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EDUCATION
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Yemen plans to protect children from hazardous jobs

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, Feb 27 — Sexual harassment, drowning at sea and exposure to pesticides are the main risks facing Yemeni child laborers, said an expert from the Yemeni Ministry of Social Affairs & Labor.

In 2004, the ministry defined a list of 72 hazardous forms of work which Yemeni children should be banned from doing, according to Mona Salem, director of the Combating Child Labor Unit in the ministry. The restricted work includes working in agriculture where children are exposed to pesticides, handling heavy agricultural equipment and carrying heavy loads; construction, where children are exposed to chemical toxins and paint; and car repair workshops, where children face physical injuries, burns and respiratory problems from inhaling fumes.

"In Yemen, the most frequently reported cases came from children who work in motels and restaurants, where they have to work at night and are sexually harassed by passengers and qat chewers," said Salem.

Salem also mentioned reports about many Yemeni children in coastal areas working in the fishing sector who drown and die. Most of the cases came



Children working in construction sector are exposed to physical injuries. There are 72 categories of dangerous jobs which are practiced by many working children in Yemen.

from Aden, Al-Mukalla, and Al-Hodeidah, where fishing for profit is common.

Salem also pointed out the high number of reports confirming the medical risks that Yemeni children face

when working on farms, such as exposure to pesticides that impact their lungs.

She confirmed that Haja'a, Sana'a, and Dhamar are the three governorates in Yemen where children most often

work in dangerous fields. "Most of the children in Sana'a and Dhamar work on qat and potato farms where they use pesticides that have fatal health effects on them," Salem said. "In Haja'a, the children who work on mango farms are

affected by prolonged exposure to pesticides."

There has been no recent survey about the number of child laborers in Yemen. An estimated 700,000 Yemeni children aged 6 to 14 years old work. However, this estimate, based on the 1999 Yemen Poverty Monitoring Survey, did not report specifically on the most harmful forms of child labor.

"This will be the first time in the history of Yemen that a special survey will be conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs & Public Works to get a statistical review and count of child laborers under the age of 14 working in 72 categories of dangerous jobs," said Salem.

A study will be conducted in 10 Yemeni governorates by choosing 21 surveyors from these governorates. The staff is currently being trained in how to deal with employers who use child laborers.

The survey won't focus solely on figures, but also on methods to keep children out of the labor market.

"During the survey, the social workers will launch an awareness campaign in which they (inspectors) will try to convince the employers to decrease work hours for the children, and highlight the risks and hazardous practices that children should avoid in their

jobs," said Salem. "The inspectors may gradually get children out of their jobs to be sent them back to school or find safer jobs."

The 21 inspectors will go to Aden (3 inspectors), Taiz (3), Al-Hodeidah (1), Haja'a (2), Al-Mahwit (1), Hadramout (2), Abyan (2), Dhamar (1), Amran (2) and Sana'a (3).

Because of bad family situations and poverty, Yemeni children will often take work in any type of job in order to support their families. Sometimes, though, it's the parents who take their children out of school and force them to work.

"Whenever poverty in Yemen decreases, children will stop working, but until that time we will try to stop children from working in dangerous jobs and risky environments," Salem added.

According to the International Program on Eliminating Child Labor, working children are paid very low wages and work without written contracts, neither between the children and employers nor their parents and the employers. They typically do not have health insurance, and therefore receive no compensation in the event of injury or illness. Working hours are typically very long, and holidays are few.

Continued on page 2

After Danish cartoon and German minister's support Yemen calls for censorship

By Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, Feb 27 — Yemen's most prominent governmental figures want an international law against the defamation of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) and other religious figures, after the

reprinting of an infamous cartoon in Denmark and a call to reprint it again throughout Europe by Germany's Minister of the Interior.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar and Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi are asking for international cooperation to draft a law against mocking religious figures. Is unclear what organization or organizations would be able to effectively draft and enforce any such law.

These diplomatic steps are the fallout from the reprinting of the Danish cartoon depicting the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) as a turbaned bomber on February 13 and yesterday's statement of support for the reprinting by German

Minister of the Interior, Wolfgang Schaeuble.

The cartoon was reprinted in 17 Danish newspapers following the arrest of three Muslim men of North African origin who were accused of plotting to kill the cartoonist, Kurt Westergaard. The cartoon, which ran in conjunction with 11 others in the Jyllands-Posten newspaper over two years ago, led to both peaceful and violent protests throughout the world.

"All European newspapers should print the [Mohammed] caricatures with the explanation, 'We also think they're pathetic, but the use of press freedom is no reason to resort to violence'," Schaeuble said in the German-language

weekly, Die Zeit.

Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no comment on the Schaeuble's statement at press time, though Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi said that the official governmental position on the Danish reprinting is one of disappointment.

"We thought our Danish friends realized that freedom of expression has its limits," said Al-Qirbi. "We are waiting for the Danish government's response."

Some members of Parliament like Mansour Al-Zindani of the Islah party have called for a boycott of Danish products and asked the Minister of Industry and Trade, Yahya Al-Mutawakel, to create an embargo for

bidding the import and export of Danish goods.

However, the government has not and likely will not call for an officially-sanctioned boycott.

Al-Qirbi suggested a United Nations resolution to would prohibit insulting religious figures from all faiths. He added that the decision to boycott Danish goods and services should be made by the Arab and Muslim world.

Between January 2007 and November 2007, Denmark exported goods worth a total of US \$39.5 million to Yemen. The most common Danish product found in Yemen is canned milk, though Yemen also imports Danish agricultural products and chemicals.

The Yemeni government currently helps direct projects with the Danish Technical Advisory Office in Yemen, such as a Yemeni human rights awareness campaign with the Danish Institute and a Yemeni women's empowerment program with OXFAM.

The Danish government will spend approximately US \$5.8 million on aid to Yemen this year, according to Hanne Fritzen from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Denmark is ranked third out of 23 countries on the Humanitarian Response Index (HRI), which monitors developed countries' financial support for global humanitarian aid, specifically in the developing world.

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In Brief

AL-BEIDHA

Counterfeit currency caught

Two young men accused of counterfeiting YR 500 bills were caught red-handed in Rada'a area with more than 5,000 bills of the fake currency. The two are a part of a larger group specialized in counterfeiting. An investigation currently is ongoing after the two men confessed to the crime.

AL-DHALE

Mother of two-headed baby saved

A Caesarean section saved the life of a mother of a baby girl born with two heads. Not having followed up with her doctor regularly during her pregnancy, she was rushed to the hospital when she started having strong contractions, only to discover that she was carrying a baby girl with two heads.

The baby lived for a few minutes before it died. However, the mother is in good health. The operating doctor said such deformities are caused by misuse of medicines, chewing qat and exposure to tobacco during pregnancy.

HODEIDA

Attempted smuggling of five children foiled

Five children heading to Saudi Arabia on a long-distance bus were caught and returned to their family families. All aged 14 or 15, they were lured by a smuggler promising them high-paying jobs if they left their Sana'a homes and went with him. The families reported their missing children, who also stole \$200, and police set up search units at all border crossings. The name and description of the smuggler, who was awaiting them on the other side of the border, were given to police for further investigation.

LAHJ

Women trained in volunteer work

Women Journalists Without Chains has commenced its first four-day awareness training for women in Lahj. A Canadian program for self-development is funding the course as part of a second program for the mass mobilization of women leaders.

The training focuses on advocacy and awareness techniques and the role of media in social education. Twenty-five female trainees from Lahj and Al-Dhale' governorates are participating in the training, which also includes archiving, communication and secretarial skills.

MARIB

Ancient building discovered in Al-Maqqah Temple

A delegation from the German Institute for Antiquities, which is working in the historical city of Sirwah, on Tuesday announced the discovery of an ancient building in the compound of Marib's Al-Maqqah Temple.

Current digging will reveal the structure's history, which will speak to the importance of Sheban history. Besides digging and exploration, the institute is doing maintenance on several ancient sites to be utilized in the area's tourism. Digging began at the temple in 1992, preceded by documenting works to discover manuscripts in the temple.

SA'ADA

School football team wins national cup

After weeks of competing in school football matches for the championship cup, the team from Sa'ada district won first place.

The school districts football tournament concluded its competition with a final exciting match wherein the winner was determined by penalty shots.

ZABID

Association to preserve ancient scripts formed

Families in the historical city of Zabid are known to possess ancient scientific and religious scripts handed down through the generations.

The association to preserve ancient scripts has elected its board members composed of 13 individuals responsible for creating training and awareness programs for these families in order to preserve the manuscripts. Thus far, 1,500 such documents are registered.

Additionally, the city has created a web site in both Arabic and English about its historical documents and scripts, which it hopes to launch soon.

Media and health professionals pledge to join hands to reduce child mortality

ADEN, 23 Feb. — Media representatives and health professionals reaffirmed their commitment to popularize simple and cost-effective community and family based strategies to save children at a UNICEF workshop held on Saturday.

The UNICEF workshop brought in over 120 participants representing media, government departments, local non-governmental organisations, and development partners. The participants came from the southern governorates of Dhale, Lahej and Aden.

The workshop, sparked by the launch of the UNICEF flagship report – The State of the World's Children (SOWC) 2008, aimed to facilitate media interaction with health professionals about child-related issues.

Aboudou Karimou Adjibade, UNICEF Country Representative in Yemen, said that factors contributing to child mortality are too entrenched to be countered by government interventions alone and needs action at all levels with communication leading the way.

He lamented that despite the technological breakthrough, a staggering number of 26,000 children under five are dying each day worldwide due to preventable diseases. In Yemen, 84,000 children under 5 years old die every year.

