged for a long night concert. I grabbed the opportunity to ask him about the Yemenis in the neighboring country, their concerns, problems and the connections with the homeland. My first question was "Could you shed more light on the community, please?"

Mr. Batati said that the community was established as collaboration between the expatriates and the government. He

outlined two goals for the community "The first objectives was to link the Yemenis with one another so that they could speak with one voice. It helps to solve the problems through co-operation. The second objective is to remind the expatriates about their duties towards Yemen. So it is a bridge. We assert that there is an urgent need for their investment and participation in the development process in the fatherland. To consolidate and facilitate our work, The Honorable president issued a decree to form the Ministry of the Expatriates Affairs. This trend evinces the leadership's concerns for the expatriates." Then I asked about for this purpose. The 58 years old businessman responded "The unceasing calls by the president for the businessmen to invest in Yemen didn't fall in deaf ears. On the contrary, the unforeseen prosperity that Yemen is passing through in the investment sector has tempted the investors abroad. In other words, the specter of confiscating people's properties by the former regimes

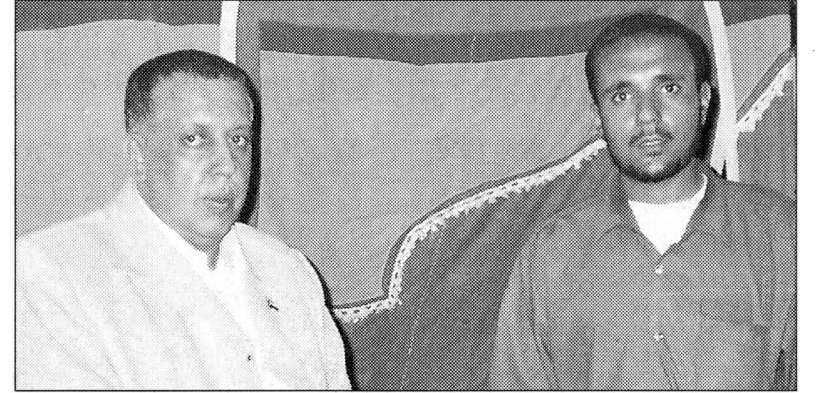
has faded away for ever". He spoke optimistically about the future of investment. "I forecast an impending boom in the sector of investment as far as these policies by the government go on"

After that, I asked my third question "Could you make a comparison between Yemen before and after 22 May 1990 from your own point of view? And is this the country which you dreamt of?"

"The 22 May is a historical day for all Yemenis inside or outside the country. Every one is now reaping its fruits. Briefly, before that day, we were two separate states with high tension along the border. However; the bitter enemies have become brothers.

For a Yemeni citizen residing abroad, it is a dream which has come true. There are appreciable changes in all fields; health, education, transportation...etc. Frankly, Yemen has flourished with president Saleh at the helm".

As I was talking to him, another question came up. "What is your role in supporting the Saudi government in its war



Saeed Al-Batati (right) with Omer al Batati, during the latter visit to Al-Mukalla

on terrorism?"

"Terrorism is a fatal epidemic. Everyone is its possible target. So, they are obliged to study outside the kingdom. However, not all of them could do so, some students left school because they couldn't afford the expenses of education outside. He thanked the government of the Custodian of two Holy Mosques for offer of grants to Yemenis in the Saudi universities and wished more.

As he was about to leave, I asked him whether he had anything to add "I would like to conclude the interview by saying that Yemen is at our fore-front mind and we will do what ever is at our disposal to have it developed. It remains to me to thank the Yemen Times for giving me the opportunity to speak about the community".

The education of the foreigners in the kingdom is a thorny issue. They aren't

allowed to enroll themselves in the Saudi universities. Only the public education is permitted. So, they are obliged to study outside the kingdom. However, not all of them could do so, some students left school because they couldn't afford the expenses of education outside. He thanked the government of the Custodian of two Holy Mosques for offer of grants to Yemenis in the Saudi universities and wished more.

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# Youths: Between qat sessions & internet cafés

BY ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI  
eshraqalbodigy@yahoo.com  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

As the coming of summer's holiday and at the end of the school year, what is coming to our mind is that how youth will spend their summer vacation this year? What they will think of? Which places they will go?

Many youth are starting to think in this matter and some not yet, however they leave themselves for purposeless, and date their points according to other's programs and inclinations.

Actually, few numbers of youth try to make special plans and programs for themselves with aim of utility and interesting at the same time, and that before starting to spend their holiday, while others do not think of it at all, as we see their existence in lanes of streets, Qat meet-

ings, or Internet Cafés. The main problem is not only the existence of those young people in these places, but the subject regards to the benefits' range of their appearance in such example; Internet café, pool hall, or electronic games' hall.

When a youth goes to waste his or her valuable time in an Internet café with the aim to chat, which has no important need or real goal, he or she never try to search for even a beneficial word or sentence which may add to his or her information, cultural, historical, or traditional knowledge among all sentences that stays along to print on the computer's keyboard. He never try to create a topic which could push every youth and old people to discuss it seriously without diminishing of his mind but on the contrary of that it will add to his consciousness.

It is not wrong to stay in such places like these but it is so shame to ignore the

advantages that some things had created for increasing to the human information and his knowledge in every field and scopes. It is so shameful that we cannot advantage from instruments or apparatuses like computer and Internet at this age, knowing that human had taken along time and spent so many years to create the computer in purpose of servicing the humanity or amusing the people by more intellectual and consciousness ways in other times.

I'm just asking myself, why youth do not go to these cafés for knowledge or even the cultural or entertaining exchange? Why they do not meet for playing chess game as an example?

I think if they do so, they will learn how to be more patient and in addition to that, it will be able to open their minds up instead of waste more time with creating such lies and misuse their money and health.

Many youth spend their time in Qat meetings and waste their vacations in chatting instead of going to some trips, to have fun and see entertainment. In addition, they can hold a book in order to read, and benefit. Sure if they do, they will enjoy.

It is so important for those whom remain in the streets and hang around the lanes of markets to pay attention to their missing youth between all these false aims.

The usefulness of most attractive moments of life is the matter, which really deserves the attention, whereas supposed to feed the minds with all kinds of arts, culture, sciences, and polish the talents in all fields of our life. It supposed to emanate the health and activity out of all weak bodies.

We have to warn youth to start thinking carefully of how they will spend their summer's holiday. They have to think if

they will specify time for entertainment, reading and knowledge, time for trips, for practicing sports and building their bodies, another part of time for polishing talents, and gain another.

Time should not go as the winds. Youth should stay as a burning fire's flame that generates the power and vitality, should stay as rain which follow down to grow the land and irrigate all creatures.

Youth should have their special program and places, for not only spend the time but also for entertainment, culture, habilitation, and reactivate the energy, and for starting a new year with full enthusiasm.

We are still asking ourselves, what should we have to offer for these youth in every year at their summer's holiday starting?

Special authorities have not started to organize some programs and trips for

these youth, rather; it has intensifying their campaigns to try to pick up them from the reckless and fertility swamps.

The special authorities should to pay more attention to youth, open special clubs, and make it in a large number especially in their summer's vacation, starting with polishing their different gifts, replacing the theaters and summer's exhibitions instead the Qat Meetings and Chat Cafés.

It is necessary to gather the efforts of all official sides which care about youth future in this country and find new ideas to help the young and make them a youth generation that is able to go along with computer age, culture turn, and places of Play Station games.

Youth should build and create a real renaissance not only through their academic certificates or future jobs but also through all things that acquire even intellectual, physical, or entertaining.

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الضالع ، الشارع العام / ٣٤٤٤٤ / ٤٣٤٤٤٠ / ٤٣٤٤٤٠ ، ت : ٤٣٤٤٤٠ / ٤٣٤٤٤٠ ، فاكس : ٤٣٤٤٤٠ / ٤٣٤٤٤٠ ، جين : ٤٣٤٤٤٠ / ٤٣٤٤٤٠ ، شبوة ، عتق ، النصب ت : ٢٠٠٣٠٤ / ٥٥ ، سيار : ٧١٤٢٨٠٩ - القاعدة ، ت : ٣٣٠٨٢٢ / ٥٤ - زريم ، ت : ٣٣٠٨٢٢ / ٥٤ - فاكس : ٥٠٤٥٤٠٠ / ٥٤ - حرض ، ٢٤٢٢٢١ / ٧

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# US Marines launch new raid on Iraq insurgents

BAGHDAD, July 9 (Reuters) - U.S. Marines said on Saturday they had launched a new counter-insurgency operation, the latest in a series of sweeps designed to root out militant bases in Iraq's Euphrates valley.

Operation Scimitar involved about 500 U.S. troops and 100 Iraqis, making it about half the scale of Operation Sword and Operation Spear in the past three weeks.

The military said the Marines had detained 22 suspected militants since the raid was launched in secret in the village of Zaidon 30 km (20 miles) southeast of Falluja on Thursday.

Washington says the western Euphrates valley between the Syrian border and Baghdad is a conduit for foreign militants behind a wave of suicide bombings that worsened after the Shi'ite- and Kurdish-led government took power in April.

Marines in the area have launched operations just about weekly, hoping to clear insurgents out of town after town.

During Operation Spear, they called in air strikes and left much of the border town of Karabila in ruins after battles they said killed dozens of insurgents. Operation Sword was quieter, with no heavy resistance reported.

## Attacks on diplomats

The United States and the U.S.-backed Iraqi government are also worried about a series of attacks on diplomats which appear aimed at thwarting the government's efforts to win greater recognition from cautious Muslim and Arab states.

Egypt said it was cutting staff at its embassy after its mission chief, Ihab el-Sherif, was kidnapped and killed by Al Qaeda's Iraq wing.

Pakistan withdrew its ambassador after his motorcade was fired on, and Bahrain's envoy was wounded by gunmen.

Other Arab countries, mostly ruled by Sunnis, have yet to give their diplomats in Baghdad full ambassador status, although Iraq says Jordan and Syria will soon do so and Egypt had planned to before Sherif was killed.

Baghdad and Washington have called on Arab states not to let the attacks stop them from upgrading ties.

"The brutal slaying of this dedicated diplomat, working to better the lives of the Iraqi people, further underscores the desperate and evil agenda of terrorists working to undermine progress toward democracy around the world," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said in a statement.



US Attorney General meets soldiers at US Embassy in Baghdad. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales (C in black) poses with a U.S. soldier at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad July 3, 2005. On a surprise visit Gonzales praised Iraq's commitment to democracy in the face of sustained deadly attacks by insurgents. REUTERS

Among incidents reported on Saturday, 11 Iraqis — including two soldiers and a police officer — were shot dead throughout the northern flashpoint city of Mosul in separate attacks on Friday, hospital officials said.

In one attack, four civilians travelling from Baghdad were dragged out of their car and shot in the south of the city.

A family of four were shot dead on Saturday in the northern town of Baiji when gunmen stormed their

house at dawn and killed a husband, wife and their children, five and two years old, police Major Ali al-Qeysi said. Residents said the man may have worked for a foreign company.

Police killed three insurgents driving a car packed with explosives in western Baghdad's Ghazaliya district on Thursday evening, a U.S. military statement said. The car was stopped at a routine police checkpoint but attempted to escape before police shot dead the occupants.

# Thousands flee Pakistani floods but worst over

ISLAMABAD, July 9 (Reuters) - About 320,000 Pakistani villagers have been displaced by floods in the past 10 days and three people have been killed, but the worst appears over with water levels in main rivers falling, a relief official said.

The death toll in the flooding, caused by heavy rain and snow melting in northern mountains, was low because of early warnings and smooth evacuations, said Mohammad Irfan

Illahi, director-general of Punjab province's relief commission.

"Most of the damage has been done to villages and crops on the river banks ... (but) since this morning, the floods have been falling," Illahi said on Saturday.

About 660 villages had been evacuated and about 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) of farm land damaged, most of it sugar cane but including some cotton, one of Pakistan's most important

crops, he said.

Heavy winter snow melting in the Hindu Kush mountains and the Himalayas combined with heavy rain to send torrents of water down rivers such as the Indus and the Chenab into Pakistan's central plains.

But Illahi said the surge of water had mostly passed down stream in the Indus and water levels were also falling in the Chenab, which flows into Pakistan from India.

# Former rebel leader sworn in as Sudanese VP

KHARTOUM, July 9 (Reuters) - Former rebel chief John Garang took his place in the Sudanese leadership on Saturday, swearing the oath of office as first vice president in a peace government after more than 20 years fighting from the swamps of the south.

At a ceremony in the presidential palace, six months after a peace agreement between north and south, Garang became deputy to his old enemy President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who signed an interim constitution and took his own oath of office.

The long and bitter war between the Khartoum government and Garang's rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) ended in January when they signed an agreement which includes a new coalition government and arrangements to share wealth and power.

Garang and Bashir took their oaths of office under the eyes of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Arab League chief Amr Moussa and African heads of state, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

Bashir spoke in Arabic, the language of the Arabised north, and Garang in English, the language preferred by many educated southerners, reflecting the diversity of Sudan, which has dozens of languages and

ethnicities. Muslim and Christian clerics introduced the ceremony.

"For the first time in many years, a lasting peace for all the people of Sudan is now within reach. To secure that peace, no effort must be spared," Kofi Annan told the gathering.

"This is a great day. A new Sudan is being created which gives us a lot of hope for the future and for the Sudanese," added Amr Moussa of the Arab League.

## Oil and Ethnicity

Southern Sudan has been at war for all but 11 years since independence from Britain in 1956. Garang's rebellion began in 1983 and broadly pitted the Islamist government in Khartoum against the Christian and animist south, complicated by issues of oil, ethnicity and ideology.

The conflict claimed 2 million lives, mostly from famine and disease, and left the south with little infrastructure.

"This sets the first, very important step in creating a new government of national unity ... that needs to include all marginalized people and ensure that peace becomes comprehensive," said Norwegian Minister for International Development Hilde Johnson.

The peace deal gives Bashir's party 52 percent of government and parliament and the SPLM 28 percent, with northern and southern opposition

groups taking the remaining 20 percent. The south can vote on secession in a referendum within six years.

It also shares oil wealth roughly equally between the north and the south, where the main oil fields lie.

But the southern peace deal does not cover a separate conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, which has raged for more than two years. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and more than 2 million have fled their homes.

A smaller revolt has recently expanded in the east of Sudan, Africa's largest country.

Annan told Garang and Bashir it was important to reach a settlement for Darfur and begin talks in the east as well.

"The peace process between north and south must be made irreversible — which it will not be unless it takes root in the East and in the West as well," he said. "As an immediate priority, therefore, the government ... must work to resolve the conflicts in Darfur and in eastern Sudan."

Johnson, who played a key role in the southern peace process, also said peace must reach all corners of Sudan.

"We now have a government of national unity that has an ambition to deliver peace for the whole of the country and my view is that this will now be their major opportunity," she said.

# Algerian rebels kill 3

ALGIERS, July 9 (Reuters) - Algerian Islamic militants, suspected of having al Qaeda links, cut the throats of three soldiers and shot dead one civilian as authorities prepare an amnesty for rebels, newspapers reported on Saturday.

The victims were killed on

Wednesday by members of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) at a fake roadblock near Tizi Ouzou, some 110 km (68 miles) east of the capital Algiers, said newspaper Liberte.

Authorities were not immediately available for comment.

The attack came a week after President Abdelaziz Bouteflika said a referendum would be held soon on an amnesty proposal aimed at ending more than 13 years of Islamic rebel violence which has killed up to 200,000 people.

# Palestinian Authority rallies police to pullout task

GAZA, July 9 (Reuters) - The Palestinian Authority rallied hundreds of Gaza policemen on Saturday to the task of taking control of Jewish settlements when Israel pulls out of the occupied territory starting next month.

Addressing the policemen, who are training in two camps for their upcoming security duties, Interior Minister Nasser Youssef said: "You have to be ready. You are the defenders of law and order."

The men are members of a 5,000-strong force that President Mahmoud Abbas created last month to counter any possible looting or militant takeover of the 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza that Israel plans to evacuate.

But Palestinian security forces — a dozen of them — have been weakened during a 4-1/2-year uprising against Israel, beset by infighting, accused of corruption and discredited at the expense of militants who now lay down the law on some streets.

"It is true that four years of indiscipline and ineffectiveness in this very importance and respected institution have passed," Youssef said in rare public remarks.

"We will work energetically and seriously to make this institution more professional and non-political," he said. "Your people are sorely in need of your good efforts and loyalty."

The 45 days of intensive training for the new force's men, handpicked from other units, are especially designed to instil discipline.

Training began late last month.

Abbas's Palestinian Authority has said it will permit peaceful and organised celebrations inside settlements, but vowed to prevent chaos by powerful militant groups who see the Israeli withdrawal as a victory.

A four-month-old de ceasefire with Israel that Abbas coaxed from militants could help maintain calm for the pullout, due to begin in mid-August.

But political analysts believe it will take a great deal more than refresher training to revitalise the forces.



Palestinian policemen march during a military training in Gaza July 4. Palestinian Ministry of Interior said hundreds of policemen were undertaking trainings in preparation to assume control of areas. Israel will evacuate the Gaza Strip later this year, according to Israel's unilateral pullout plan. REUTERS

# Landmine blast kills 3 Turk soldiers

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, July 9 (Reuters) - Three Turkish soldiers were killed and 8 wounded on Saturday when their vehicle hit a landmine, suspected of being planted by Kurdish rebels in Turkey's troubled southeast, security sources said.

The soldiers were in Hakkari, a remote province bordering Iran and Iraq. The military is pursuing the rebels, a security official said, but offered no further details.

Rebels from the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have stepped up their attacks on military and strategic targets after calling off their unilateral ceasefire in June 2004.

In the last week, the PKK claimed responsibility for two separate explosions that hit railway lines in eastern Turkey. Six security guards died in the first attack on a postal train.

Turkish officials have said a few thousand PKK guerrillas have crossed the border into Turkey from northern Iraq since the end of the truce, many of them armed with explosives used to make homemade landmines.

The PKK launched an armed campaign against the Turkish state in 1984 in a bid to establish an ethnic homeland in the mainly Kurdish southeast. More than 30,000 people, mostly Kurds, have died in the conflict.



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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

Endowment between the people and the state

Endowment is an Islamic concept that entitles the public to benefit from private ownership. It is a form of equal benefit sharing where the rich dedicate an asset whether a land, premises or service for all to benefit from for good. Endowment is a regular practice among Yemeni merchants especially from Hadramout. Another type of endowment is states' premise, which is allocated only for the public sector and is dedicated for the operations of state and state services. Recently, the Ministry of Endowment has launched a project to record all endowments in Yemen. This is one of the Ministry's tasks in addition to managing and maintenance of endowments and alms. According to official sources the total land endowment exceeds one and half billion square meters some of which had been dedicated to the public benefit over 400 years ago. These lands are dedicated to projects in various sectors of life such as health, education, religion, orphanages and care for minorities and even infrastructure.

In the Yemeni society, the community came together in order to fill in the gaps left by the state. This is a form of informal solidarity sometimes that covers for the inadequacies of the state. Unfortunately, due to corruption authority, tribal, and military figures have invaded many of these lands and endowment properties around the country. Currently the Ministry is trying to sort out the list of properties and repossess them. However, the corruption in this country has gone too deep for such an ambition, and perhaps the most that the Ministry can do is maintain and preserve what is remaining.

It is amazing how the communities try to create their own social insurance, and practice many types of solidarity. Some of these projects stem from religious beliefs such as endowment, which is highly practiced by the private sector. It is enough that the authorities that govern this country in all sectors are not performing their duties, yet their greed extends to destroying initiatives of the citizens who care for their communities. The Muslim society is trying to come over its deficiencies and hardships by pulling in the society's resources together. Instead of impeding these efforts, the powerful people of this country should have a sense of responsibility and dignity not to extend their greed into what was meant for a noble cause.

The Editorial Board



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# Arab World's change phobia

If Arabs are frank with themselves, they would confess that they are going towards an essential change and a new economic and political life which would substantially impact their future.

The Arab states (the republican ones) are to move into the necessary new republic. They should invite all people to contribute to the transformation, with the consent of the elite who used to think and plan for us. It is time they listened well.

The moment is so fine that no one individual can manage diagnosing it. It is no easy task because we don't have the experts able to dismantle the fact from such a complex moment as the one we are experiencing nowadays.

- Yemen: The implementation of sales tax and the "dose".
- Lebanon: The parliamentary elections and the international investigations in the death of martyr al-Hariri.
- Egypt: Amendments to Presidential Elections Act.
- Sudan: The final settlement of the South and Darfur issues.
- Saudi Arabia: Continued chase of outlaws.
- Iraq: Braced for constitution plebiscite and trial of former regimes' figures.
- Syria: Period after Ba'ath Party's Conference and approval of amendments.
- Kuwait: Expectations after appointment of first woman in Cabinet.

The conditions of the Arab World should be internally controlled having, on the other hand, links with the external world. We are witnessing a unique mixture characterized by a broad-based public movement not only in terms of politics and economy. Its uncontrolled effects are all pervasive. Consequently, in every case, the affected Arabs are get apprehensive or rather hesitant. This is natural but it disheartens those



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

aspiring to create a better reality. Arab political life is experiencing something totally new in its history.

Seeing this development growing out of strict centralization in governance and totalitarianism, people observes it with astonishment. However, they should maintain solidarity believing that future bears positive signs for them.

What they possess today is a driving force able to move them many fearless steps forward.

Much of what we were accustomed to has to keep abreast with the speed of change. I mean the nature of leaders, policies, and even common people.

Thus, it is not enough to limit our efforts to the coming presidential, parliamentary and local elections. Stopping at this limit might prompt social tension. The situation would be healthy if parties reform themselves and get new blood.

Elections and their preparations are important for participation and creating public opinion because voters become partners in decision-making and policy implementation by electing leaders and distinguishing between candidates. Regarding elections as an end by themselves would result in tensions, which should be avoided because they counteract the political, economic and social change. They deprive the current generation of catching the ongoing development moment with all its inspirations. The ruling parties have never been so demanded to present their platforms and be clear with the public instead of deceiving them. The opposition parties, on the other hand, ought to work seriously and sincerely far from political schemes. They should provide solutions to issues and crises inflicting the Arab nation. They should make shadow governments having plans, solutions, and programs as an approach to the next elections.

In my assessment, the best smooth transfer ideas consist in involving all parties in decision-making without

waiting for foreigners to do that. Arab governments should forward practical policies and reveal the identities of responsible officials as well as the implementation methods, and the role of the economic movement. They should not present just dumb figures which fit only developed communities. We need to get more frankness in detail to explain the atmosphere of reform, change and governing rules. The governments should hasten to give the public political and economic guarantees, which ensure the status of the common man under change and economic reform. They should also ensure the establishment of strong private sector able to contribute to development and production in a situation of horrible unemployment and astronomical prices.

Politically, changes are profound and have unusual impacts. Therefore, they need to affect a similar change by selecting a group of politicians who express this stage. They should come from different spheres, from the ruling party and the opposition with self-expression and self-respect capacities. It is preferable that they are new faces. High-ranking officials with absolute unshared viewpoints should be toppled and the notion of homogenous team in leadership and work coined.

On the other hand, policies should be devoted towards decentralization and supporting real local governance that gives local councilors the power to manage the political process without the interference of the capital city. This way, the Arab community would be ready to proceed without hindrances. Each government ought to be given the right to select its production style and re-plan cities and villages. Local leaders should be given the chance to emerge without the interference of the central government.

What is important is that we should go on quickly without hesitation. The achievers of the event at that moment would reap the fruits of achievements because they preserve their past, protect their present and make the future of their country.

## The two faces of Vladimir Putin

By Nina L. KHRUSHCHEVA

Russia's split personality – symbolized by its Tsarist coat of arms, a two-headed eagle – has been on open display recently. One minute, President Vladimir Putin's regime is on a charm offensive, desiring a settlement to its six-decade-old territorial dispute with Japan over the Kurile Islands and reassuring investors following the conviction of oil billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky. The next moment Putin balks at removing Russia's military garrison from Moldova's secessionist Transnistria region while prosecutors talk ominously of putting more oligarchs in the dock.

Perhaps the greatest display of this political schizophrenia took place last month in Red Square, where a witch's brew of Red "Victory" flags, tri-color "Imperial" flags, Stalin portraits, and Orthodox icons marched side by side during the 60th anniversary celebration marking WWII's end. Putin took that occasion to repeat his political mantra – "Russia is developing its own brand of democracy" – while spurning requests from the Baltic countries that Russia come clean about its deal with Hitler to devour them on WWII's eve.

This bizarre brew appears to have been concocted in an effort to reconcile the irreconcilable: the current yearning for democracy with Russia's despotic past. But, like any middle, it is succeeding only in confusing Russians about themselves and their country. Strangely, Putin seems as trapped by this middle as everybody else.

At times, Putin truly sees himself as a "modernizer" seeking to root Russia in the West. At other times, like Stalin, he believes that Russia's power requires a strong hand – what he calls his "dictatorship of law." The problem,

as Khodorkovsky's conviction demonstrated, is that dictatorship usually seems to be trumping law.

Historically, attempts at modernization in Russia, even when they look real, as with Stalin's industrialization or Yeltsin's market reforms, ultimately result in a Potemkin village-like state of affairs, because Russian society cannot change fast enough or with the patience necessary to see the changes through.

So, when Yeltsin's American-style democratization of the 1990's failed to bring "orderly" capitalism instantly, Putin on his accession imposed a restoration of state "order," as if a stable political or economic system demanded a fusing of the Soviet past with the Orthodox Church and Mother Russia imagery.

Indeed, Putin's signature characteristic is to be all men for all Russia's people. By blending the Soviet past with the Tsarist past and a few shards of Yeltsin-era democracy, Putin seems to think that he can neutralize the extremes of Russian history. Instead, the extremes seem to be squeezing out the desire for modernization.

High oil prices now seem to be the only factor allowing Putin to keep the reform charade going. The nineteenth-century czar Alexander III once said: "Russia has only two true allies – its army and its navy." Oil is Putin's army and navy, allowing him to build and maintain the image of a strong, but also an internationalist, state.

Alexander's formula is also popular today with Putin's nationalists in Moscow and St. Petersburg. In his pro-imperial Russia film "The Barber of Siberia," the Oscar-winning director Nikita Mikhalkov – whose father composed the Stalin-era national anthem that Putin recently revived – used the coronation of Alexander III as the symbolic centerpiece of Russia's greatness, inviting Russian leaders to walk in his

footsteps.

This strong-willed monarch, while ruling the Russian empire autocratically, managed to bring stability and prosperity, allowing capitalism to take root. He worked to strengthen and modernize Russia's armed forces while avoiding armed conflict. He became known as "The Peasants' Tsar," though he didn't tolerate any opposition thinking contrary to his own.