Adjibade presented the highlights of SOWC report to prove that even poor countries can make great strides in saving the lives of children if they follow integrated health strategies.

He urged the media to continue their efforts to highlight the issue of child survival, as it is not only a development imperative but also human rights imperative.

Dr. Ali Al-Mudwahi, general director of the Ministry of Public Health's Primary Health Care, said the latest



Yemeni Artists' Forum for Children staged an enter-education play.

SOWC report is most relevant for Yemen, as his ministry is researching similar studies and can benefit from the simple and cost effective strategies outlined in the report. He commended UNICEF for increasing attention to strengthen routine immunizations, the nutrition program, the integrated Mother & Child Illness program and the control of communicable diseases.

Adding a refreshing touch of face to face communication, Yemeni Artists' Forum for Children staged an educational play performed by child artists about the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. Using humour, the play brought home convincing messages about children's rights in a simple and comprehensive manner that drew great applause from the audience.

The workshop brought together rural journalists and broadcasters to encourage interest in reporting on child survival issues. A set of tailor-made powerpoint presentations for media were delivered by health professionals and the UNICEF team to strengthen the reporting ability of journalists and to

bridge the communication gap between media and health sector.

The participants also debated about the approach to child survival that the report advocates. The report suggests disease-specific initiatives combined with investment in a strong national health system to create a continuum of care for mothers, newborns and young children that extends from household to the local clinic to the district hospitals and beyond.

The following lecture focused on child welfare advocacy with the participation of decision makers, eminent persons, parliamentarians, religious leaders and development partners. This was followed by a media focus group discussion on the key factors of immunization, water and sanitation, nutrition and poverty that set off a lively question-and-answer session.

As part of its efforts to improve media coverage of children's health, UNICEF plans to hold dialogue with media representatives through similar workshops in Hodeida, Taiz and Ibb Governorates in the month of March.

Oil minister pledges YR 30 Million for Drilling Communities

By: Saddam Al-Shmori

For the Yemen Times

SHABWAH, 23 Feb. — In response to President Ali Abdullah Saleh's calls to support the rural areas close to oil company operations, Khalid Mahfoud Bahah, Minister of Oil and Minerals, made a field visit to several of the regions with the goal of improving the lives of the people in the areas and developing the oil operations there.

His tour included stops at East Shabwah in the Sah district, operated by Total E&P Yemen and partners, and Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen's land drilling stations in Massila and East al-Hajr. The visit included the districts' facilities for health, education, sports, agriculture and transportation.

The Minister announced a donation of YR 30 million to support the districts' facilities for health, education, sports, agriculture and transportation. The donation also included one ambulance and two schoolbuses for female students from remote areas.

On February 17, Bahah officially inaugurated the Al-Artika Women's Training Center in the Sah district along with Mr. Martin Deffontaines, general manager of Total E&P Yemen, and assorted local authorities and Parliament members.

The center, equipped with sewing machines, computers, a handicrafts lab and classrooms for English and French classes, was financed by the Ministry of Oil in cooperation with the Total oil company.

Later the same day in Massila, the group announced the implementation of a service package for every employ-

ee at the East al-Hajr and Massila drilling grounds.

In the Ghail BinYameen district, the minister had a town hall meeting with the public and local authorities, where he listened to complaints about the alleged illegal activities of some oil companies and the needs of people in the area. The minister pledged a donation of YR 5 million to the regional hospital, YR 1 million towards education, YR 1 million for sports, one school bus for female students, plus scholarships, agricultural support and wells to provide water.

The oil sector is key to the Yemeni economy, and makes up 75 percent of the total budget. Bahah said that the ministry is working actively on three areas to ensure the success of the oil industry, specifically by auditing industry accounting, assessing the environmental damage done by oil drilling, and providing further employee training.

Related matters, such as observing the industry's challenges, obstacles and achievements were the most important part of the minister's visit, to be followed up with a sustainable development program.

Bahah said that it was the Ministry's belief that developing the communities surrounding the oil-producing areas would help sustain petroleum activities in Yemen.

Bahah advised the public to maintain good communications with the oil companies. He explained that labor was the current challenge, with the government planning by next week to move towards the implementation of a law which guarantees a percentage of work to the villages around the operating areas.

Seven political prisoners in Hajjah released

By: Nisreen Shadad

For the Yemen Times

HAJJAH, 23 Feb. — Seven detainees were released earlier this month from the Al-Miftah district in Hajjah governorate. The young men - some in still in their early teens - were originally arrested on suspicion of having links to Al-Houthi insurgents in Sa'ada.

Three of the seven former detainees are 15 years old. The other four are adults between the ages of 23 and 29. The condition of their release was a guarantee of good behavior, specifically promising not to engage in future terrorist acts relating to Al-Houthi.

The general trustee of the local council and vice-president of the security committee, Adel Farhan, is the main figure who worked to release the detainees, along with the assistance of their families and NGOs.

"There were numerous official orders for the prisoners' release from the general prosecutor and the former governor presented to the head of the political security in Hajjah, but they were not accepted," said Farhan.

Brigadier general Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar issued an order on November 28, 2007, but political security director Ahmed Ali Masoud said he could not accept the order under the pretense that he takes orders from the interior minister only.

More than once, Farhan went to Al-Ahmar to tell him that the orders were not accepted. Al-Ahmar contacted the Minister of Interior, Rashad al-Alimi. Then other orders were issued by Minister of the Interior on December 2, 2007 and by the new governor of Hajjah, Farid Mujawar, on December 6, 2007.

Al-Ahmar once again commanded

that the prison release the seven detainees, as there was no evidence against them.

Then Al-Alimi ordered the Ghalib al-Qamish, the Central Organ for Political Security, to speak to Masoud about the detainees' release conditions and the demanded guarantee to not collaborate with Al-Houthi.

"They were released on February 6, 2008 because the director of political security procrastinated because of individual interests," said Farhan.

Masoud said he was appointed recently, so he had no idea about any aspect of the case - neither the detainees nor the demanded guarantee. Masoud was appointed on November 20, 2007, so all the guarantees would have been presented to him, and he is the one who declined to accept them, Farhan assured.

"We are but an executive committee

in charge of carrying out official orders either from the judicial authority or from our leaders. We are in harmony with our leaders; we immediately carry out whatever orders are directed to us," said Masoud.

Farhan and Parliament member Muhammed Qawara wrote guarantees on behalf of the seven detainees because they were sure of their innocence.

"After guaranteeing them, we are now in charge of extraditing the seven [detainees] to the government, if they are ever involved in any future terrorist acts," said Qawara.

However, the other detainees are still in the Hajjah prison because no one is trying to release them, according to Hamoud al-Ahnumi, one of the detainees' relatives.

"Their families are afraid of defending them because they may be arrested

as well," said al-Ahnumi.

He continued, "After releasing the seven, the families of almost 16 detainees from Kuhlun al-Sharaf district in Hajja, came to me to help them, and I am eager to stand with them to release the rest."

Masoud assured the Yemen Times that when he receives an order to release the remaining six detainees, he will do so.

Over 40 detainees from Hajjah, including three 15 year-old children, have been detained in Hajjah central prison for almost eleven months. They are imprisoned on grounds of potential terrorist activities that they may do in the future. In order to be released, the local and national government demanded a guarantee of "good behavior," i.e., that they promise not to indulge in future terrorist acts, especially relating to Al-Houthi.

Continued from page 1

Yemen calls for censorship

If Yemen officially freezes its relationship with Denmark, it might also lose aid programs like these as well.

Additionally, representatives from the technical advisory office said that the governmental programs are on hold for the moment because they are awaiting the arrival of a new director in May. The office's staff expects to know how they will proceed with their scheduled programs later on in March and preferred not to comment any further until "everything calms down." The staff was unsure of the impact the cartoon reprinting would have on their future.

The Danish Consulate's representative in Yemen, Vijay Kumar, noted that the demonstrations held in the country were on a smaller-scale than before, and said that Danish government hopes to mend its relationship with Yemen.

"The Danish government is doing all it can to contain and resolve the situation," said Kumar.

Danish media is free of governmental influence and currently ranks within the top 10 in Reporters Without Borders' annual press freedom index. Yemen is ranked at 143 out of 169 countries.

Al-Iman University, a leading religious institution in Sana'a, will host delegations from the Islamic Parliament

and the Arab Parliament next week to discuss how to improve the image of Islam in non-Muslim countries.

On Monday, Prime Minister Al-Mujawar spoke to a crowd hundreds of men at Al-Iman University about defending the Prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) reputation. There will be a similar lecture hosted by the Islamic party, Islah, for women this morning at the Sana'a Expo Center.

"The republication [of the cartoon] show the ignorance of those who attack religion," said Mujawar. "Such behavior begets hatred and creates an unstable relationship between Islamic countries and other nations."

Mujawar also said that the people who republished the cartoons were hiding behind the label of freedom of expression and that their true aim was to insult others.

Fadl Moqbal Mansour, the general manager of foreign trade for the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said that a boycott cannot be issued unless there is a decree from the government.

However, Mansour is also the executive manager of the Consumer Protection Association, and says that his agency is asking consumers to boycott Danish goods. "I will ask the consumers to find substitutions," said

Mansour.

Likewise, Al-Iman University recently distributed an updated list of Danish products to boycott to their all of their students.

Supermarkets like Al-Hoda and Shumaila Hari have not reported a drop in sales of Danish goods. The manager of Hoda Supermarket said that shoppers are still requesting Danish products, even though his store cancelled all orders from Denmark after the second publishing of the cartoon.