Putin sees his own crusade to save Russia from disintegration and separatism as similar to Alexander's. But how forward-looking is it to model a twenty-first-century country on the absolutist example of the past?

Stalin is yet another cherished role model. Here, too, Putin tries to walk on both sides of the street, calling Koba a tyrant to soothe the wounded feelings the Baltic leaders, yet instantly qualifying his remarks by saying that Stalin was no Hitler. Can we really compare the degree of evil of these two men?

Despite his insistence on rubbing shoulders with world leaders and portraying himself as a modernizer, Putin, like his predecessors, is in fact a ruler who believes that only authoritarian rule can protect his country from anarchy and disintegration. But the old ideas, the mimicry and symbols Putin employs to achieve his goals, no longer correspond to today's realities or Russia's present capabilities.

Previously, it was Russia's Western mission that was pure Potemkin village. Now Russianness itself seems to lack a secure foundation, for it is but a hollow shell of discarded state symbols. Like a bad driver, a nation that looks left and right but never ahead is bound to crash.

Nina Khrushcheva teaches international affairs at New School University in New York City. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

## The dilemma continues

Ever since the so called War on Terror began after that tragic day of 9/11 in New York and Washington, the observer still finds it difficult to detect any real progress achieved by the instigator of this war. Whether in "bringing the main culprits" it suspects "to justice" or halting the ability of the terrorists to carry out just about any operation they wish to undertake anywhere, anytime and for whatever reason they, or who ever is behind them, finds it in service to their cause. In fact, one is inclined to believe that the aura and means are now more accommodating for these mysterious disturbers of the peace of mainly common folk to unleash their ugly, methodical and bloody mastery of the art of killing with little deterrence, hindrance or even fear. What is this monstrosity that has found so much conduciveness to be able to make harmless, mostly peaceful people going about their daily lives easy prey for their mischief? Is this chronic failure of the most powerful country in the world and all those who stand with it, in this uncharted and sloppily planned war for which it cannot set a time frame or criteria to bring to a successful conclusion logical or reasonably explainable? Surely, a bunch of small gangs, with comparatively little means can not become so mind-boggling and evasive to a determined and persistent pursuer like the United States, or can they? One is not satisfied anymore in listening to tirades against perpetrators or condemnations and expressions of grief for acts like the London bombings or the beheading of an ambassador in a country, where there are 150,000 of the best that Uncle Sam can mobilize to keep the peace. Nor does the mere collective expressions of grief and sorrow at the victims and sympathies for their loved ones by supposedly the most powerful men on Earth lend credence that there is a real determination to get to the bottom of all this calamity. For four years, the White House has insisted on leading this war, which for all intents and purposes, it has not shown any genuine momentum towards any major success or even preventive capacity that will coincide with the obvious mismatch in apparent capabilities and resources. Four years and casualties literally in the hundreds of thousands. Yet, the Global Superpower is unable to come up with one significant advance towards bringing its suspected enemies to heel or increasing the safety of the mostly innocent victims of both the "terrorist" attacks and the contemptuous methods by which the former has chosen to carry out its unclearly defined mission. Can one be content with accepting the argument that a few ragtag gangs are more invincible, more cunning and literally untouchable than the United States, with all its resources, capabilities and sophisticated intelligence apparatus and the backup of the whole world at its disposal?

If all things were normal, than such an argument would be considered naïve and pretentious and lacks merit as far as any astute observer can tell.

Four years of failure would indicate that there are apparently drawbacks and perhaps hidden factors that must explain such consistency of no demise in sight. Four years of a stagnant stalemate that has now exceeded the stalemate of the Trench Warfare of World War I in tenor and ambiguity, means that the observer must look for more rational explanations based on the prevailing circumstances.

God knows, how one hates to get drawn into conspiracy theories and suspicions of a meeting of interests between the antagonists of the most irrational conflict of modern times. But four years, without the slightest hint that the end of the tunnel is near, notwithstanding the baseless claims of progress or even resolve can only impel the observer to analyze the outcomes in all their manifestations. At present the analysis is producing the following pertinent facts:

1) Four years of chronic failure is simply inexcusable for the United States and unjustified by the existing imbalance of power between the antagonists, no matter what scales are used?

2) The methodology and sloppiness, not to mention the notorious infractions by the "white night" in this conflict are not helping to make any credibility apparent in the genuine intentions of the United States in waging this war and the ultimate good it intends to come out of it.

3) The United States has done little, if not anything, to really get at the root causes that are supposedly behind the desire to carry out terrorist acts, nor is it moving in the right direction towards healing the grounds for discontent. On the contrary, with its misguided entry into Iraq and its insistence on dictating the political, economic and social courses that the peoples of the world must adhere to, it has sown the seeds of discontent on a broader scale.

4) The reliance of the United States on questionable alliances, almost totalitarian police tactics and lies, lies and more lies has certainly not proven to be a genuine desire to truly do some good for the world and to interact in a proper, transparent and sincere manner with the international community.

5) There are times one senses that terrorist acts tend to serve the interests of the "enemies of terrorism" in more ways than one. This is further enforced by their almost precision like timing, synchronization and effects of terrorist attacks to influence or reverse the decline of the posture of the United States, Israel or both in a world that is becoming more convinced that this conflict is really geared to advance the evil narrow interests that are predominate in both of these countries at all costs. After four years the major combatant hasn't shown anything that can be seen, which could convince the astute observer otherwise.

The targets and unfortunate victims would tend to serve a counterproductive purpose to the causes that these so called terrorists are claiming to fight for. Surely they are not the normal courses pursued by movements with serious and messianic missions that the latter would surely like to convince citizens of the world or even God that they are pursuing. They do not effect the narrow interests represented by the machines that run the United States (or Israel) and civilian casualties or the loss of innocent human lives do not enter in the arithmetic of the benevolent establishments that are really behind this ugly war.

After four years of failure, what other discernible explanation can the white knight give us. Don't expect any.



# The politics of frustration

BY PIERRE HASSNER

What does Iran's just-concluded presidential election have in common with the recent French and Dutch referenda on the European Constitutional Treaty? The question may seem absurd on its face, given the huge differences between two western democracies and a Middle East theocracy. But comparing the results does yield some surprising – and disturbing – insights.

The most obvious resemblance is that the outcomes of all three polls were stunning, particularly in their landslide character. Moreover, all three were met with delight by American neo-conservatives and other hawks who see their Europhobe, and especially Francophobe, instincts confirmed. The neo-cons are also gleeful as they suspect that the road towards "regime change" in Iran may be opened, because, with a hardliner as president, American and Western opinion may now find subversion or military strikes much more palatable.

A third similarity concerns the strong correlation between voters' social and economic status and their preferences. The poorer, more economically insecure, and less educated a voter, the more likely he or she is to have voted against the proposed constitution in France and Holland, and for the Islamist candidate Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Iran.

A final parallel is that the winning campaigns in all three votes were catalyzed by populist appeals against an entrenched elite and, less explicitly but unmistakably, against foreign intrusion or influence. In each case, the target was an elite that has sold out to capitalism and/or cosmopolitanism, and that was oblivious of the economic plight of common people, as well as their identity and traditions.

The significance of these similarities

for the future of peace and democracy is far from clear. The implications, however, are hardly reassuring.

Of course, it is good that the voice of the people is heard. Healthy politics requires that common men and women are not taken for granted. But it is highly dangerous for the international order if the message of the masses is one of anger and resentment, is devoid of any credible economic program, and holds suspicion of international cooperation (particularly with the United States) as paramount.

At the opposite extreme, the gloating by US neo-conservatives should be tempered by a clear consideration of America's interests. The US must stand by its core beliefs in an open society and a liberal international order. It cannot be good for America if liberalism (in the original sense of political and economic freedom) becomes as much a dirty word in Europe or in the Middle East as "liberalism" in the American sense is nowadays for the American right.

However flawed the electoral process in Iran undoubtedly was, no one, including its tired and discouraged reform-minded opposition, doubts that 18 million people have voted, in the words of the new president, against democracy and for a return to the Islamic revolution. The vibrant pro-Western, pro-American, and anti-mullah society, on which American and European hopes relied, undoubtedly exists, but mostly among the educated and urban middle class.

Beyond Iran's cities, to paraphrase Mark Twain, rumors of the death of political Islam were greatly exaggerated. This majority will never rise in support of an American-organized coup or surgical strikes. On the contrary, the most likely result of such an attack would be civil war and terrorism dwarfing the Iraqi experience.

The spectacular social and political polarization that these three elections expose can be seen as a revival of

class-struggle politics, and of communist-style aspirations, if not Leninist doctrine. Indeed, it is striking that communists and Trotskyites have experienced a revival of sorts—or at least a re-legitimation—in France, and that the little that Ahmadinejad has revealed of his program calls for nationalization, particularly of the oil industry, and expropriation of the rich.

What is certain today is that the common European vision of a movement toward centrist politicians, like former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and political theorists' claims that the emergence of large middle classes leads to centrist, non-ideological politics, is not valid in times of crisis, when extremist traditions re-surface.

To be sure, President-elect Ahmadinejad is more reminiscent of Latin American populists like Hugo Chavez or Juan Peron, mobilizing the "descamisados" against the rich and practicing resource nationalism, than of Lenin or even Castro. But what is remarkable nowadays about populist leaders who claim to "clean up the mess" of corruption and moral decadence in the name of virtue and tradition, is that their ideology comes in so many different political colors.

It can be red or green, but also black or brown. It can be clothed in religious garb, Islamic or Protestant, so long as it is fundamentalist and Manichean. It can act against evil in the name of God, or of the people, or of the nation. Its roots, its justifications and its results may vary enormously. But no matter the color and the dress, we are reminded of what in other times and places used to be called fascism.

*Pierre Hassner is Director, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, Paris.*

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## Managing risk to save the poor

BY ROBERT J. SHILLER

The G-8 finance ministers have agreed to cancel \$40 billion of debt owed by eighteen of the world's poorest countries. This is a triumph for common sense. But, at only \$238 per person in the eighteen countries, debt relief alone is hardly enough to help the poor.

Fortunately, other efforts will complement the developed countries' increased generosity. The most notable is a significant movement towards providing finely focused risk-management services to the poor, which could ultimately prove to be worth far more than \$40 billion.

We tend to think that new risk-management products, such as novel types of insurance or financial derivatives, will primarily interest the rich, or at least relatively wealthy people. In fact, new risk-management products are being developed for some of the poorest people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

It is important to recognize that the world's poorest people are not the same people from year to year. Good fortune and bad fortune alternate randomly, and the poorest people are particularly vulnerable when misfortune – like a hurricane in a fishing village – strikes. So risk management, by smoothing out bumps in income, can be extremely important in alleviating the effects of poverty.

Moreover, if unmanaged, risk destroys the prospect of economic growth. Without risk management, poor people will not experiment with new crops or more productive methods, because any mistake could be disastrous.

For example, in subsistence rural areas, a bad harvest may lead to starvation before the next year's crop is in. More typically, it leads to AgmerlyAh to a sudden collapse in the economic base, leading to years of hardship in the future. If a poor family in subsistence farming receives no help during the year after a bad harvest, its members may eat their beasts of burden, cut down the trees that provide nutrients to the soil, sell whatever farming equipment they have, and even eat the seeds

that were set aside for planting the following season. Providing money when it is needed is essential.

Unfortunately, according to Joanna Syroka of the World Bank's Commodity Risk Management Group, official foreign aid and private charity tends to arrive too late, often after starvation has actually begun, and long after the families have taken extreme measures, consuming their capital to survive. While the aid may keep them alive, they are left economically paralyzed for years to come. Syroka and her colleagues are striving to promote the use of modern financial technology to make sure that aid arrives in time – and in sufficient volume – to avert such outcomes.

The old tool for managing farmers' risks is crop insurance, which responds directly to the failure of a crop. But crop insurance suffers from what economists call a *Agmoral hazard*, Ah because it reduces farmers' incentives to ensure the crop's success. The farmer may neglect the crop or refuse to invest in saving a failing crop if he knows that a payout is forthcoming. The farmer may even plant a crop that he knows will fail. This is why private crop insurers are in short supply, and why crop insurance often requires expensive government subsidies.

But insurance technology is improving, aided by improved information technology. The moral hazard implicit in crop insurance can be addressed by making payouts depend not on the actual crop failure but on the bad weather that caused it. Since the farmer cannot influence the weather, there is no moral hazard.

In the past, weather insurance could not manage a farmer's risk effectively because we could not measure well enough the effects of weather on crops. For insurance to be effective as a risk-management device, weather must be measured at a finely-detailed local level, and the correct measurements must be taken at the correct time. Crops are especially vulnerable at certain times, for example, when seeds begin germinating or when bad weather the previous year puts perennials at risk.

Today, weather insurance uses an expanded number of sophisticated weather stations and deep knowledge

of the science of agriculture to measure weather's effects on local agriculture. Different crops are affected differently, and weather insurance must take account of a farm's various crops and when they were planted – complexities that modern information technology can solve.

Many companies are already involved in offering improved weather insurance to poor farmers, with notable successes from ICICI Lombard and BASIX in India, and from the International Finance Corporation and the insurance company Credo Classic in Ukraine. Similar work is underway in Africa, led by the World Bank and in Central America various countries' governments are collaborating with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. The number of agencies and governments involved in the movement towards sophisticated risks management for the poor is inspiring.

At the same time, the application of risk-management technology, insurance, and finance requires little of stretched foreign-aid budgets: a relatively small number of office workers, cell phones, and computers. With the ongoing revolution in information and communications technology, the phones and computers will cost less and less, even as the costs of many commodities needed for development grow.