"We are disappointed at the consumer attitudes, because they are still asking for these goods," he said.

Mohammed Nurdin, manager of Shumaila Hari supermarket, says that his store cancelled all pre-placed orders - mainly for milk and vegetable products - from Danish companies last Wednesday. The supermarket still has some Danish products for sale, such as Dairyland Danish cream, but common Danish imports like Lurpak butter were already gone from the shelves.

Yemen plans to protect children from hazardous jobs

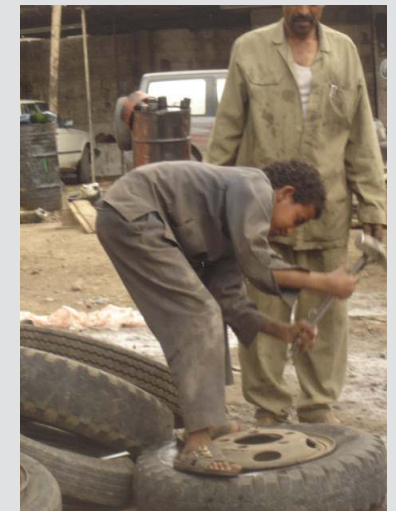
In 1999, Yemen approved International Labor Organization Convention 182 stating the unconditional worst forms of labor, including: (a) all forms of slavery

or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; and (c) the use, procuring

or offering of children for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.

In 2002, the Labor Ministry approved Decree 45, which grants many rights for child laborers under the age of 14. According to this declaration, any person who is under 14 is not permitted under any circumstance to work. Additionally, it provides workers over 14 more rights. For example, they cannot work more than six hours a day and are banned from working at night. They also receive the same rights as adult workers as, like safe working environments and holidays.

"The most interesting thing is, although this decree exists, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is not able to protect these children," said Salem. She added that recently the ministry has mandated that the law must be



enforced.

So far, the ministry does not have any substitutes or suggestions for those children who leave their more dangerous jobs. It is a known fact that these children work in order to help their poor families, and before taking them out of their jobs the ministry must find a new income for the families, explained Salem.

She also said in order to find an appropriate solution, the Ministry should coordinate and cooperate and get into discussions with other organizations to achieve the goal.

WHAT IT MEANS...

Free medical care for talented Yemenis

By: Dr. Nizar Ghanem
hccyemen@hotmail.com

My experience in giving medical care to Yemeni and Arab creative persons residing in Sana'a started as back as far as Aug 15, 1992. I started providing the service in a single room at Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi's clinic on Baghdad Street. The driving force behind that initiative that was unprecedented in any other country of the world was my appreciation for intellectuals and artists in general, and of those living in Yemen in particular.

Historical documents prove that they have spearheaded changes for the better as they struggled their way to revolution, liberation, renaissance and unity. As is usually stated, they cause their nations to be remembered thanks to their intellectual production, most of which will continue to crown the forehead of the nation. It was they who, for the first time, managed to build our country's NGOs by way of example and not limitation, for example with the Aden-based Arab Literature Club.

The credit is given to the Yemeni intellectual and artistic talents not only for initiating

NGOs through cultural, social and corporate activities guided by their national illuminated thought, but a large number of them fueled the 1948 Revolution with their blood, which mixed with the blood of Arab martyrs. All of them contributed uniquely to the favorable transformation of Yemen. Even as expatriates, Yemenis were the first to establish associations and leagues overseas, whether in Cardiff, the United Kingdom or the Malay Archipelago. They gave rise to Yemen's school of expatriate writing.

In fact, the talented person is an inspired human being; whether from flowing creativity as direct inspiration, such as poetry, or dialectical creativity, such as criticism. Both are part and parcel of creativity and form its unlimited space.

My medical specialization prompted me to further explore the arguable relation between a man's sound health and his profession. In this regard, I recall the Arab literary saying: "Anyone whose profession is literature has been cursed." Yet, even if I had had another specialization, I would have provided medical care for the talents of my country and their families out of my belief that "behind every great man is a great woman," and behind the woman are the dear children, aren't they?

It may be surprising to learn that in America, there is a branch of occupational medicine called performing arts medicine. It is more amazing to learn that a scientist named Sellar found an ancient Egyptian papyrus dating back to 1500 B.C. explaining the effect of continuous playing on musicians playing on large instruments as it distorts the backbone.

Deciding to help artists and intellectuals, I have served my personal interest of self-satisfaction as I self-actualized by doing without expecting a return and reinforced my belonging to this society, as illustrated by Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

The Yemeni reunification brought with it numerous creative ideas and experiences, one of which may be the experience of opening clinics for the creative free of charge. In Sana'a, the free clinic was established by me and a number of fellow physicians in 1992, supported limitlessly by the Yemen Writers Union and in Aden by Dr. Hussein Al-Kaf in 1993. Then Assistant Dr. Abdul-Qadir Ruwaidh established a clinic in Al-Shahir city under the sponsorship of poet Hussein Abu Bakr Al-Mihdhar and after that in the Dhamar city by Dr. Abduh Al-Haj and later on in Ibb by Dr. Abdul-Wasi' Al-Areeqi.

I was encouraged to continue when I read news stories about artists and intellectuals appealing to the political leadership for medication as though it was a favor and not a right, despite the fact that the political leadership could not protect the intellectual property rights of talented Yemenis, who have always been a soft target for publication pirates in Beirut.

Having studied and taught preventive medicine, I realize that real health is not just the temporary absence of illness, but the sustainable health and reconciliation with the psyche and behavioral compatibility with others. It is the ability to love and work in harmony. Such a goal necessitates the marshalling of permanent specialized institutionalized services whose ownership belongs to the beneficiaries who must contribute even nominally to their property finances.

My idea raised comments around the Arab World. The Egyptian press dealt with it. I refer here to the words and discussion contributed by Egyptian doctor Hassan Talab along with a Saudi writer and an Omani artist. There were people who greeted the idea with criticism, such as Lebanese thinker Ali Harb, who waged a war on me in his book "Ends of Globalism". I think he

misunderstood me. Yemeni sociologist Sameer Al-Shameeri explained the subject to him in Aden-based Al-Ayyam Daily. I would like here to remind the readership that the late Egyptian physician and poet Ibrahim Najee did not dedicate his clinic to creative people. He just exempted them from fees and provided food before medicine to the poor.

We cannot improve the living standards of creative people unless we understand the special psychology that draws on the prototype of the creative character. Such a character may be disturbed with fatiguing existential cares. Preventive medicine attempts to neutralize the factors causing the ailment in the long as well as short term. It takes care of the family members of the creative person through the science of family medicine. Preventive medicine takes into account the artistic ego as a principle part of social and psychological tensions experienced by the creative person. Judging from my experience, I could say that only 5% of the cases provided with basic health services might require out-of-country medication

Dr. Nizar Ghanem is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Health and Culture Council, Sana'a

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (dralfaqih@yahoo.com).

Their News

CAC Bank to open four new branches

The Cooperative Agriculture Credit Bank has announced that it will open four new branches in the gulf countries and Africa.



The expansion comes as a step to provide monetary facilities to the Yemeni communities in those areas.

"The new four branches come as a step in the bank's broader policy of expansion in order to become a renowned national and regional bank," said Hafadh Fakhar Ma'ayad, chairman of CAC regional bank.

He also indicated that the preparation to open the bank's first branch abroad in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia are ongoing. The Jeddah branch is supposed to be launched in the first half of this year as the Saudi government had granted the permission.

Similarly, preparations to open branches in Djibouti and Addis Ababa are underway as the formal communication between the bank and the authorities have started. The bank is also waiting on the Qatari government's response regarding its request to open a branch in Doha.

Moreover, the bank's management has agreed with the Ministry of Migrants' Affairs to create a system for subsidized monetary transfers through CAC Bank, while the transfers would be made for free for Yemenis with accounts in the bank's branches abroad.

IATA Calls for Environmental Leadership in Asia

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) called on Asia to play a leadership role in driving the aviation industry towards carbon neutral growth leading to a zero-emission industry.



By 2010 Asia will be the largest single market for aviation. With size comes leadership responsibility. And that includes environment issues, said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO in a keynote address at the Greener Skies for Asia 2008 conference in Hong Kong. "My focus is on

reducing carbon emissions. And reducing fuel burn is at the heart of the issue. Every litre of fuel we can save reduces CO2 emissions by over 3 kilograms. By shortening routes, improving air traffic management and spreading best practice in fuel conservation IATA helped save up to 25 million tonnes of CO2 in the last two years," said Bisignani. "There are lots of opportunities in Asia," said Bisignani citing examples for innovation from around the region, including the introduction of new air traffic procedures in Japan, more efficient routings in China and the ASPIRE air traffic management joint initiative of Air Services Australia, the US FAA and Airways New Zealand.

Bisignani said that implementation must speed up, noting particularly the air traffic management system for the five airports in the Pearl River Delta region of China. "We have seen some improvement in delays in the Golden Triangle of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong/Guangzhou. But the time required to sort out the Pearl River Delta's complicated system is frustratingly slow. We appreciate the cooperation of all involved. But cooperation without results is not effective. We must speed up with some interim solutions," said Bisignani.

Concerning the recent Turkish military operations in northern Iraq

In a press release by the Turkish embassy in Yemen, the Turkish government stated that the PKK/KONGRA-GEL terror organization has continued its murderous campaign against Turkish citizens from its bases in the north of Iraq. Over the years countless lives have been lost due to the PKK terrorism. The terror attacks have intensified in recent months. Turkey has the responsibility and determination to protect its citizens against the attacks of the terror organization.



Numerous diplomatic attempts have been made to resolve the problem of terrorist presence and activities in northern Iraq. Since December 12007, Turkey has initiated air operations

against PKK terrorist targets in northern Iraq. These operations have exclusively targeted the terrorist organising. Utmost care has been shown in order to prevent civilian causality. In the same vein, on February 21, Turkish Armed Forces launched a ground operation supported by air assets. The sold target of the ground operation is the PKK terror organisation. This operation will be limited in size, scope and duration. Turkey has been among the staunchest advocates of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity of Iraq, and Turkish civilian and military authorities have been in contact with the relevant Iraqi and US authorities at highest levels prior to the operations.

The World Bank on Ethiopia's economic success story

A World Bank delegation, led by Executive Director Giovanni Majnoni, held discussions with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Ato Sofian Ahmed, and other senior officials over the weekend. The delegation, on a two day visit, described cooperation between Ethiopia and the World Bank as "incredibly successful": the World Bank appreciated the economic

management of the Government and described it as "brilliant". Underlining the fact that the Bank was a major supporter of Ethiopia's development efforts, Director Majnoni said "Ethiopia definitely has a success story. And the Bank will try to do whatever it can to help this success to continue". The delegation discussed ways of further enhancement of cooperation, and focused on how to improve and speed up delivery of bank services.



The World Bank is a key development partner for Ethiopia. Since the beginning of its cooperation with Ethiopia, the World Bank group has approved a total of US \$ 5.8 billion for 117 development projects and programs. Its support has been directed towards achieving sustainable economic growth. It has also undertaken a significant number of important studies to help the government to address different developmental and policy issues.

The Bank's current portfolio of projects amounts to US \$ 2.1 billion supporting implementation of 22 projects.

The World Bank's active projects are fully aligned with Ethiopia's objectives of promoting economic growth and poverty reduction, covering pro-poor growth, infrastructural and human resource development, capacity building, the provision of basic services and increasing agricultural productivity. Nearly 50% of the Bank's current activity is allocated to infrastructural development, for roads and power. The World Bank supports the direction, contents and targets of Ethiopia's Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PAS-DEP). Current Bank interventions are aligned with PASDEP objectives. A dialogue is currently taking place to discuss the Country Assistance Strategy Paper (CAS) for 2008-2010 which is under preparation.

In its World Development Report of 2007, the World Bank unambiguously endorsed Ethiopia's long-term national development strategy. Under this, Ethiopia has been exerting maximum efforts to bring about a fundamental transformation of the economy and achieve sustainable, rapid and all-inclusive economic development in the

country. Its efforts, together with a stable macroeconomic environment and cultivation of private sector development, have resulted in impressive and broad based economic growth over the past four years.

Egypt bans international papers over 'offensive' cartoons

The Egyptian government has banned the sale of four international newspapers for their publishing of cartoons containing "offensive" depictions of the Prophet Mohammad, Reporters Without Borders said today. The Egyptian Information Minister Anas al-Fiqi has banned the sale of the Wall Street Journal, Britain's Observer, and Germany's Allgemeine Zeitung and Die Welt for reprinting the controversial cartoons first published in Danish newspapers.

Criticizing the decision, Reporters Without Borders has urged the Egyptian government to lift the ban and let the civil society decide for itself. "Banning the distribution of newspapers that reproduced the Mohammed cartoons only strengthens those who have taken the most radical positions on this subject," the press freedom watchdog said.

((وبشر الصابرين الذين اذا اصابتهم مصيبة قالوا انا لله وانا اليه راجعون))

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة إلى:

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سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتعمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذويه

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EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05/08

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

Title : Sr. ICT Assistant
Level : General services – 7
Type of Contract : Temporary Fixed Term (one year with possibility of extension)
Duty station : Sana'a

Under the supervision of the ICT Officer, (NOB), the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

- Assist in Administer the office multi-user network and other data and telecommunication facilities including messaging applications. This involves administering user access to the network, data security of the network, and troubleshooting ad-hoc hardware or software problems experienced on the network. Provide complete documentation of configurations and settings for major LAN components (servers, workstations, switches), and access rights to applications. Maintaining installed network throughput on a continuous basis and recommending enhancement proposals including hardware, cabling standards and software upgrade taking full advantage of current
- Assist with the introduction and technical operation of organisational computer applications. This involves overall understanding of the functioning of the system and the interaction of data between sections within the office and with HQ divisions. Assist to install new versions of systems (ProMS, Cognos, Lotus Notes etc), and troubleshoot ad-hoc user problems in its functioning. Keep a software inventory, ensuring copyright compliance for all installed software. Harmonise software versions to eliminate unnecessary conversions.
- Assist in Developing and implementing local office computer applications (e.g. BB, TA Db, Resource Db, access applications). This involves analysis, design, programming, testing and documentation processes. Interface existing systems with locally developed systems where such requirements are established. Undertake conversion of application systems and data consequent on new hardware, operating system
- Assist in Developing and implementing local office computer applications (eg. Cognos reports and cubes, access applications). This involves analysis, design, programming, testing and documentation processes. Interface existing systems with locally developed systems where such requirements are established. Undertake conversion of application systems and data consequent on new hardware, operating system changes..
- Assist with the introduction of specific computer hardware and software. This involves assisting in interpretation of NYHQ guidelines for local office relevance and preparation of PO with vendor interaction on specifications. Installation of new hardware is scheduled with users. Advise users on appropriate use of software Undertakes arrangements for visits to project sites (industry, market, laboratories fro government and other partners, which include providing information and briefing on project activities and status
- Assist in Administering and maintaining of computer equipment. This involves interaction with vendors to prepare and administer equipment maintenance agreements and to co-ordinate the arrangements within the office for reporting problems and placing service calls for repairs as necessary.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University Degree in Computer Science, Information Systems and Telecommunications supplemented by Windows (NT/Win2003/XP/2000/98), and Cisco training.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required
- Five years progressively responsible experience in Computer Information Management work, including data processing applications, use and evaluation of programme packages, database management, multi-user network and telecommunications, network analysis and design, hardware/software installation and management, user assistance, end-user documentation and local office computer applications programming, in support of office computerization.
- Initiative, passion and commitment to UNICEF's mission and professional values
- Ability to research, analyzes, evaluate and synthesize information.
- Ability to express clearly and concisely, ideas and concepts in written and oral form.
- Proven skills in communication, networking, advocacy and negotiation, especially at the community level.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report (most recent two reports) to - The Operations Officer, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, and Republic of Yemen. Applications received after **15 March 2008** will not be considered.

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

إعادة إعلان عدد ٦ منح ماجستير في مجال إدارة التعليم العالي

Announcement for Master Degree Fellowship Opportunities in Higher Education

Introduction:

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is in the process of strengthening its role in the higher education sector. In this it is supported by the (Nuffic) Netherlands Programme for the Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT) and executed by BMB Mott MacDonald.

The project announces the availability of 6 fellowships to the Netherlands as detailed below.

Specializations:

- General policies and planning for higher education, including regulatory framework for private university development
- Education statistics, labour market monitoring and education supply planning
- Quality assurance and accreditation in education
- Policies and planning of research
- Human resources management (HRM)

Candidates Profile:

- Bachelor degree in relevant subject (see also first point under 'General considerations' below);
- Working experience in (public or private) management (more than two years).
- Proved English proficiency (TOEFL/ IELTS);
- Age: 35 years or younger;
- Basic to middle level skills in most common computer applications, word processing, spread sheets and internet;
- Has demonstrated good professional performance, in terms of

- Showing initiative and being proactive
- Analytical skills : ability to identify root of a problem and suggest workable solutions
- Good report writing skills, in form and content
- Structured and well organised in work approach
- Social skills : maintaining a network of good professional relations, (internally and externally)

General considerations

- Foreign institutions of higher learning with relevant Master programmes may in addition have other particular requirements to students that must be satisfied.
- Females will have equal opportunity to apply
- Priority is given to the employees of the ministry of HESR
- Those who are from outside the Ministry are requested to sign an agreement as a civil servant within the ministry for a minimum of 5 years.
- Deadline for Complete Applications is February 15, 2008
- Interested applicants should submit their CVs and applications in English to the Ministry building -6th floor, MHESR project.

For further information, contact: mohepr@gmail.com

Coordinator Needed

For the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of **Coordinator for the Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme (CCT)** in Hodeidah.

The pilot CCT scheme is planned to be rigorously evaluated before being phased out in other regions of the country. A demand-side financing survey is being developed to be undertaken in Lahej governorate. The Lahej governorate survey will also serve as a baseline survey for the impact evaluation of the scheme. For monitoring the CCTs, a details list of students benefiting from the CCTs will be developed and maintained by the MoE will be updated monthly after receiving information from schools about the compliance of students with the conditions of the cash transfer. In addition, the transfer of funds will be monitored to ensure timely delivery to the students and records will be maintained about the number of beneficiaries and the amount of funds paid out. In order to facilitate the MoE in implementing the CCTs a group of five individuals will be hired to ensure a smooth and timely process. The work of the individuals hired will complement each other and they will work in close coordination with the Girls' Education Sector (GES). The specific tasks and scope of work for each individual are detailed below separately.