Jeffrey Sachs's new book *The End of Poverty* argues that with proper help from advanced countries the world could see the end of poverty as we know it in coming decades, prompting some to describe him as a starry-eyed idealist. But if we take account of both the increased generosity of rich nations and the application of improved financial and insurance technology, he just might be right.

*Robert J. Shiller is Professor of Economics at Yale University, Director at Macro Securities Research LLC, and author of Irrational Exuberance and The New Financial Order: Risk in the 21st Century.*

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SKETCHED OPINION

By Samer A.



By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi  
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## Uprooting terror drives

The blasts that hit London last Thursday are terrible and disgusting. The black infamy revived the terrible memories of the September 11, 2001.

I still remember when one of the US diplomats warned that the consequences and dilapidations of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US would be great. He said that we would see fire everywhere in the region. Yes, we have seen that fire in Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and elsewhere. Bloodshed has never stopped since then and it is us who are going to pay the price for many years to come.

What is the crime that at least 50 innocent people traveling underground in London have done to get killed and hundreds others injured? Why is this zeal for killings and bloodshed? This is a question that now everybody is asking and trying to find an answer to it.

These terrorists shrug off their shoulders and believe they are doing the right job to serve Islam and, but they are, in fact, devastating the image of Islam and Muslims who are facing hard times in Europe, the US and else-

where. Wherever they go they are looked with suspicious eyes and considered killers and murderers who kill for nothing but nonsense. These people in the West do not know the truth of Islam and they, therefore, look at it now as a religion of terror and hostility and they do not care about the essence or the truth of Islam which moderate Muslims are trying to raise their attention to. It is not everybody will take the trouble of studying whether these people staring fires everywhere are real or fake Muslims. In other words, these events will definitely embroil us into the turmoil of many consequent challenges that can continue for a long time. We will have to pay the bill which is, of course, very expensive.

Of course, such acts have not come out of the blue. Rather, there are a number of elements standing behind. Oppression, tyranny and lack of democracy are some of the drives of terrorism. The political regimes in the Arab and Islamic world have been ruling their countries for decades with iron grip. They have opened mass graves for their political opponents and left no room for freedom of speech and expression. Yet, they allowed clerics to

spread their ideas of extremism and fanaticism as along as they supported their stay in power. This coalition between the political regimes and religious institutions have created dictators who derive their power and rule from this religious institution which must be overhauled.

There is an urgent need that our school curricula be reformed to get rid of this culture of extremism which most of us believe it is right and that the culture of democracy, tolerance and acceptance of others should be encouraged. People should grow up and be educated to accept the ideas of other people and believe that there must be a free room for all ideas to be argued and debated. There is a need to uproot the one way-track of thinking which we have grown up to respect and worship. Democracy should be also supported in order to have political regimes coming to power through fair, free and honest elections and which can make use of the resources of their people in improving their living standards only. This is not an easy job. The task in which the West must join is rather challenging and demanding but it is not impossible, isn't it?!



## Understanding Civil Society

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Middle East are confused entities struggling to find funding rather than a mission. Albeit the written objectives and the participation component are well documented, finding CSOs that can promote a voice of change or a democratic culture within the structure of their organizations is rather challenging.

Major international agencies look at ways to empower civil society and strengthen their voices. In a country like Yemen where donors shy away from direct budget support with the government, they look at CSOs as their main channel for funding. However, they fail to understand the mechanisms and operational values of these organizations. They are often intimidated by Islamic charities, worried regarding politically motivated organizations and can rarely find CSOs that stress on issues like voice and accountability.

The lack of understanding of the political systems in the Middle East in general, and Yemen in particular, has failed to define the nature of the civil society organizations and their representational mechanisms. Being a CSO is not necessarily any qualification for involvement in good development work or wider representation of the people. Each organizations values, practices and principles need to be carefully examined.

In an Islamic country like Yemen, most of the CSOs roles are limited to delivering charitable assistance based on *\*Zakat\**, some take the role of service delivery on their shoulders and the rest of these organizations have political or tribal interests. Diverse roles are spread

and few strategic inputs delivered. Harmonized efforts between the various CSOs are too challenging to introduce as well. The different nature of the CSOs in Yemen did not help the donors achieve their long term objectives easily. It often lead to disappointing partnerships that had no influence on the lives of the poor.

Most of the CSOs in Yemen have been closely associated with individuals, the investment in the institutional capacity of the organization has always been weak. People recognize the CSOs as an intellectual achievement of the chairman, it is often a way to make business for yourself and your little environment. It is also seen as a property of the chairman and possesses a high probability of becoming as authoritarian as the Arab regimes.

There are further complications in the structure of the CSOs that contributed to weakening its overall role. The fluctuating attention to CSOs according to the various principles of donor institutions was also not helpful. The criteria which was set in terms of selecting the counterparts from these non profit organizations was ambiguous. Donors where often comfortable in dealing with CSOs whose leaders speak fluent English and have presence among a foreign crowd. Although these elements seem to be superficial, they played a vital role in favoring some CSOs's on others.

The strategies of the donors in supporting CSOs were not clear, however, the importance of developing the CSOs roles prevails. Building capacity of civil society for the sake of sustainability has become the focus of the international Donors. The bulk of this concept was

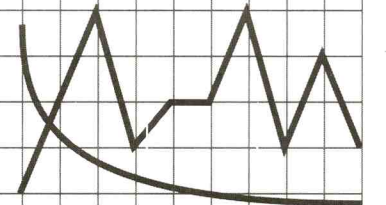
concentrated on the CSO's ability in formulating well written proposals and their ability to better manage and organize themselves. This has overlooked the importance of helping them develop a spirit of volunteering based on the realities of their context. There isn't enough attention paid to further developing the role of the CSOs to extend to the citizens and increase further transparency and participation.

The problems and challenges of engaging with CSOs are universal and Yemen seems to be no different than any other country in that respect. However, the real challenge resides in the nature of the Republic of Yemen and the weakness of people's role in contributing to building their state. Yemen remains heavily tribal with fragmented diverse interests; the country is split between tribal up north, tribal in the south, coastal areas with a weak tribal presence and state affiliation and a southern part of Yemen that suffered from communism. In a recent unified state in the 1990, Civil Society participation has not been used as a strategic tool to building the role of the society, it has simply lacked potential and influence.

Identifying the full potential of these CSOs and helping them develop their role has been left unexplored. CSOs need to further focus in representing the people and finding a voice in policy dialogue if their role is to continue. Civil society organizations need to think broadly about the mission they need to accomplish rather than the projects they have to implement. Donors will also have to recognize the differences in CSOs between the Middle East and the west, but they need to learn to accept it and find ways to deal with it.



# YT Business



## YEDI an initiative to save the Yemeni youth

BY NADIA AL-SAKKAF  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is a country characterised by its young population. This means that a great percentage of its population (above 60%) are between the ages of 15 - 45. Consequently, the unemployment rate of this productive age group is higher than 30% in Yemen, an issue along with the increase in poverty (40% of the population below the food poverty line) is an increasing threat to development and stability of this country.

"What is more dangerous than an idle angry young person who does not have even his basic needs covered?!" Commented Ms. Intilaq al-Mutwakil head of Girls World Communication Centre (GWCC) and co-organiser of the Youth Economic Development Initiative

(YEDI) during the first meeting for the advisory board of the.

YEDI is a project created by CHF International and GWCC have realised the critical trend at which Yemeni youth are going and decided to carry out an economic initiative in which skills of youth between 18 and 25 years old are enhanced and made inline with the current market demands so as to increase their opportunities of getting jobs. In addition to providing training, the YEDI connects those candidates with the private sector through arranging internships for them in the various specialisations. And in order for this to happen in an efficient manner, the initiative has an advisory board of the various private sector organisations interested in promoting youth. This board was divided into three groups, planning, execution and market placement.

Faraj al-Matari YEDI Programs coordinator & consultant says about this initiative: "CHF International's mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. It has various programs around the world concerning on development and fighting poverty. The YEDI program in Yemen



comes under the "Investment in Youth" objective of CHF. We work to develop employment opportunities, training and other catalysts for youth civil participation and education."

The program believes that young people can make important contributions toward building peaceful and stable societies in conflict-affected areas. Conversely, when faced with a lack of economic and socio-political opportunities, young people can turn to adverse behaviours.

CHF International delivers tangible results while giving young people the opportunity to participate in community-based processes that encourage participation and leadership in civic and economic life.

Our youth projects are completed in partnership with a broad range of commu-

nity leaders from different backgrounds and revolve around three major themes:

- Employment opportunities
- Life-building skills and vocational training
- Education and civic participation

CHF International has adopted youth programming into its existing country programs, including Bolivia, Serbia, Mali, Uzbekistan, South Africa, and West Bank/Gaza.

Ms. Qabool al-Mutwakil manager of the GWCC in Sana'a stresses on the importance of including young women in this initiative. And this is why the GWCC

is promoting this initiative. "The Girls World Communication Centre was the first centre of its kind established in Yemen as an NGO in January 1998. Its mandate is to promote education and awareness for girls and provide opportunities for them through training and job placements. The centre targets girls starting from high school and even working women who want to improve their skills. We have a library and internet facilities to keep the students in touch with the developments around the world. The YEDI for us is another step in the right direction and we hope that we achieve our goals."

Yemen's program: Funded by the Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative (MEPI), CHF International/Yemen's Youth Economic Development Initiative (YEDI) aims to revitalize and stabilize the economic and social circumstances of Yemeni youth (men and women between the ages 18-25) and increasing their employment opportunities by: 1) developing the necessary skills of young men and women to succeed in business and entrepreneurship activities, promoting the development of employable skills, facilitate the growth and development of micro enterprises and, enhancing the quality of life of youth

in Yemen through training and equipping them with the needed tools and skills to compete in the employment market.

Operating in, and around, the Yemeni Capital, Sana'a, CHF/YEDI staff members have established a Business Enterprise Center (BEC) through which Yemeni youth will gain access to trainings, and resources to entrepreneurship and vocational skills. The BEC will serve as a hub where youth and women can connect and liaise with successful business owners and trainers.

A Business Advisory Council (BAC), comprised of leading business owners, young professionals, women's and youth organizations, community leaders and local government bodies had been established to provide advice concerning the skill development needs of businesses in Yemen, ensure demand-driven and responsive services that meet the needs of all stakeholders. The BAC brings together interested groups/people in order to share ideas concerning business practices and skill needs and generate ideas from other Middle Eastern countries where the business sector is more developed and developed countries such as the United States in order to advise YEDI and inform business of best practices.



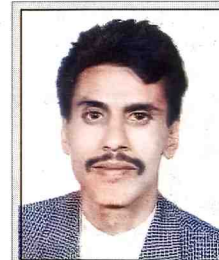
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## Youth Economic Development Initiative YEDI provides training for jobless youth

A huge number of young people is pressing each year into the labor market of Yemen. The economic activity is too weak to create jobs for more than a small number of lucky exceptions. On the other hand it is very clear that there is a big Gap between the qualifications available and the ones required by the market. In spite of the long line of jobless citizens, skilled labor, qualified employees and even managers are often hired from abroad. The job basis in Yemen is small and should create opportunities for its youth in the first place.

Due to the urgent need to bring vocational education in line with the demands of the labor market, and in order to keep up with the rapid developments in the fields of manufacturing and services technology, it is necessary to adopt a new vocational education system. The new "apprenticeship" system can meet these demands through a kind of partnership between the CHF/YEDI and business enterprises in Sana'a. The aim of this would be to develop the technical labor

force required to meet the demands of the labor market and the continuous development of the national economy.



BY FARAJ AL-MATARI  
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Concept of the YEDI Apprenticeship Program.

The concept of the YEDI Apprenticeship Program is based on preparing the vocational labor force and providing it with the necessary labor-market skills, through both education and training, to be carried out in educational establishments (institutes) and workplaces

(companies). In this way, the labor force will be equipped with the necessary practical qualifications and suitable scientific background to enable it to join the labor market and to deal with changes in working conditions and the demands of continuous technological development. That is, in addition to taking market needs into consideration, as well as the availability of sufficient players who are convinced of the feasibility of such a system?

CHF International - Yemen has started its operations in the Sana'a area in October 2004 and initiated its Youth Economic development Initiative (YEDI) in order to enhance the Yemeni Youths' employability as well as their entrepreneurship skills.

CHF International began a new program, The Youth Economic Development Initiative (YEDI), in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, on June first. YEDI will attempt to counteract significant unemployment in Yemen by launching a central vocational training center, an internship program, and an entrepreneurship syllabus to encourage young people to establish their own businesses.

In conjunction with its local partner the Girls World Communication Center, CHF International - Yemen has established a Business Enterprise Center (BEC) through which Yemeni youth will be able to attend courses that were designed to fit the business needs in Sana'a. CHF International - Yemen has conducted a survey of fifty businesses in the city of Sana'a to assess the skills needed in job applicants by potential employers.

The courses that will be offered at the BEC are: Marketing Skills, Sales Skills, Graphic Design (two modules), Business English Language Skills, IT and Networking, Photojournalism, Business Development and Entrepreneurship Skills. These courses are being carried out to cope with the local job market requirements. In addition, CHF in cooperation with several businesses inside and around Sana'a, link participants who have successfully completed their training with technical and administrative departments and units in various institutions, agencies, and employers in both

public and private sectors in order to provide apprenticeship opportunities as well as opportunities to gain practical administrative and technical on-the-job skills and experience. In addition, this will enable them to adapt to the work environment and transforming theoretical learning into practical action.

The program was developed through the Office of Program Initiatives in cooperation with the Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative, a section of the U.S. State Department, and was handed over to Field Program Operations to manage the YEDI start up.