Specific Tasks:

The Hodeidah CCT coordinator's responsibilities will include:

- Developing a strong operational and working relationship on behalf of the GES with the Post Office, which is responsible for transferring the funds to the beneficiaries.
- Check that the payments to households are being processed and sent on time.
- Verify the information concerning who has and has not met their conditionalities is being provided on time by the school system.
- Solve any problems associated with information on conditionalities not coming in on time or looking like it has been falsified.
- If a beneficiary drops out of the program, develop a survey (to be approved by the CCT technical team) that gathers information about why the child is dropping out and to monitor the compliance of conditionalities and the social issues of attending or not attending school. This would be a part of the main beneficiary database.
- Solve any problems regarding households that do not receive payments or are difficult to send money to (in coordination with the Sana'a based supervisor).
- Work with the GES, the Sana'a based CCT office and any other relevant agency to solve any implementation issue that may arise.
- Ensure that any mismanagement of funds is reported to the MoE and the BEDP project team.
- Help provide the database manager and data entry operators with relevant and up to date information on the distribution of funds including how much has been transferred, when and how, by liaising directly with the Hodeidah governorate Education office and the schools where beneficiaries are enrolled.
- Participate in surprise visits to the beneficiary schools to verify the compliance of children with the conditionalities and to verify the data and information about children being transmitted to the team and GES by the schools. During these visits also talk to the beneficiaries to verify the transmission of funds.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will have at

- At least a bachelor's degree or higher in financial, public management, Business Administration, Public Administration or any Social Sciences (masters degree is preferred but bachelors with good work experience will be considered).
- At least 3 years work experience in a relevant position. It will be beneficial to have experience in managing payment systems. In addition,
- The person should be dynamic and creative in figuring out new ways to design mechanisms.

Other

The position is one year term position starting April 2008, with a possibility of an extension of another year on the successful completion of the first year at the discretion of the MoE. The position requires commitment and long work hours (8-10 hours a day) as needed and will be paid accordingly.

The consultant is expected to be based in the Governorate Education Office of Hodeidah. Office equipments and adequate transportation will be provided to the consultant for the purpose of effective monitoring and supervision.

All Applications along with a detailed resume should be submitted by

Wednesday March 19, 2008, to the following address:

Ministry of Education
Basic Education Development Project
Project Administration Unit -60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad

Tel: 01-619160, Fax: 01- 619219

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- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
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| تأشيرات الزيارة | برنامج الهجرة لذوي المهارات العليا |
| تأشيرات الطلاب | طلبات الجنسية البريطانية |
| طلبات الاستئناف والتتمثيل لدى المحاكم الابتدائية والعليا | طلبات التوظيف |
| تصاريح العمل | طلبات جواز السفر البريطاني |

نتمتع بمعدلات نجاح ممتازة فيما يتعلق بطلبات التأشيرة والاستئناف، ونعتز بجودة الخدمات التي نقدمها لزيائنا. الرجاء الاتصال بالسيدة/ لآخبير كولر أو بالسيد/ هارون ماجد أو بممثلنا المتحدث بالعربية السيد/ ديبس عبد الله . هاتف رقم 00447976721228 أو عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني dubais26@aol.com وسيسعدنا أن نزودكم بالمزيد من المعلومات حول خدماتنا.

Local institute seeks autonomy from government

In order for it to work effectively, the administration of the National Hotel and Tourism Institute, or NAHOTI, is calling for autonomy from the Yemeni government. Officials at the institute say being dependent upon the state will cause their institute to fail, just as a similar institute in the city of Aden failed. **Ismail Al-Ghabri** interviewed **Khalid Al-Du'a**, dean of NAHOTI.

With a master's in tourism marketing from the Netherlands, NAHOTI Dean **Khalid Mohammed Saleh Al-Du'a** previously worked at the Ministry of Tourism and the General Authority for Tourism Development. His last post was executive manager of the Ministry of Tourism's tourism promotion board. Before that, he held various positions at the ministry, such as the department's presidency, as well as administration at varying levels, including president of research and studies, public relations manager for tourism promotion and head of the national project to promote tourism, which no longer operates.

Excerpts:

Who are your administrative board members?

We don't have an administrative board yet, but there is a Technical Committee presided over by the minister of Technical and Vocational Training (TVT). Committee members include Tourism Minister **Nabil Al-Faqih**, **Alwan Al-Shaibani** Director of Universal Group, **Hotel Union** Chairman **Yahya Saleh**, the head of the Yemen Association for Travel and Tourist Agencies (YATTA), the TVT Ministry's manager of financial affairs, the head of NAHOTI and the head of the Vocational Training Fund.

This Technical Committee is responsible for running the institute, but once autonomy is decreed, it will become an administrative board, which will be more efficient and ensure better financing because the private sector won't provide us funds so long as we're under state control.

Once we're autonomous, our administration will be qualified, honest and transparent and our records will be open to everyone. Within the next two weeks, a tender will be established to administer and run our subsidiary three-star hotel, which is in the same building and



Khalid Mohammed Al-Du'a

financed by the European Union.

What's important about this hotel is that the institute will benefit from its input and output by training students for free and increasing our teachers' competency, in addition to benefiting from the operating revenues.

Our institute's 2008-2012 plan takes into consideration that it gradually will be self-financed with no need for the Finance Ministry or the local council. All we need from them is to provide us staff and strategic investment projects or a new building, while the institute will cover operational costs, if what we're seeking is accomplished.

Does the institute plan to open branches once autonomy is granted?

While the Aden institute was the first in Yemen, it isn't autonomous, as it's also state-controlled, which is why it failed.

The TVT Ministry now plans to construct four institutes in Hadramout, Hodeidah, Damt and Abyan and, as far as we know, these institutes also are calling for autonomy.

The minister of the TVT has promised us that if our institute is granted autonomy, it'll likewise be granted to other institutes, but those institutes apparently are hesitant to demand autonomy.

The Yemeni state is talking about decentralization via the local authority, so why then is there such bureaucracy? If one wishes to form an insti-

tute, it must be linked to the state, so does this really mean you're doing nothing?

As I mentioned earlier, the reason for this is the failure of the Aden institute, which couldn't keep up with the requirements of the modern age because it was under government control. I have agreements with several local hotels and others with international centers and institutes. I couldn't have made these agreements if I didn't have flexibility and some degree of autonomy.

If I wish to sign an agreement, I first must go to the TVT Ministry to prepare the agreement according to their terms and methods, whereas in my case, I prepared it by considering the institute's requirements.

What we're asking for is centralized planning but de-centralized implementation. That is, we'll go with the TVT and Tourism Ministries' plans to establish the framework for the institute's operations through the administrative board. I'd then have the flexibility and transparency when acting and using alternative plans in case of emergency.

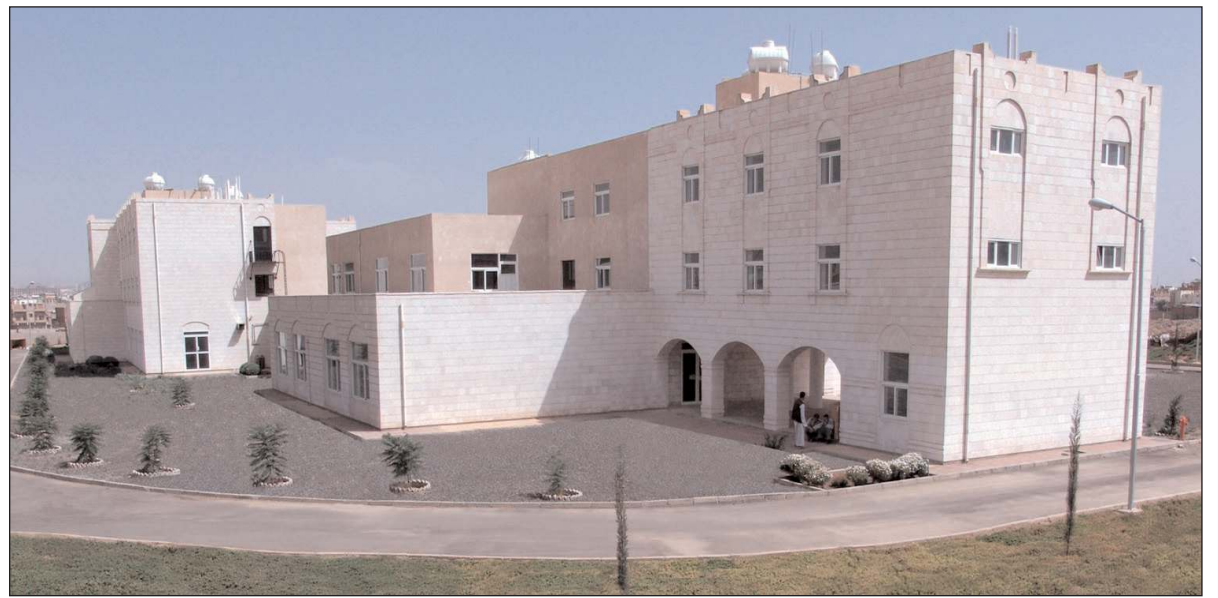
Currently, I'm confined to a prescribed strategy I must implement, regardless of whether or not it's good. This is why we're attempting to come up with a vision involving collaboration with the private sector, the TVT and Tourism Ministries and all related agencies because we have a well-prepared plan. This is why I think success will be ours.

Regarding our budget, it's insufficient and doesn't cover the institute's operating costs. What we've managed to cover since last year is through personal effort and relations with the private sector, hotels and travel agencies.

We hope the institute will be granted autonomy alongside TVT Ministry supervision and an administrative board comprised of a majority of members from the private sector representing the Yemen Hotel Union (YHU), YATTA, Yemenia Airlines and the TVT, Tourism and Planning and International Cooperation Ministries.

These days, we're in the process of gaining the institute's autonomy by urging the Council of Ministers to issue a decree in the coming weeks.

NAHOTI is funded by allocations from the local council in Shoub, a district in Sana'a city, and allocations we receive from the state's central budget



Hotel site.

via the Finance Ministry.

The truth is that there's no awareness about NAHOTI among high-level officials. To illustrate this, YR 500,000 (\$2,500) is allocated for food and clothing allowances when there's no need for such amount, whereas only YR 20,000 (\$100) is allocated for electricity, while our monthly stationary allowance is YR 25,000 (\$125). We spend that amount in a week!

What's supposed to happen is that I should be the one responsible for managing the budget and determining the institute's needs, so this is why we're seeking autonomy.

Another point I'd like to highlight is the terms of admission determined by institute administration and staff in coordination with the Tourism Ministry, the General Authority for Tourism Development, YHU and YATTA.

Admission involves three steps, the first of which is advertising in government and private newspapers and on the internet. Next, students register during a time period specified in the advertisement. Priority is given to those in remote tourism areas with the aim of qualifying and educating them about the importance of tourism.

Finally, a committee – such as the one last year and this year – is formed of members from our institute, YATTA, YHU and the TVT and Tourism Ministries. Our institute doesn't control admission; rather, it supervises the entire process. Some admission requirements include English and other languages, as well as a student's appearance and a genuine desire to study tourism.

Such requirements have been implemented because last year, we had some students who were excited and enthusiastic at first, but within a couple of weeks after returning home, they were ashamed to mention to others in their area that they were studying cooking or hotel service. Twelve students dropped out, but we succeeded in bringing two of them back.

Developed by local, Arab and international experts along with their counterparts in the TVT and Tourism Ministries and various related agencies, our curriculum meets international criteria, local and continental market needs and contains future plans envisioning the development of Yemeni tourism within five to 10 years.

At the end of this year and the beginning of next, we'll hold a workshop via the TVT and Tourism Ministries to evaluate our first batch of students, as well as our curriculum and whether it needs modifying, updating or remains as is. We hold to a principle of never being ashamed of our mistakes. The shame is in continuing to make those mistakes, so this is why we'll conduct the workshop.

Current coordination between the TVT and Tourism Ministries is very good. The tourism minister is a member of the institute's Technical Committee and, God willing, he'll also be on the administrative board.

The Ministry of Tourism provides us plans and strategies, studies and statistics required to improve tourism. We analyze them in relation to other institutes according to certain criteria. The TVT Ministry also prepares studies to establish institutes according to the Tourism Ministry's vision and needs.

Some 110 students – both male and female – are expected to graduate at the end of this year from the tourism and hotels departments. I'd like to give our students some good news regarding being hired immediately after graduation, especially those in the hotels department.

Some 24 students have temporary contracts with the Sheraton, Mövenpick



Students learn about table-setting techniques.

and Hall Town hotels, while another 12 have been asked to work at Yemenia Airlines in the Hospitality and Food Supply departments.

In our 2008-2012 plan, we take the responsibility of providing our graduates jobs. We'll hold an open day like that of universities or an employment day inviting all hotel and tourist agency managers to meet our graduates in order to hire them.

Currently, we've coordinated with concerned agencies to hire most of our students from the hotels department. This is the exemplary institute we're talking about, taking a certain number of students and committing to providing them jobs after qualifying them both theoretically and practically.

What about your institute's staff?

Our staff isn't up to the expected level. Our current staff was qualified after a year and half by the European Union, but the truth is that 90 percent of our staff are graduates of Taiz University's Tourism Department, where they merely acquired theoretical or academic knowledge with no practical studies related to the institute's requirements.

NAHOTI focuses on training and providing practical studies. We don't need to prepare academic people but rather professional ones. Unfortunately, most staff lack professional experience in related fields, which is why our strategy plan includes training staff practically when needed, from now up to five years at those institutes with which we have relations.

However, I want to note that not all of our staff lack experience; there are some very qualified ones who have worked at hotels before and have both a theoretical

and a practical background. The training plan is ready and will be implemented in cooperation with Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst, or DED, and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, or GIZ.

We're also contacting the Tourism and Hospitality Research and Studies Center in South Carolina in the United States to do some coordination with them.

There's also an idea to benefit from tourism and hotel training in other countries. This will be included in the institute's upcoming plans. Such experiences will be taken from Arab, European and South Asian countries and then we'll adopt the best from among them.

The institute's history

NAHOTI was established in 2006 with joint funding from the European Commission and the Yemeni government to implement the initial strategies of vocational training.

Officially opening in September 2006, the institute admitted its first 120 students in November 2006. There are now 240 students, 17 of which are women.

The institute's two main departments are Tourism Studies and Hotel Studies. The former includes 80 students in the first and second levels, while the remaining students are in the latter.

Tourism students are qualified to issue tickets for travel and tourism, work in tourism and be tour guides, while hotel students specialize in one of four areas: Hotel Management, Reception, Food and Drink Services or Food Production.

Currently in its second year, NAHOTI's first 120 students will graduate this July.



Preparing 5-star meals with style.



The institute coordinate with concerned agencies to arrange employment for the students.

Outside the president's shadow

A few days ago Abdul-Karim al-Iryani, a veteran politician and Saleh adviser, told Reuters: "Unless there is an economic reprieve for Yemen during the next three years or so, the challenge is much bigger than the Houthis or so-called (southern) secessionists".

Al-Iryani was talking about the population explosion Yemen is facing as a country with limited resources. And although I totally agree with this realistic concern; yet I call on him and others to take a closer look at the country's situation and to see that the real threat lies in the political instability.

The diagnosis of the problem is clear: a tribal society that had sought its way to an institutionalised state then retreated to a stage of chaos and disorder giving Houthis, secessionists, Al-Qaeda and rebels the opportunity to exist. We already have our work cut out for us in terms of development challenges such as scarce resources, population explosion...etc. But what is more drastic is the social, security and political mess we are in. Signs of state control are fading quickly making space for corruption and vandalism to run the country on its behalf.

The desperation citizens are experiencing tells us that we do not have a clear champion we can trust in and who can lead us out of this disaster. In fact, it feels we are controlled and led by corrupt selfish people who are waiting on us to collapse like vultures on a sick ani-

mal. Yemen is a country without vision. There are no clear policies to a better future, and the strategies in place seem to be created in a closed room full of politicians or donors regardless of the reality and priorities of the country beyond their closed door.

It is unnerving that the country's top officials are complaining and concerned about Yemen's future especially that they should be the ones to fix things for real and not just talk about a change in the horizon like AbdulKadir Hilal Minister of the local administration was trying to convey in a press conference recently.

The point here is that as citizens we have the right to participate in the making of our country through being part of the policies and the decisions.

The moment Yemenis realize and truly believe that Yemen is theirs too and not just that of the president, his family and friends, the opposition or the donors', there will be a safer Yemen.

We need to feel that we will get our fair opportunity in development and productivity in an environment that encourages equal opportunities for all citizens regardless of their political affiliations, origins or gender.

Yet what is happening today is that the country is run by a military regime consisting of people mostly tribal with military background, their only qualification is that they relate somehow to the president.



By: Rahma Hugaira

Such people represent only 3 percent or less of the total population yet they control over 22 million. Even if there are others in supposedly decision-making positions, history has taught us that eventually what the president and his group want goes.

In such an environment it is only natural that rebels, scattered groups working for their personal gains and secessionists surface and claim their piece of the cake.

I am not trying to enrage the president by this article – although old habits die hard – but I am trying to support his earlier decision to quit and give the chance for someone else to rise outside his shadow before the people's resentment grow worse with the deterioration of his project for the country's reform.

He can stick to the military and security fields that are related to his specialization and let other qualified Yemenis build the other equally important aspects of the country. There are many dedicat-

ed and worthy Yemenis who are able to carry the country on their shoulders even if they do not come from the same political party as him, or the same tribe.

The only hope for Yemen is good governance based on an inclusive vision seeing Yemen as a country for all Yemenis and not just for some.

On the bright side, there had been some changes recently as young faces appeared in the government's reshuffles. Young ministers who have good credentials and who are trying to do something for their country from their relevant positions in the government. They have some achievements that should and could not be ignored. Those people have managed to liberate their domain from the control of the president and his family's wide reach. And so, to end this on a positive note, we need more of those examples, to help save the country from its tired leadership and its poor citizens wrath.

Every decision maker and responsible citizen should move from words to deeds and do something to save this country from an eminent danger.

Rahma Hugaira is co-founder and chairwoman of the Yemeni Female Media Forum, a nongovernmental organization that promotes women's rights and gender equality in the media throughout the Middle East. She is one of Yemen's most respected journalists and a steadfast proponent of women's rights. She could be reached at rahma.hugaira@yahoo.co.uk

COMMON SENSE

There is Something Not Right

"No, there is nothing wrong with us; it is just that there is something that seems not right!" Said the younger Mohammed, who had just joined the conversation after having finished watching his not so favorite television show, "Going with the Wind", a program that is supposed to teach young adults about democratic processes.

The father caught the odd statement right away: "Don't you think you are contradicting yourself there, Son No. 2".

"Well Dad, we live in such a world of paradoxes that to be on the safe side of the fence, I said what I said, while at the same time hoping to make a point." The Younger Mohammed confused the Elder One even more so:

"Come on son! What are you getting at?" He said with a puzzled look on his face

Son No. 2 quickly said: "Look at the nice programming we are getting on TV. It tries to show that we are moving forward in our politics, economy and even health. But the fact is everything is proceeding on reverse gear: For example, our educational needs are hardly recognized by the national budget. In fact the budget seems to be geared to actually keep us backward and to fill up the pockets of all those freaks who have plundered the state treasury mercilessly without regard to the needs of the citizenry and of course without the fear of a reprimand, let alone criminal punishment. Did you know that most of the state institutions have never undergone a genuine real independent audit of any kind?"