The existing vocational education and training system will have a number of important advantages at national level, for example:

1. The contribution of business enterprises towards the development of human resources.

2. Ensuring real employment opportunities for young people who have been trained in a program which takes the current demands of the labor market and employment opportunities available into consideration.

3. Establishing the principle of good quality and maintaining it, in order to have a positive effect on the national economy.

Furthermore benefits are mutual since businesses will have a wider scope of expertise to fulfill their future employment needs and the participants in the YEDI program will have a better opportunity in competing in the labor and employability markets.

Business Advisory Council (BAC) To YEDI. With strong enthusiasm, around 40 people met six weeks ago in the first meeting of the BAC. They formed three subgroups: one for planning, one for training and the third for Employment and distribution, placing of participants for practical training and public relations.

The YEDI Business Advisory Council role is essential in that the council will provide advice, guidance and encouragement to the trainers as well as the business community to battle unemployment and take a role in the building of a better workforce in Yemen.

A Business Advisory Council (BAC), comprised of leading business owners, young professionals, women's and youth organizations, community leaders and local government bodies had been established to provide advice concerning the skill development needs of businesses in Yemen, ensure demand-driven and responsive services that meet the needs of all stakeholders

We saw in the initiative a great opportunity and a good start to give hope to many young people, who are the hope for a better future for Yemen and the biggest Challenge to it in the same time.

Therefore we should look at the YEDI as an initiative to be developed to become nationwide, comprehensive and to get the necessary scope, stability and concept to become a sustainable self driven institution of the Yemeni society.

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# Folk dance & popular songs of a town called- al- Nakeeline

BY THURAYA DAMMAG  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Previously we talked about the Marriage Convention in al- Nakeeline and how its people hold their festivities during six days.

Now we will talk about folk dance in the seam area:

It is said that has got around one hundred of the folk dances , however , all this large variety could be confined to four general forms of dance:

- 1- Al- Baraa
- 2- Al- Dalal
- 3- Al- Nakileh
- 4- Al- Lahgi

The above Al- Baraa Dances used to be accompanied with popular songs and folk music . This dance is especially for men. They use it in the occasions such as: wedding, national festivals and the Greater Bairam (Eid Al- Adha).

This kind of dance divided to two types of dances such as al- Hushaliah and al- Gazaeh. That two kinds are very similar but it differ in some steps.

The two types make a condition that the men have to wear especially address called al- Thaoub and dagger (Janpia).

This type used to be performed by a group of men and it is accompanied with the tunes rhythm of folk music instruments (drums).

The viewers used to gather and stand in a circular shape while the dancers perform the dance in side the circle of the viewers . This sort of dancing is known as war's dance.

## 2- Al- Dalal

This type used to be accompanied by a couple of men or women and it is accompanied with the tunes and traditional songs in the middle of the viewers who should set in a circular shape and participate in singing and clapping.

In that type the dancers must stand next to, and hold the hand of, each other.

Usually the music instruments that use for this type of dance must be with reed pipe and drums.

## 3- Al- Nakileh

It is a traditional dance used just in the area. And this type of the folk dance used to be performed by four men or women and it is accompanied with tunes and the rhythms of folk music instruments. Also in that dance the main instrument is the reed pipe and tambour.

Audiences of this dance used to sit or stand in a circular or rectangular shape.

## 4- Al- Lahgi

This type of the folk dance used to be performed by a couple of men or women, or maybe used to be man with woman and its is accompanied with tunes and the rhythms of folk music instruments.

Audiences of this dance used to sit in a circular shape and participate in singing and clapping.

## Popular songs

Popular songs in al- Nakeelain can be classified into three main categories:

- 1- Songs of Handicrafts and Occupations
- 2- Songs of Social Rites
- 3- Songs of Traditional Occasions

Of course, there is category of titles of the above songs such as the following:

## Al- Mahjal Songs

Folk songs use to be sung by men or women while they are working in the fields or farms especially in agricultural seasons. And it used to be sung by men while they're working on the palm trees.

## Al- Zamel Songs

Folk dance used to be sung while water is being pulled out with a pocket from the wells. And it used also while the men ridding beefs in the fields or Camels.

## Flood's Songs

Songs used to be sung while floods are flowing after the rainfalls. This type of folk songs used to be sung by men, women and children. The most famous of this Type called: (Ya Matar) it means: (Oh Rain), some of its words:

Ya Matar Emto ... Ka Maaei Mashkur  
Wa AL- Thurah ... Wa Al- Bor ..etc.  
That means: Oh Rain ,rains ... I have a flower.

And the Corns ... And the Barely ...etc.

A farmer, SM, says: we were singing this song when we were children and now our children sing it every weeping day.

## Grinding's Songs

Songs used to be sung by women or men while they're grinding the grains .

A farmer woman NA, says: we fell tired when we use the old stony quern to grind the grains, so we sing a lot of songs to can forget our tiredness. I love one of these songs it called : Hla Wa Raheel.

It is a traditional song I don't what is mean?

## 2- Songs of Social Rites

Are of highly classical style originally composed by old Yemeni singers and lyricists.

These songs used to be sung by women or men in the traditional rites occasions such as birthday of prophet Mohammed, some of weeding conventions , and when the people received the pilgrims.

The most important type of these

songs is: Al- Mowashaha that almost independent in its lyrical style and composition. We find that some words mentioned in the area's (al-Nakeelaine) mowashaha (Bali bala, Ya lail dana,...) have equivalent terms in the Arabic mowashaha (Ya laili Ya Aini). We also see the same equivalence in its originally-Arabic rhythms.

## 3- Songs of Traditional Occasions

Songs used to be sung by women and girls in the traditional occasions such as weeding, celebrates of circumcisions and confinements...etc.

In point of fact this type starts to sink because a little of countries still use it. And I think this is one of risks that threaten our popular heritage , some of the more prominent of those risks are:

- The economical and social changes which Yemen has experienced since thirty years ago have brought about a direct threats on the songs of the farmers and craftsmen ,particularly , due to the use of technical mechanisms in all handicrafts.

- Popular Songs and Games of the children have become at the present something of the past reminiscences particularly , within the spread of cartoon' s films which attract them more and do not leave room for the popular songs and dance especially in the cities.

- The Commercial marketing for the cassettes which contain materials of popular songs performed by singers out of the social context of those songs , this matter brought about distortion of the folk songs resulted in serious imbalances in the artistic elements of the songs.

- Yemeni weddings include folkloric rites embody folk songs and dances used to point out to the social stratum and segmental in the domestic society but changes that sweep weddings now especially in cities have already put those folkloric rites at stake.

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

# The dreams of Nabila: A Yemeni tale (1/2)

**Subject Book:** The Dreams of Nabila, A Yemeni Tale'

**Author:** Aziza Abdullah (Abu Luhoum)

**Language:** Arabic

**Publisher:** Al-Khaniji Bookshop

**Year published:** (1st) 1998

The Yemeni literary world is as previously stated in this corner is most often consumed by poetic works or descriptive narrative of events, not to mention the theological and jurisdictional content that overpowers many of the works of many of the past Yemeni writers. Understandably, the latter acquired their learning through the traditional religious scholastic institutions that dominated the educational sector up to the coming of the September 26, 1962. With the Revolution came many changes and many developments that rushed on Yemen like a torrential flood that has managed to break open the relentless gates of obscurity, isolation and deprivation that the Yemenis endured for centuries. Needless to say, this onrush of so many new and untested ideas, patterns of living and a yearning for material affluence were bound to bring challenges on the people of the country, especially the common folks. The major challenge of any society as it tries to break away from the agonies and sufferings of the past are made the more harder by the difficult position of having to make a choice between many of the deeply engrained social and cultural traditions fostered by ignorance and accepting different norms and social frameworks restructured to keep pace with the requirements for modern living. In many ways this is the dilemma faced by many of the world's underdeveloped nations and in many ways it is a major factor in stalling the ability of these nations to progress and become the benefactors of the progress made by mankind in so many different fields. The Story of Nabila is a powerful expose of all these challenges hitting Yemeni society, since the Revolution, as it seeks to find its niche in the modern world. Undoubtedly the impact and suffering that women especially are averse to as are further multiplied as different paradoxes and conflicting social values add more stress and pressure on them to seek an exit from the bewilderment that has confined them to an almost helpless state for so many centuries.

In giving us this Yemeni Tale, as Aziza Abdullah calls it, one is compelled to admit that the author has a fairly strong understanding of the social pressures that have arisen and the incongruity of the way some of the elements in the society have managed to corrupt the aspirations and hopes that most of the common folk yearn for. Aziza Abdullah has a strong feel also about the inner feelings and cravings of the characters she portrays and their readiness to withstand all this pressure they are subjected to, not because they do not know any better, but because of the fears that come with the sudden break from the rigid complexity of stubborn social values and the moral inclinations of the subconscious that impels them to cherish their honor above their own well-being.

Before we get into the plot and the

overlying themes in the "Dreams of Nabila" one must give some background information about the author, and a brief description of the setting. Aziza Abdullah is one of those Yemeni modern women, who were able to jump leaps and bounds from a past of deprivation, ignorance and socially ordained confinement to a present of literacy, culture and modern ideals. Thanks to favorable coincidences in her lifetime, she was able to have access to the channels that will nurture in her a fervent desire to go beyond the fortunes of fate that have accompanied her life. Yes, she was a modern Yemeni mother, but should this motherhood be confined to the modern nurturing of her offspring? No, for Aziza Abdullah her horizons were far more expansive, because all the learning and culture she has acquired from many years of her life overseas and from the equally expansive horizons of her husband, H. E. Muhsin Al-Aini, the former Prime Minister of Yemen on several occasions and Senior Diplomat, who insisted that his aspirations for a modern Yemeni society should start at his home. This produced not only a modern Yemeni mother, but also an energetic desire to share her intellect and cultural attainments with the world. After having pretty much completed her primary responsibility of rearing up her children, she began to experiment with her ability to jot down all the thoughts that were continuously dancing in her mind. She wrote poetry and began to experiment with short stories about Yemen that began to show that there is a lot that Aziza has been collecting as life took her from one world to another and from the role of mother to a role of social analyst of her people. Yes, Aziza Abdullah should be rightly proud of the great progress she has accomplished in her intellectual capacity to reveal to the world and for history's sake the prevailing character of Yemeni society, without being stingy on so many of the intricate details that truly give a vivid picture of the awesome complexity of social and cultural retardation. Moreover, her recollections of the severe hardships of the past, especially faced by women, will probably be credited with showing us intricate details of the way of life of the Yemeni people that has withstood the tests of time and geographical isolation, all of which allowed Yemen to remain steadfast in the maintenance of a compelling and sometimes merciless social regime, especially on women.

Next issue we will examine the Dreams of Nabila, in more detail and delve into the many issues which Aziza Abdullah has brought to the forefront and require the attention of all those who aspire for Yemen to truly achieve modernization and enhancement of Yemeni society, while maintain those traditions and values that truly will keep our moral fiber intact, without transgressing on the rights and freedom of any elements in the society.

The word "riwayah" in Arabic is sometimes used to mean novel, but the book under analysis here is more of a narrative of a tale revealed to the author by its leading player, who the author names as Halimah (Forbearing or enduring) and Ahlam (Dreams - along the lines of hopeful aspirations)

# The People of Saba and the Arim Flood (1/2)

TAKEN FROM "PERISHED NATIONS"  
BY HARUN YAHYA, TA-HA PUBLISHERS,  
UNITED KINGDOM, 1990

The community of Saba was one of the four biggest civilizations which lived in South Arabia. This people is estimated to have been established some time between 1000-750 BC and to have collapsed around 550 AD with the two centuries-long attacks of the Persians and the Arabs.

The date of the establishment of the civilisation of Saba is a subject of much discussion. The people of Saba started recording their governmental reports around 600 BC. This is why there are no records of them prior to this date.

The oldest sources which refer to the people of Saba are annual war chronicles left from the time of the Assyrian King Sargon II. (722- 705 BC) While Sargon records about the people that pay taxes to him, he also refers to the King of Saba, Yith'i-amara (It'amara). This record is the oldest written source that yields information about the Saba civilisation.

Yet, it would not be right to draw the conclusion that the Saba culture was established around 700 BC depending only on this source, for it is highly probable that Saba had existed for quite some time before it was recorded in written records. This means that the history of Saba may predate the above.

Indeed, in the inscriptions of Arad-Nannar, one of the latest kings of the state of Ur, the word "Sabum", which is thought to mean "the country of Saba", was used.(1) If this word does mean Saba, then, this shows that the history of Saba goes back as far as 2500 BC.

Historical sources telling about Saba usually say that this was a culture, like the Phoenicians, particularly involved in commercial activities. Accordingly, these people owned and administered some of the trade routes passing across Northern Arabia. In order for the Sabaeans traders to carry their goods to the Mediterranean and Gaza, and thus pass across Northern Arabia, they had to get permission from Sargon II, the ruler of all the region, or pay a certain amount of ax to him. When the Sabaeans people started paying taxes to

the Assyrian Kingdom, their name began to be recorded in the annals of this state.

With the Ma'rib Dam, which they had constructed with very advanced technology, the Sabaeans people became owners of a great irrigation capacity. The fruitful lands they thus obtained and their control over the trade routes allowed them to lead a magnificent and luxurious lifestyle. However, they "turned away" from Allah to whom they should have been grateful for all those bounties mentioned above. Therefore, their dam collapsed and the "flood of Arim" destroyed all their attainments.