"Well, I am glad to see you are learning something from the program you were watching" said the Elder Mohammed to his outspoken son, adding: "But I would be careful of what I say in public, because it could fall on the wrong ears."

"But dad that is exactly what I mean! What is the right ear and what is the wrong ear? I am now confused that I do not even know my left ear from my right ear! The Government media says we have democracy and all that jive, but you come here and tell me to shut my mouth in the street! Well then, what are they telling us?"

The mother came in with her maternal instincts released from "Hold": "They are telling you keep your mouth shut if you want your mom to sleep well at night!"

"Mom, I didn't know you had trouble sleeping at night" the Younger Mohammed felt compassion for his mother.

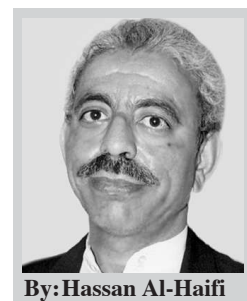
"Son, I am not exactly rested when I have to answer prank calls threatening that my son's tongue is going to be cut off, if he continues to stretch it out of his mouth every time he sees litter in the street", the mother wasted no time in showing the real political environ the country is enjoying to her son.

"Mom, you know litter in the streets is a very minor problem, when compared to the litter that has filled the halls of Government buildings. Besides, those calls you are getting are exactly what keeps me on edge. I would love to get a hold of that prankster and show him what a coward he really is. Imagine making threats to a fine lady like my mom. What have people come to? A decade ago or so, such calls would be considered anathema to all the upbringing we have been subjected to." Here Little Mohammed was showing his views on morals and values.

His mother was continuing her lecture on 1984 in Yemen: "Son, these nincompoops have no values or morals. They are mainly concerned with you getting the point that you have crossed the Maginot Line on free expression here in Yemen: 'Yes, say all you want to say, but keep your mouth out of our vicinity, or else you will have no more mouth! Remember also that we are watching you and listening to you every where'. That is what free speech is all about here in Yemen."

That really got Son Number Two boiling: "One would hope that with the poor rate of success of the Government in quelling stronger expressions of contempt of Government in both the South and the North, the Government would realize that it just can't continue on the wrong track indefinitely. Something has got to give here. The people certainly have a major stake in Government and if these cutthroats don't understand that, then the voices of contempt will get louder and eventually overwhelm the tools of oppression that the regime depends on and you will then never hear anyone threaten you again, my dear sweet Mom!"

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Wheat or qat!

By: Watheq Shadhili

I don't know why we claim that the relevant government authorities should fight qat production, trade and consumption and encourage the cultivation of wheat and other useful agricultural crops while, in the meantime, we don't support any farmers planning to quit qat cultivation and start growing other crops. Also, how farmers can stop growing qat trees and at the same time we are opening new markets for qat trade in different parts of the nation.

Despite some government officials' efforts, symposiums and workshops, and awareness campaigns that targeted farmers over the past two years, which are all aimed at encouraging wheat cultivation and increasing its production, the total area of qat cultivation increased from 126,274 hectares in 2006 up to 141,146 hectares in 2007. The number of qat consumers rose up to 4 million, however, I think that the real number is more than this figure.

Why is this failure and until when will it continue? I think that the primary reasons behind the problem are clear and known to everyone. Any farmer, planning to cease qat cultivation and grow other crops, will face multiple financial difficulties. The situation also applies for non-qat producers or junior farmers who want to begin their agricultural career with growing useful crops other than qat.

Praise is not enough to encourage farmers stop growing qat and move toward other useful crops such as cotton, coffee and wheat because they still need the necessary capitals via easy loans with very low interests. In addition, the concerned government agencies should provide these farmers with agricultural machineries, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, plus agricultural experts' appropriate guidance to brief simple farmers on the best means that help boost useful crops production.

The relevant government agencies are also required to help producers in

marketing and selling their products in the local markets in lieu of leaving them working alone without even the minimum guidance.

In late 2006 and early 2007, many farmers have shown a strong desire to quit qat production and grow other useful crops. Moreover, various local newspapers published news stories and photos for a farmer from Dhamar and another from Ibb, who pulled up qat trees from their lands with the intention to grow other useful crops instead. So, what did we actually do for both farmers? I hope that am holding a key post in the government so that I can order officials in charge of agriculture, irrigation, banks, transportation, storage and marketing to do all what they can in order to facilitate farmers' task and encourage them produce top quality crops.

Had a single farmer or a group of farmers succeeded in replacing qat trees by other useful crops, we would have found out that the number of farmers ceasing qat cultivating and growing other crops instead would continue to increase.

The Hodeida Economic Corporation General Manager revealed during a conversation with Elaf weekly that his corporation had approved YR 300 million for purchasing tomato products from farmers in the governorate with good prices in order to encourage these farmers continue producing the product. This is a positive step, but all the relevant government agencies are advised to take more positive steps that may help foster tomato and other crops production nationwide.

With regard to opening new markets for qat trade, we have learned that the local councils prevented entry of qat into the Socotra Island and one of the Mahra governorate's districts, as well as restricted entry of the product to Hadramout by two days a week. When qat consumers spend 60 percent of their income on purchasing such a narcotic substance, the remaining portion of the income will not suffice to cover all the necessities of the family members.

Qat and the Central Nervous System

The leaves of the qat plant contain alkaloids structurally related to amphetamine and they are currently chewed daily by a high proportion of the adult population in Yemen for the resulting pleasant mild stimulant action. The pleasurable central stimulant properties of qat are commonly believed to improve work capacity, are used on journeys and by students preparing for examinations and to counteract fatigue. In recent years as a result of air transport, the consumption of fresh qat leaves has expanded considerably and qat is readily and legally available in the UK.

The effect that accounts for the popularity of qat is its central nervous system stimulation, believed to be induced by cathinone, an active ingredient of qat leaves. (1) Cathinone has a more rapid and intense action compared with cathine due to its higher lipid solubility which facilitates access into the central nervous system. Several studies showed that the psycho-stimulant effects induced by chewing qat include a moderate degree of euphoria and mild excitement resulting in promotion of social interaction and loquacity. While attaining a subjective state of well being, the chewers feel an increase in alertness and energy together with enhanced depth of perception. These effects were found to be a maximum between 1.5 – 3.5 hours after starting to chew and they were progressively replaced by mild dysphoria, anxiety, reactive depression, insomnia and anorexia (loss of appetite)

Early clinical observations had suggested that qat has amphetamine-like properties, and subsequent chemical analysis confirmed that the fresh leaves contain alkaloids such as cathine and cathinone, the latter being structurally related and pharmacologically similar to amphetamine (1). Qat leaves also contain considerable amounts of tannins (7–14 percent in dried material), vitamins, minerals and flavonoids. Cathinone is currently believed to be the main active ingredient in fresh qat leaves.

Supporters of qat-chewing claim it is useful in diabetic patients since it is said to lower the blood glucose, acts as a remedy for asthma, and eases symptoms of intestinal tract disorders. Opponents claim that qat damages health and affects many aspects of life with adverse social, economic and medical consequences. In Yemen this has become a problem of grave national concern and we have reviewed the evidence for an adverse health impact.

In conclusion, the relevant government officials don't consider voices advocating that qat trade be restricted under the pretext that there is no law to ban entry of the product into the main cities. What is the duty of local councilors, who got elected by people to voice their concerns and address their pressing issues? We need the concerned authorities in the government to enact a law banning qat entry into the main cities, and as a result, production of such a narcotic substance may decrease.

Source: As Seyassia Daily.



By: Samer

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Hate speech divides Moroccan press

In Morocco, articles published by the Arabic-language *Al Massae* daily have led to a strong division of the press. According to Said Essoulami, director of the Casablanca-based Centre for Media Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa, this controversy shows the difficulties of Moroccan media to cover sexual, cultural, political and ideological diversities.



attacked everyone who criticised the hate speech and encouragement of violence disseminated by the media during the Ksar El Kebir events. **Rachid Nini**, director of *Al Massae*, insulted **Ali Amar**, director of the *Journal Hebdomadaire* and **Ahmed Benchensi**, director of *TelQuel*, as well as me because CMF MENA was the first to publish a press release condemning the

hateful behaviour of *Al Massae* and two other Arabic-language dailies, *Assabahia* and *Atajdid*, against the homosexual minority, considering that it is a violation of their private life which puts them in danger. In the days that followed the publication by *Al Massae* and the two other papers, mobs of youths attacked the homes of several people, including

that of the person who had supposedly organized the gay party.

One person even had to take shelter at the police station. The rioters declared that they got their information from *Al Massae*. These events are very serious. Certain papers revert to hate speech and encourage violence in order to sell more. They don't care about the consequences of the materials they publish. They think they're doing a big favour to society by protecting its values from any deviants.

APN: Does the conflict between the newspapers reflect the general tension Moroccan society is experiencing since several years back?

SE: The exchange between *TelQuel* and *Al Massae* is typical because each of them represents a political and ideological standpoint in the country. In broad terms, *Al Massae* defends the traditional values close to the Islamic standpoint and *TelQuel* the modern values close to the liberal left wing.

APN: What has this affair revealed about the ethics and professionalism of the Moroccan press?