The Sabaeans are known to have been a civilised people in history. In the inscriptions of the rulers of Saba, words such as "restore", "dedicate" and "construct" are frequently used. The Ma'rib Dam, which is one of the most important monuments of this people, is an important indication of the technological level this people had reached. However, this did not mean that the military power of the Sabaeans was weak; the Sabaeans army was one of the most important factors contributing to the endurance of their culture over such a long period without collapse.

The Sabaeans state had one of the strongest armies in the region. The state was able to adopt an expansionist policy thanks to its army. The Sabaeans state had conquered the lands of the Old Qataban state. It owned many lands on the African continent. During 24 BC, during an expedition to Magrib, the Sabaeans army utterly defeated the army of Marcus Aelius Gallus, the Governor of Egypt for the Roman Empire which was definitely the strongest state at the time. Saba can be portrayed as a state that pursued moderate policies, yet did not hesitate to use power when necessary. With its advanced culture and army, the Sabaeans state was definitely one of the "super powers" of the region at the time.

This extraordinarily strong army of the Sabaeans state is also described in the Qur'an. An expression of the commanders of the Saba army related in the Qur'an, shows the extent of the confidence this army had in itself. The commanders call out to the female ruler (queen) of the state: "We are endured



Relics of the Temple of the Sun in Marib, where it is believed that the Sabaeans dwelled and started a great civilization.

with strength, and given to vehement war: but the command is with thee; so consider what thou wilt command." (Surat an-Naml: 33)

The capital city of the Sabaeans state was Ma'rib, which was quite wealthy thanks to the advantageous position of its geography. The capital city was very close to the River Adhanah. The point where the river reached Jabal Balaq was very suitable for the construction of a dam. Making use of this condition, the Sabaeans people constructed a dam at this location at the time when their civilisation was first established, and they began irrigation. They indeed reached a very high level of prosperity. The capital city, Ma'rib, was one of the most developed cities of the time. The Greek writer Pliny, who had visited the region and greatly praised it, also mentioned how green this region was. (2)

The Ma'rib Dam seen above in ruins was one of the most important works of the Sabaeans people. This dam collapsed

because of the flood of Arim mentioned in the Qur'an and all the cultivated areas were swamped. Its territory destroyed with the collapsing of the dam, the Sabaeans state lost its economic strength in a very short time and was soon completely demolished.

The height of the dam in Ma'rib was 16 metres, its width was 60 metres and its length was 620 metres. According to the calculations, the total area that could be irrigated by the dam was 9,600 hectares, of which 5,300 hectares belonged to the southern plain, while the remaining part belonged to the northern plain. These two plains were referred to as "Ma'rib and two plains" in the Sabaeans inscriptions (3). The expression in the Qur'an, "two gardens to the right and to the left", points to the imposing gardens and vineyards in these two valleys. Thanks to this dam and its irrigation systems, the region became famous as the best irrigated and most fruitful area of Yemen. The Frenchman J. Holey and the Austrian Glaser proved

from written documents that the Ma'rib dam existed since ancient times. In documents written in the Himer dialect, it is related that this dam rendered the territory very productive.

This dam was extensively repaired during the 5th and 6th centuries AD. Yet, these reparations could not prevent the dam from collapsing in 542 AD. The collapse of the dam resulted in the "flood of Arim" mentioned in the Qur'an which caused great damage. The vineyards, gardens and the cultivated fields of the Sabaeans people, which they had cultivat-

ed for hundreds of years, were completely destroyed. It is also known that the Sabaeans people quickly went into a period of recession after the destruction of the dam. The end of the Sabaeans state came at the end of this period which had begun with the destruction of the dam.

The Flood of Arim which was Sent to the State of Saba. When we examine the Qur'an in the light of the historical data above, we observe that there is very substantial agreement here. Archaeological findings and the historical data both verify what is recorded in the Qur'an.



**Dr. Abdulaziz Aqlan to Yemen Times:****Bloodletting is a popular branch of medicine, needs protection from quacks**Yemen Times Staff  
Taiz Bureau

**U**ndoubtedly, curing illnesses through bloodletting is part of the Prophetic medicine.

Bloodletting has proved itself to be efficacious in treating many diseases. Its favorable effect is acknowledged by modern medicine. It is now widely practiced at specialized clinics in some western countries. It is also taught as part of medicine schools' curricula in those countries while this profession has been neglected by its original practitioners, Arabs.

To know more about bloodletting and its benefits we interviewed Dr. Abdulaziz Aqlan, M.A. in natural medicine. Before he sets his lance into the skin of a patient, we started our conversation:

**Q: What is the method you will be using with this patient and other patients?**

A: Usually I use the Chinese method. It is the popular one because it is practical, safe and can be guaranteed. It depends on glass cups bought by the patient so that to ensure that they are clean and not second-hand. This is meant to prevent infection. The rest are simple tools such as local anesthetic, new razor, an oily substance (Vaseline), and cotton.

**Q: How do you identify parts of the body that require bloodletting?**

A: This depends on pain and the disease a patient suffers. The method is as you see. This patient has a brain clot. I put some of the oily substance

on his bare head, the upper part of the neck towards the hairline, upper part of the back and between the shoulders. Then fire is directed momentarily into the glass cups so that oxygen is exhausted and cups get easily attached to the specified part of the body for five minutes until they leave prominent red marks. Then they are detached and the anesthetic is spread on the round marks in which blood is formed. Then the lance is used to make small slits. We use then the cups to collect the let blood.

**Q: How long does an average bloodletting operation last?**

A: About fifteen minutes. Blood-filled cups are then set aside and the slits are cleaned.

**Q: How is bloodletting useful to the body?**

A: Bloodletting has the benefit of renewing the blood circulation. It rids the body of the blemishes trapped in the body for a long time such as old cells. It helps produce new active blood cells. Bloodletting stimulates the parts of the human body to do their usual activities and get rid of laziness.

**Q: There are people who practice bloodletting because their fathers used to do that or because of unschooled experience. Do you think that formal education is necessary for such a profession or not?**

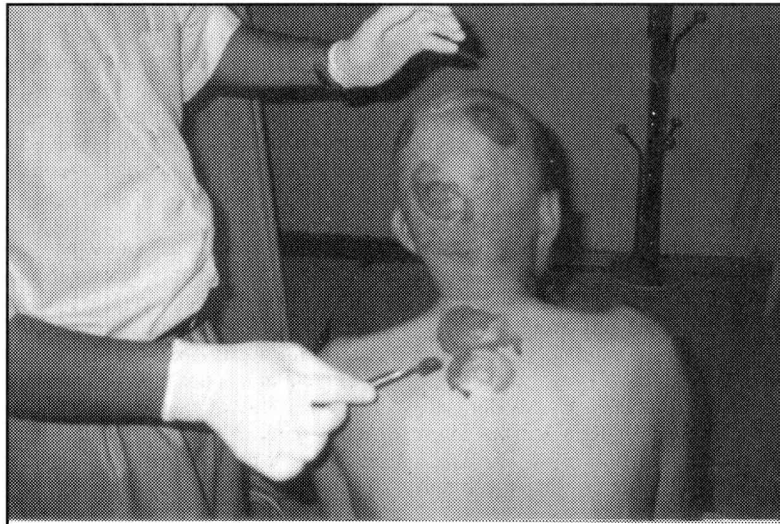
A: Definitely it is necessary. Professional bloodletting needs a specialist. This is related to the medical profession and reputation. It something related to people's lives. There must be controls. This profession should be protected from quacks. We are in the age of specialization.

**Q: Can you unconditionally perform bloodletting?**

A: Of course there are certain restrictions. Sometimes it is necessary to consult a specialist physician to know whether the patient can undergo a bloodletting operation or not. Such restrictions are high temperature because of inflammations, malignant tumors, blood circulation deficiency, extreme fatigue, and knee swellings. Such things cannot be diagnosed only by a specialist physician.

**Q: Does bloodletting have any side effects?**

A: If practiced properly and professionally, bloodletting can never



have side effect. I did not observe that the cases I treated showed side effects or complications.

**Q: What diseases do you treat through bloodletting? Do all patients benefit from it?**

A: Bloodletting can be used to treat many illnesses such as severe headaches, blood clots, diabetes, rheumatism, reproductive malfunctions, sterility, and other diseases that can be treated by bloodletting with different degrees of success. Of course, there are some people who do not get better. This invites research and investigation.

**Q: Can you perform bloodletting whenever you like? Are there certain times when it is recommendable?**

A: Some do it at specific times in the year such as in spring. By experience, however, bloodletting can be performed at different times throughout the year with varied degrees of success. A patient, for example, who comes at the beginning of summer or winter can not be told to come next year. We just perform it. We advise patients not to eat food within at least the two hours before bloodletting operations.

**Species need protection**

By Amal Mohammed Al-Ariqi

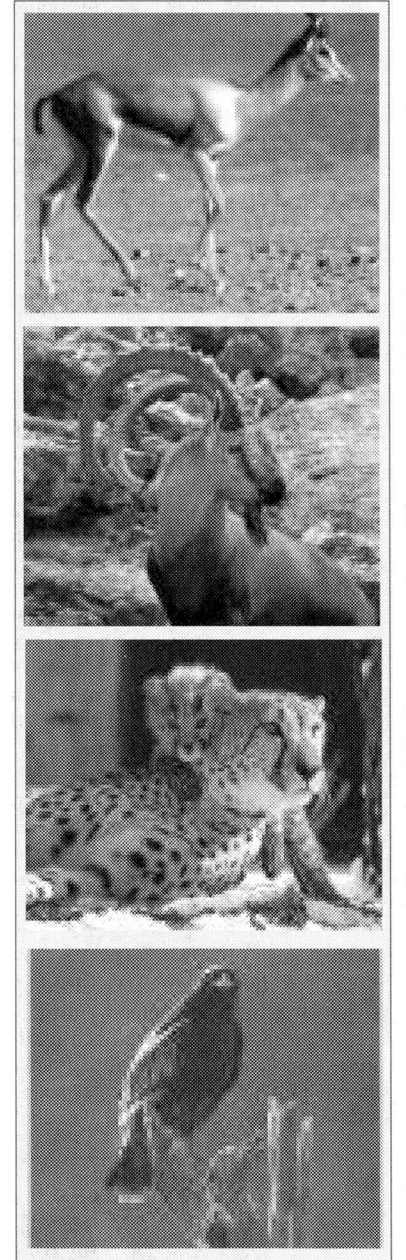
**S**cientists estimate that upwards of 10 million – and some suggests more than 100 million – different species inhabit in earth. The scientists have discovered and named only 1.75 million species. On other hand, most biologists agree that life on earth is now faced with the most sever extinction episode since the event that drove the dinosaurs to extinction 65 million years ago. Species of plants, animals, fungi, microscopic organism are daily expose to extinction. In fact the biologists estimate that three species go extinct every hour.

There is no strict data or study named the rarely unique species in Yemen, but many researchers believe that Yemen enjoys biodiversity due to its distinguished geographic location. Socotra island for example contains 850 plant species 254 of them can not be recognized in the other regions in the world. Yemen registered 71 species of wild mammals, third of these mammals are rarely found in Arab countries. There are also 363 species of birds stand for 18 classes 61 families. Some of these birds are threatened extinct internationally, but they can be found in Yemen such as greater spotted eagle, imperial eagle, comerake, ferruginous duck and white eyed gull.

Although this biodiversity many species became extinct such as acinonyx jubatus, oryx leocoryx and bilkis gazelle. Many other species are threatened extinct such as pantlera pardus nimr, canis aurerus, capra ibex nubiana, Yemen warbler, white eyed gull, sterna bergill, population expand, deforestation, either cutting or burning of trees, random hunting, and pollution are some reasons that create disorder in the ecosystems of these species that lead to extinction.

Recently, Yemeni government is working to pronounce many natural shelters that grantee suitable environ-

ment that help to supply ecosystems that enable species to survive the massive changes that human beings have wrought on those areas.

**UNICEF Hails Major New U.S. Funding for Malaria****Veneman Calls Action 'A Great Step Forward for Child Health and Survival'**

WASHINGTON, – UNICEF hailed the announcement on 30 June 2005 of a major new initiative by the United States to fund the prevention and treatment of malaria in Africa, calling the commitment "a great step forward for child health and survival."

"Malaria is a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa, taking a child's life every 30 seconds," said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman, who attended the announcement.

"This generous funding from the American people will save young lives. And it will improve the health and development of millions of children. UNICEF will do all it can to support the recipient countries to get the job done."

Malaria prevention has the greatest impact in saving children's lives when integrated with other child survival

interventions such as immunization, vitamin A, oral re-hydration therapy, breastfeeding and others basic measures, UNICEF said.

The U.S. funding – more than \$1 billion over five years – will support efforts to reduce malaria deaths by half in five African countries by 2010, and will be rolled out starting in 2006. UNICEF works closely with governments to support child survival in all five of the selected countries – Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Equatorial Guinea.

"With proven tools of prevention such as insecticide-treated bed nets, proven new methods of delivering them, and proven new drugs to treat malaria, we are in a position to make major strides against this killer," Veneman said. "We are grateful to President Bush and the U.S. government for this important initiative."

Halting and reversing the spread of malaria and other diseases is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by all member states of

the United Nations in 2000. In the first *World Malaria Report*, published in May 2005, UNICEF and the World Health Organization found that although malaria deaths have held steady globally, more people are beginning to access prevention and treatment.

"This new funding will build upon the work done in the past few years and catapult countries forward in reducing deaths and illness," Veneman said.

UNICEF is the world's leading purchaser of bed nets that protect children and families from malaria. Last year UNICEF also played a lead role in jump-starting production of the active ingredient in the new class of malaria drugs known as ACTs.

UNICEF is part of the *Roll Back Malaria* partnership that brings together UN agencies, governments, non-profit organizations and other players around the world to combat a disease that kills children and undermines development.

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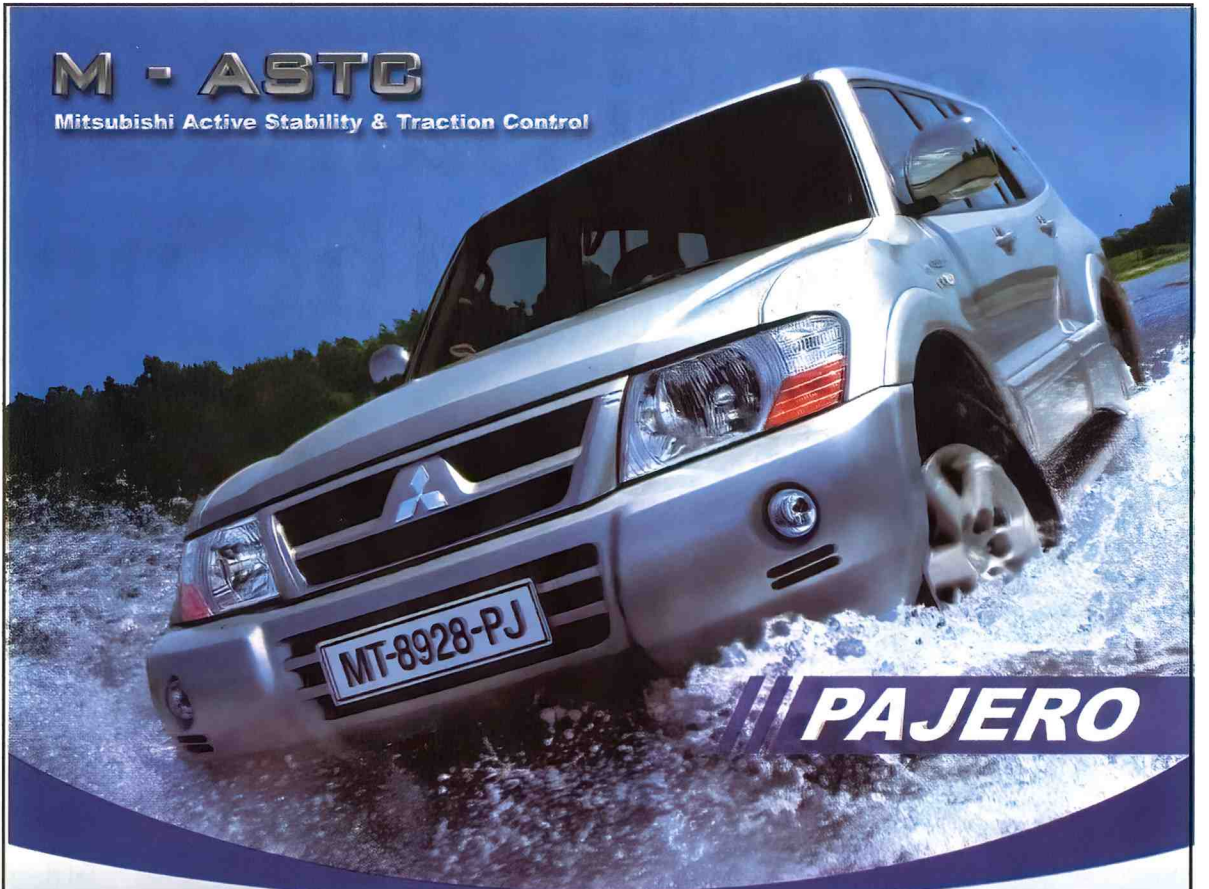
# معرض عدن التجاري

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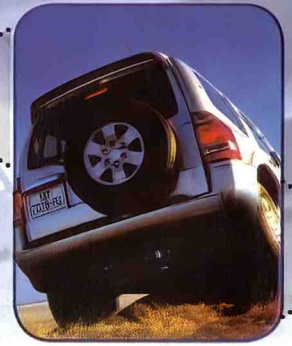
**المعرض التجاري**  
من ٢٥ سبتمبر حتى ٢ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٥ م  
الموافق  
٢١ شعبان حتى ٣٠ شعبان  
معرض فرحة العيد  
من ٢٨ أكتوبر حتى ٣٠ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٥ م  
الموافق من ١٦ حتى ٢٨ رمضان

الشركات المشاركة  
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- كهربائيات والكبريتات  
- كماليات ، اكسسوارات ، ادوات تجميل  
- الديكورات ، الموبيلات  
- الجلديات والاكثاف  
- المشاريع العقارية والاستثمارية  
- سراميك ، مواد بناء

المكان: جنب عدن التجاري  
تنظيم: مؤسسة الفناء للتجارة والاستثمار  
برئاسة وزارة الصناعة والتجارة  
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## A peep into the glorious annals of English literature

## Renaissance: The genesis of the new age

The Hundred Years War and the collapse of the Byzantine Empire were undoubtedly cataclysmic events that shook the very foundations of faith and threatened the existence of the medieval man. Interestingly that also marked the beginning of the Renaissance, or the Age of New Learning. Every historical epoch is marked by an upheaval that attributes it with a distinctive features, setting it apart from the existing socio-political-religious milieu and giving it new traits, forging new ideas, genres and trends as a challenge to the prevailing ideology that no longer seems to be in tune with the times. The medieval tradition bred an assembly of unimaginative, narrow and fallow citizens enveloped in the obscurity of the dark Middle Ages when man was nothing but scum and God, a ruthless force, a fearful potency. Life in the Middle Ages was one long parenthesis between living and dying.

Literally meaning 'rebirth', the Renaissance was re-awakening not only from the literary point of view but also from human point of view. It heralded the reawakening of the human spirit, of enquiry, of truth. If today we are able to enjoy our status as cultured and free-thinking, unbiased human beings, it's because of that radical change in the zeitgeist of the prejudiced medieval world. Vistas of new world hitherto unknown and never explored, unfolded before the eyes of the observer. The mood of the moment was an exploratory one. So the Renaissance actually refers to a complex literary and artistic movement stimulated by the study of *studia humanitatis* (classical literature and arts, logic, grammar, arithmetic) and *artes liberales* (subjects conducive to the growth of a free human being). All these eventually lead to the evolution of the 'modern civilization'.

The Italian sculptor, architect and scholar Filippo Brunelleschi initiated the idea on how the world should actually look to the eyes of the ordinary observer. Thus the sculptors Brunelleschi and Donatello and the artist Masaccio were the three musketeers of the era of revival. They revived the study of classical (Greco-Roman) art and literature with the aim of retracing the creative processes. They did not want to constrict their artistic inventiveness to mere imitation. Coupled with the unflinching reverence for past masters was the unwavering spirit of rational enquiry. **Truth and nothing but the representation of truth was the primary concern.** An accurate translation of the natural world and human actions, in pen and paper, on canvas or stone was deemed as vital. Thus the great dome of Saint Peter's Basilica and the Pantheon of Rome marked a definite break from the gothic style by presenting a new way of seeing things. Similarly



BY AMRITA SATAPATHY  
PH. D SCHOLAR  
UTKAL UNIVERSITY  
INDIA

Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Vitruvian Man' represented an innovative way of perceiving the human being as a proportionate and harmonious individual. Man was glorified and Nature was venerated. A holistic idea of man was born. Man was no longer an outcome of that unpardonable biblical sin. He was perceived in a new avatar- a well rounded personality with all his faculties harmoniously developed. He was now at the center of the scheme of things. Man's life was no longer at the mercy of a malevolent God. The axiomatic ideology 'from being to becoming' showed the paradigmatic shift from a theocentric universe to an anthropocentric one. The time was now ripe for the Humanists to occupy the center stage.

The German educator F.J. Niethammer coined the term 'humanism' in 1808 to form a separate group of study distinct from engineering and other sciences. But the first humanists were not educators. They were a classified group of people with independent means of livelihood or lawyers by profession. The humanists revived the scientific study of logic by doing away with Scholasticism that depended heavily on syllogism and Aristotelian dialectics. Learning by observing became their new slogan. By introducing the Active Sciences the humanists brought a sweeping change in the society. There was also the revival of classical Greek and Latin literature. It is believed that Frances Petrarch brought about the naissance of this movement and Coluccio Salutati, was its spokesperson. The humanists stressed upon the rediscovery of lost Latin texts. The works of antiquity revived under the auspices of the humanists were those of Cicero and Quintilian. Petrarch's adherence to Augustine's Christian legacy gave a twist to the meaning of the revival. Augustine's tradition had been a strong one and it was accepted as vital and canonical in Europe in the Middle Ages before Scholasticism had obscured Augustine's philosophy into oblivion. This canon upheld the belief that one must engage in the proper study of oneself, look within and work out from within to gain salvation. This dictum later developed into the Renaissance viewpoint - 'the dignity of humanity'. That humanity is something special in the creative scheme of God and it has a special relationship with Him; the humanists brought into the purview of ordinary men. Individualism, Skepticism and Secularism are the three pillars of the Humanistic edifice. The 'Renaissance Man' was the maker of his own destiny; he questioned tradition and authority and believed that life on earth is more important than life after death. Life is a blessing and it should be enjoyed. Humanism was not at all a philosophical movement; it was an edifying program for attaining deliverance, through the reading and real-

istic application of moral philosophy.

Protestant Reformation was one of the most influential religious movements of the Renaissance. It was a sagacious step towards revival in a multi-dimensional sense. Martin Luther championed the cause of this religious upheaval. It was his wish to establish 'truth' by contradicting the blasphemous workings of the Roman Catholic Church. Luther preached that salvation from sins could be achieved only through 'Sola gratis', the grace of God and 'Sola fides', or faith alone. The idea of buying piety was abhorred by him. Martin Luther was against the iniquity that had corrupted the Catholic Church. He wrote his famous Ninety-Five Theses as an opposition to the heresies of the Church. Posted on the doors of the Wittenberg Castle Church, these principles brought about the religious revival across Europe. They also questioned the intermediary position of the Pope as the via media between man and God.

The Renaissance was indeed an age of tumultuous transformations, anticipating modern trends and tendencies to a great extent. Be it science and technology, arts, literature, or fashion, the entire spectrum of life and living underwent an immense makeover. The Copernican Theory was a step forward in the field of astronomy. Nicolaus Copernicus's discovery influenced a lot of scientists like Galileo, Newton and Kepler. His observation that the sun is static and the earth revolves around it became the focal point of all future discoveries including Newton's Law of Gravity. The technical invention of the Renaissance began with the development of the movable type printing press. Johann Gutenberg had invented it in 1450. Other indigenous innovations of this era were the compass, cast-iron pipe, portable clock, rifle barrel, shotgun, screw-driver and wrench. The age of revival ushered in an age of thrilling adventures and explorations. Adventurers like Ferdinand Magellan, Jacques Cartier, and Sir Walter Raleigh discovered new and exotic worlds hitherto unknown to the Europeans. But the grand explorer of this age was undoubtedly the Spaniard, Christopher Columbus. A learned man, Columbus knew that the earth was round. He conjectured that a ship could reach the Far East by traveling in the opposite direction. His journey by ship was the first of its kind and Columbus became the first navigator to cross the Atlantic and reach the Americas.

The artistic fervor in Renaissance reached its zenith with Da Vinci's masterpieces, such as 'The Last Supper' and 'The Mona Lisa'; Michelangelo's 'David', 'Pieta' and his epic frescoes in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican; Botticelli's 'Birth of Venus' and the works of a host of other painters, sculptors, glassworkers and carpenters. Masonry, woodworkings and lace making too gained a lot of popularity and patronage. Renaissance painting anticipated the pre-modern Impressionist cult to a great extent. The paintings show the subtle play of light and shade even in colour. The exquisite frescoes of Raphael and the expressively vibrant paintings of Titian epitomized High Renaissance. Renaissance literature was a happy mingling of aesthetics and social and political issues. The literary works of the period mirrored the society as they oscillated between the religious turmoil and the political scene of the times. Eminent literateurs like Christopher Marlowe, Edmund Spenser, and William Shakespeare portrayed the existing ideals, people and locale with an earnest intensity. We find the 'Renaissance Man' come to life in Faustus the over-reacher. He flouts divinity, studies the damned art Necromancy, delights in hedonistic pleasures and sells his soul to the Devil. Dr. Faustus typically epitomizes the spirit of the new age. Renaissance drama in many ways is the ancestor of modern ideology. In the indecisive Hamlet and the ambitious Macbeth we find the germinating seeds of the inward thought processes, which sprouted in the 20th century as Freudian Psychoanalysis. Hamlet's "To be or not to be..." and his interior thinking about his own situation translates into René Descartes' "I am thinking, therefore I exist". This was the first contemporary approach to the eradication of skepticism. Spenser's *Faerie Queene* is a fusion of romantic knight errantry, sophisticated

allegory and enthusiastic Protestant moralism woven around a patriotic myth. The twin principles of human understanding and the divine spark that illumines each individual underline all Renaissance literature. It was the age of the 'Man and the Moment'.

What defines the flexibility of haute couture trends within any time frame is its mercurial nature. The Renaissance's affair with costumes lasted for about a 150 years. Every decade saw a new pattern, a new embellishment, a new fabric and new add-ons. The change from Gothic style to German in dress codes was spectacular. During the 1400s apparels exhibited medieval influences with shades of Italian Renaissance art. Women's dresses became more natural, exclusive of the lengthy trains. Flowing skirts gained popularity. The 'robe' - a dress with a bodice and a skirt attached to it, became known in the fashion scene. The 'corset', which is so much a rage in the 21st century, especially on the fashion ramp, was originally a Renaissance prototype. Rigid and long, it extended up to the waist in a conical way, so that it shaped into a 'V'. Men adopted the shortened doublet and the low-necked tunic and chemises for daily wear. The 'hose' characterized a well-dressed gentleman. In the 1500s there came an alteration in the mode of dressing. The Renaissance clothing came to be influenced by German trends. Simplicity became passé. Elaborate designs, horizontal lines and massive cuts were used to create clothes. Men's fashions became sophisticated and square in cut. Lengthy breeches, linen chemises decorated with lacy edges and frilly necks and sleeves were the order of the day. For women, it was the voluminous gown; so long the wear of characters in the domain of fairies only, became a part of the fashion statement. The skirts were now heavily pleated with support from underneath by wire or wicker hoops. They were held in place by ribbons or tapes. This hoopskirt or 'farthingale' as it was popularly known, reached its maximum width when it was shaped like a drum or a cartwheel. Puffed sleeves and necklines decorated with lacy high standing collars and ruffs became the feminine fashion prerogative. Men too adopted something similar to suit their taste i.e. puffed trunk hose, balloon sleeves, padded doublets, and large ruff collars. As an articulate mode of flaunting individuality, Renaissance fashion reached its zenith around 1600.

Along with the classics of the Greeks and the Romans, their hair fashioning skills were also revived, reflecting the imaginative facet of the Renaissance. Women showed off their tresses, adorning them with precious stones, ribbons, pearls, glistening veils. Braiding the hair to form crowns around the head was a common style. Blonde or gold dyes were used to highlight the hair. Sometimes women amalgamated alum, soda, rhubarb and sulfur to form a type of hair dye. In Renaissance France, fashion-conscious ladies pulverized flowers into a powder, which was mixed with a gluey substance. This concoction was applied to the hair. The intricate and whimsical taste in clothes during the revival gradually extended to coiffures too. Headdresses with a simple hood or a peaked one became a feminine fad and broad hats trimmed with gemstones agreed well with the men.

It is evident that a social, political and religious overhauling in the post-Medieval era led to the genesis of the Renaissance. A philosophical movement led to the dissemination of learning by challenging the intellectual monopoly of the ecclesiastical elite. The Renaissance became a secular weapon that fought the superiority myth of the Roman Catholic Church and broke the feudal cosmology replicated in the society. Niccolo Machiavelli in Italy, Sir Francis Bacon and Thomas Hobbes in England, René Descartes in France were the architects of European Renaissance. Their philosophies paved the way for modern culture by eroding away the dilapidated power-structure of the clergy. The broad-spectrum of the society, man and nature became the focal point of contemporary life. Sophocles once remarked, "One word frees us of all the weight and pain in life. That word is love." But if seen from the pragmatic point of view it was in fact Renaissance that freed mankind from the bondage of a dreary existence.

A letter to the teachers of English: 89  
Curriculum Revision:  
another lesson for us

Dear Fellow teachers, In my last two letters I have presented an exercise of curriculum revision that, in my personal view, is not of much use to the students for whom the curriculum was revised. Though my examples were a few, I hope you got the message of my letters. In this letter, I would like to present



Dr. M.N.K. BOSE  
(BOSE@y.net.ye)  
Associate Professor  
of English,  
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

another exercise of curriculum revision taking place in another University in Yemen. I am writing about these exercises, taking into account the fact that you, my fellow teachers in Yemen, are the ultimate users of these curriculums. I sincerely feel that you should be aware of what has been taking place in the in-camera meetings of the professionals who are engaged in these academic exercises, because the primary interest of the professionals is nothing other than the interest of us viz. enabling our learners to learn English well.

Recently, I was involved in the curriculum revision exercise in a University in Yemen. Experts in different fields of English Language, who had a fairly thorough knowledge of the problems of our learners, their needs and expectations with rich experience in the field of English teaching, participated in the exercise. Their keen perception of the foundations of a curriculum, especially a curriculum for English teaching at the UG level provided a useful background to the exercise. It was made clear from the beginning that the learners' needs are the axis around which the curricular activities should revolve, and so the changes that have been suggested to the six-year old curriculum used at present add strength to the need-orientation of the curriculum.

The new proposed curriculum, if implemented, will help learners to

learn and use English, which in turn will enable them to seek jobs after graduation with less difficulty. This will satisfy them, as there is a sincere attempt to meet their needs to a large extent. Of course, there is much to be done and the directions taken in the present proposals are a clue that there will be more changes for the benefit of the students in the future years to come.

Proposed courses include Computer Use in English, Vocabulary Building in English, Language Study Skills, for example. There can be no doubt that these along with the other courses can help learners to enrich their English language, language skills and communicative skills, which are the pre-requirement for better jobs in the national, international and multinational agencies. The proposals also include guidelines for teaching a few courses with a new thrust so that they benefit learners more than at present. The proposed curriculum is certainly not the 'old wine in a new bottle' kind nor is it a 'highbrow' kind nor is it too ambitious to achieve nor is it scholar-teacher oriented; on the other hand, it is learner-need oriented, student-friendly, teaching/learning-focused, more importantly goal-oriented, which is what we need in an EFL situation like in Yemen.

The success or fall of a curriculum is in the hands of the teachers who translate it into classroom activities; we can make the best of the worst or make the worst of the best; in fact, the former is what I think is happening in the case of the curriculum I discussed in my earlier letters and I only wish the latter doesn't happen to the present proposed curriculum I am discussing in this letter.

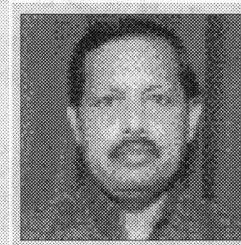
Yours fraternally,  
Dr. M.N.K. Bose.

## Murari Prasad writes back to Prof. MNK Bose's response

Thank you Prof. Bose so much for your response

(Yemen Times, 4 July 2005) to my report on the Sana'a Shakespeare Seminar (Yemen Times, 20 June 2005). To begin with, I don't think I sought to undermine your presentation—I daren't— or Dr Sharyan's, for that matter. I was only reacting to the points of view in the submissions from my own perspective which is certainly not a mandatory one. I do believe that we can reach a better perspective on Shakespeare studies in our context by way of fruitful disagreements as well as agreeable fruits of argument. In the event, I find your clarification, I'm afraid to say, less than compelling as regards any retraction/alteration/modification/revision in my point of view, and so I reiterate that Shakespeare is worth teaching in Yemeni universities to produce language gains. When I say that, I do not endorse the teachers' version of Shakespeare; in fact, in one of the seminar sessions to which you have probably referred we argued against the 'mug-book syndrome' that the orthodox method of doing Shakespeare has degenerated into. In the seminar report, I didn't have the space to cite an excerpt from a Shakespearean play to press the point of teachability. Let me do it now, and you be the judge: this is a letter from Antonio to Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice* (II, ii):

Antonio: Sweet Bassanio, my ships have all miscarried, my creditors grow cruel, my estate is very low, my bond to the Jew is forfeit; and since, in paying it, it is impossible I should live, all debts are cleared between you and I, if I might but see you at my death: notwithstanding,



BY MURARI PRASAD  
FACULTY OF  
EDUCATION, SANA'A  
UNIVERSITY  
prasadrn123@rediffmail.com

use your pleasure; if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter. At first blush, it might seem that Shakespeare and modern English don't mesh. But they do mesh. I bet this extract is quite accessible to our students. They may need some help to get into, but where they don't. Further, by what standards of text analysis would you describe it as a construction of "grandiose and magnitude[sic]". 95 per cent of Shakespeare is just like this in both vocabulary and grammar. Also, we have a course in history of the English language. Teaching it with Shakespearean examples is an enormous plus to our calculus. Again, what are your criteria for assessing the acceptability of a Shakespearean text? How do they fit in with those in the selection of literature component in our curriculum? You say that the pipeline approach of teaching English is the "lifeline approach". Fine. In that case, what should we aim at becoming: a lifestyle or a mere survivor? Why should we serve bland cabbage, when our consumers can afford appetizing cauliflower? Why substitute a dull catalogue for a lively dialogue? Why leave something splendid and plump for plain insipid? Should our students build a beautiful set of bookshelves or should they only learn how to use a hammer and screwdriver? Well, I can go on and on, but we all know that brevity is the soul of wit (sorry Prof. Bose, there is no getting away from the Bard's lines), and the powers that be responsible for this page won't allow any extra inch. Insha Allah, we can resume the debate after the recess. Right now the time is against us.

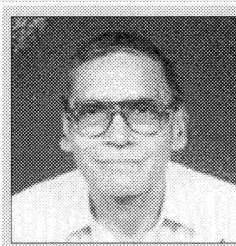
use your pleasure; if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter.

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Again, what are your criteria for assessing the acceptability of a Shakespearean text? How do they fit in with those in the selection of literature component in our curriculum? You say that the pipeline approach of teaching English is the "lifeline approach". Fine. In that case, what should we aim at becoming: a lifestyle or a mere survivor? Why should we serve bland cabbage, when our consumers can afford appetizing cauliflower? Why substitute a dull catalogue for a lively dialogue? Why leave something splendid and plump for plain insipid? Should our students build a beautiful set of bookshelves or should they only learn how to use a hammer and screwdriver? Well, I can go on and on, but we all know that brevity is the soul of wit (sorry Prof. Bose, there is no getting away from the Bard's lines), and the powers that be responsible for this page won't allow any extra inch. Insha Allah, we can resume the debate after the recess. Right now the time is against us.

## Open defence of M.Ed student at Hodeidah University

The Open Defence of M. Ed. student Mrs. Reem Hussein Ahmed Hottam took place in the Conference Hall of the Faculty of Education Hodeidah University on Sunday 29th May, 2005. The topic of the dissertation was TEACHING LITERATURE IN LANGUAGE CLASS-ROOMS IN YEMENI



BY DR. A. K. SINHA  
PROFESSOR AND HEAD  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENGLISH  
HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

CONTEXT. THE EXTERNAL examiner who conducted the Open Defence was Dr. Damodar Thakur, Professor and Head, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University. The Internal Examiner was Dr. Ashok Kumar Sinha, Professor and Head, Department of

English, Faculty of Education, Hodeidah University. And the Supervisor was Dr. B. Krishna Murthy Professor of English, Faculty of Arts, Hodeidah University. Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari, Vice President, Graduate Studies, Hodeidah University presided over the session. Dr. Abbas Abbas Harazi, Vice Dean, Student Affairs, Faculty of Education, Hodeidah University also addressed the audience which consisted of a large number of students and teachers. The Examiners praised the high quality of the research, and the programme generated a considerable amount of academic discussion.



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# A viable alternative: curbing illicit drugs through development

Four million peasant farmers are harnessed by poverty and drug lords to the cultivation of coca leaf and opium poppy. Most would rather be doing something else. The UN is showing them a way out.

The fight against illicit drugs hardly lacks media spotlight, especially when authorities intercept a large shipment or arrest a drug kingpin. Far less visible – but no less important – are efforts to nip the blight in its bud, so to speak, by curbing the cultivation of illicit drug crops such as coca leaf and opium poppy, which often remain the sole source of income for an estimated four million desperately poor farmers worldwide. Enter “alternative development” — a process that offers legal options to communities dependent on income from illicit activities. This is “the only way ahead to combat illicit activities from inside, working on farmers’ well-being rather than on their fears”, says Antonio Maria Costa, the head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Turkey and Thailand were the first countries in the world to succeed in the sustainable elimination of illicit opium cultivation, thanks to Government will and the provision of alternative livelihoods. The Thai Government worked closely with the UN on projects in the nation’s highlands that offered poor ethnic minority villagers and farmers economic alternatives to drug crops. In Colombia, the UN agency teamed up with the Government and the supermarket giant Carrefour to wean farmers from illicit crops by assuring them of income from legal activities. Carrefour gives free space in its supermarkets to the produce from such projects and even buys the products at a loss during market

downturns. In Laos, UNODC is helping the Government to meet a pledge to end opium cultivation by the end of this year, removing some five tons of heroin from the international drug market. For the world’s third highest illicit opium producing country, this is a steep challenge, but remarkable gains have already been made.

### The Context

- There are an estimated 4 million growers of illicit crops, most living below the poverty line, with roughly 50 per cent of their income realized through drug-crop cultivation.

- Experience has shown that, given alternative income options, farmers and their families are quick to abandon drug cultivation and embrace legitimate opportunities to make a living.

- Since 1974, Turkey has been free of illicit opium cultivation. Licit poppy cultivation is continuing, without diversions, to serve medical needs.

- Thailand has been opium free since 1993. In less than a decade, Laos and Myanmar have reduced opium production by 78 per cent.

- Colombia is the world’s leading supplier of coca/cocaine; in 2003, it produced 67 per cent of the global supply of cocaine. But it has decreased its coca cultivation by nearly 50 per cent, from 160,100 hectares in 1999 to 86,000 hectares in 2003.

- Goods produced as part of UNODC’s Colombian alternative development programme generated \$2 million in 2004, with Carrefour accounting for over half of those sales.

- In Afghanistan, an alternative development project includes promotion of opportunities for self-employment and small-scale commercial enterprises, introduction of a rural credit system, and training programmes for women in basic

### “Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About”

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called “Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About” to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...  
 The editor



family health and livestock production, but faces daily the challenge presented by continued instability and insecurity in many areas.

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