SE: It acutely addresses the problem of

how the media cover sexual, cultural, political and ideological diversities in our country. Journalists unconsciously use stereotypes and clichés to describe the life of those living with AIDS, African refugees, prostitutes, beggars and the homeless. Furthermore, they attack artists, writers and other groups whose opinions differ from the dominant ideas. Minorities are perceived as parasites, deviants or dangers to society. This representation manipulates a certain audience which is ready to externalize their frustrations through hatred, racism and violence.

There has been no work done on the duty of journalists to respect the rights and freedoms of individuals, their private life, nor on the manner in which the media must treat subjects in relation to the diversity of our society.

CMF MENA will, in cooperation with a dozen Moroccan publications, launch a campaign on the media and diversity. Something has to be done now before things go any further. Hate media can easily spring up to destabilize the country. The experiences in other countries serve as a warning to us.

Source: Arab Press Network

It all started in November 2007, when the *Al Massae* daily reported on a supposed homosexual marriage ceremony that according to the paper had taken place in the small Ksar el Kebir town in the north of Morocco. Images shot at this private party were first posted on YouTube and then publicised by *Al Massae*. Following that, demonstrators, perhaps as many as 13000, charged through Ksar El Kebir to protest the alleged gay marriage ceremony.

In parallel to these events, a conflict arose between a number of Moroccan newspapers, with some of them condemning the role played by *Al Massae*, and others supporting them. The media attention also led to a court case and jail sentences against the people present at the supposed marriage. The party organiser was charged for

'sexual perversion' and the 'illegal sale of alcohol' on 10 December 2007 and sentenced to ten months in jail. The announcement of the a verdict fanned the flame in the war of interposed editorials waged by the French-language papers *TelQuel* and *Le Journal Hebdomadaire* against *Al Massae*.

The latest in the saga: **Rachid Nini**, director of *Al Massae*, was ordered to appear before the court on 22 February on charges of slander by order of the prosecutor's office in Ksar El Kebir. APN spoke to **Said Essoulami**, Director of the Centre for Media Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa (CMF MENA), based in Casablanca.

APN: What are your comments on the exchange between certain papers set off by the Ksar el Kebir affair?
Said Essoulami: *Al Massae* has

Shariah law can be modern

By: Dr Terry Lacey

The recent controversy in the United Kingdom when the Archbishop of Canterbury raised the possibility that some aspects of shariah law might be implemented in UK Muslim communities raised cultural and economic issues rather than simply religious questions. Shariah law is not always about backwardness, despite its image in the West.

If shariah banking can be modernized, globalized and in management terms westernized in synergy with a liberal financial system, then why not other aspects of shariah law? Interpretation of shariah law is culturally contextualized in time and space, not universally fixed like concrete.

The liberal Islamic Indonesian scholar Zuhairi Misrawi argues that shariah law is a cultural product because it has been historically constructed and is attached to a specific territorial, geographical and socio political culture. [Jakarta Post 14.02.08].

Last year there were a series of seminars on shariah banking in Indonesia organized with the British Chamber of Commerce. Shariah banking can be very modern. It has Export Credits, Bonds, Mortgages, leasing and profit-sharing, and will doubtless devise environmental credits too.

The profit and loss sharing aspect of shariah banking is the most innovative but the poor can normally only access fixed cost Islamic facilities more similar to Western interest. However Islamic

profit & loss sharing instruments in Asia are surprisingly heavily used by non Muslims (in Malaysia).

The big issue in shariah banking policy is the gap between rich and poor. When a modern economically dynamic society like UK absorbs migrants from a culture of rural poverty, with tribal and feudal influences, then economics is driving social change. Shariah banking could make a greater contribution to resolving these problems by extending its more innovative profit sharing concepts to poorer people to reduce marginalization & promote social inclusion.

Maybe the UK should consult more with social workers in Pakistani and Bangladeshi cities who are also coping with urbanization from backward rural areas. The only way out of this will be

economic and social change, in UK, and in countries of origin.

Shariah banking should offer part of the way forward without excluding other groups or religions. In Indonesia the trend is towards Islamic windows in conventional banks, based on consumer choice, not to an institutionally separatist muslim banking system. If non Muslim Chinese business people in Malaysia or Indonesia want to use Islamic banking they are welcome to do so, it is open to everybody.

One way to mobilize Islamic banking to help the poor would be to promote more investment in what we might call social capital markets like water supply and power supply, especially New & Renewable Energy. The profit and loss instruments of Islamic finance are the right shape to finance these long term

investments where poor people cannot afford the services at the start, but can afford to pay as incomes rise.

Some UK Muslim communities are already resolving family disputes voluntarily with sharia law. Of course all parties should also have the right of recourse to the jurisdiction of UK courts. However, such rights have to be taught, learned and upheld. Politicizing the debate on sharia law and confusing it with extreme criminal punishments which are not agreed with or practiced by most Muslims in the world does not help this process.

We should study the voluntary use of shariah law to resolve family disputes in UK, Canada and elsewhere, parallel to recourse to normal courts, to see if this helps resolve conflicts or hinders social changes.

Most of the same people who react strongly about sharia law in the UK would not be so negative if the modernization of their factory or water supply was partly financed by an Islamic Financing Institution. Nor do they object to shariah law when they eat in a halal restaurant, while they are drinking their laager with their curry. If the Muslims who serve the laager can be broad minded, is it too much to ask of other people?

Dr. Terry Lacey is a British Muslim with a background in economic and social development in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean Basin, and the Middle East. For further information on modernization in Indonesia the author can be reached at terrylacey2003@yahoo.co.uk

Reinventing shari'a

By: Asim Siddiqui

The Archbishop of Canterbury is an immensely intelligent and thoughtful figure. His comments on 7 February were his contribution to the difficult issues surrounding community cohesion and how to quell the feeling of alienation among some quarters of British Muslim communities so they feel more a part of this country.

While the tabloids have gone haywire, it is important that we don't get carried away here. The difficulty with the term shari'a (Islamic principles of jurisprudence) is that it is such a broad notion

which encapsulates both personal and public matters. It is also open to such varied interpretations. I would argue that the basic objectives of shari'a – protection of life, family, dignity, intellect and property – are all covered by British law. The fundamental purpose of shari'a is to achieve justice. This country is more just than most. So what more shari'a do people want?

The aspects of shari'a being considered by the Archbishop are restricted to matters of family and finance law, i.e., civil matters. No one is suggesting introducing the so-called Islamic penal code – so let's not waste time debating something most of us don't want to see in the

Muslim world, let alone Britain.

As for family and finance law: let's deal with the latter first, the United Kingdom is already amending its finance laws to allow shari'a-compliant products such as halal (permissible according to Islamic principles) mortgages and Islamic bonds. Why? In part to attract the billions of petro-dollars floating in the cash-rich Gulf. That's a law driven by the commercial global realities to keep London as a premier financial capital; it's hardly the makings of Londonistan.

As for family law, there can be no consideration for it to be incorporated into UK law unless there has been extensive consultation with human rights groups,

women's groups, civil liberties groups and other stakeholders over what exactly it is they feel needs to be incorporated. There is currently zero consensus on this issue, therefore its incorporation into statute is academic. There is also the important principle that we are all equal before one law. It is perfectly fine for consenting Muslim adults to resolve their disputes according to Islamic law within the framework of UK civil law and provided that either party has recourse to it (as is currently the case). Wherever English law and "Islamic law" differ, "Islamic law" must give way.

The Archbishop is right to suggest ways to integrate alienated Muslims into

the mainstream. Part of that is to educate more religiously and/or culturally assertive Muslims on what shari'a actually should mean in a modern context. This is the work for Muslim scholars to reinterpret practices considered by some to be "Islamic"; such as a woman witness' testimony being worth half that of a man's, men having up to four wives, custody of children transferring to the father, inheritance, etc. In each case, there are multiple interpretations.

It is for progressive Muslim scholars to ensure the more liberal and tolerant interpretations that are rooted in the Islamic tradition and part of Britain's libertarian heritage become dominant over time.

That would do far more to aid Muslim integration than introducing a work in progress into statute.

Asim Siddiqui is chairman and a founding trustee of the City Circle, a network of young British Muslim professionals, and member of the Iraq Commission and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org. Source: The Guardian, 8 February 2008, www.guardian.co.uk Copyright permission is granted for publication.

Controversy can lead to change

By: Marie Korpe

Copenhagen - About ten years ago, a Swedish photographer held an exhibition entitled "Ecce Homo", a collection of provocative photos portraying Jesus as a homosexual. The reaction from some conservative church clerics was swift and strong: "This is barbarian, not biblical" read one of the newspaper headlines, and a heated discussion followed.

The photographer said the series was inspired by the deaths of many of her homosexual friends by AIDS, and by church publications that claimed the disease was God's punishment. The collection of "offensive" art was not created to hurt others, but rather to provoke dialogue and enlighten the public about AIDS and homosexuality, the artist said.

Homosexuals in Sweden were eventually allowed to have civil marriages and request their partnership be blessed in a church, while AIDS patients can now speak openly about their disease.

Similarly, the Danish cartoons portraying the Prophet Muhammad were indeed a provocation, and in turn, the media focused primarily on the responses from ultra-conservative Muslims, many of them self-taught Muslim clerics. The debate between those on both sides seeking to sensationalise the issue was not constructive.

A more productive approach would have been to explore the context under which this event occurred, especially in light of recent events like the arrest of those allegedly plotting to kill the Danish cartoonist, Kurt Westergaard. And the next step would have been to address the frustration of marginalised Muslims who feel unable to voice their anger and disappointment through the proper channels, such as the media or government.

Before the 1980s, Danish society did not make distinctions among immigrant groups. More recently, however, nationality and religious belief have been increasingly used to identify newcomers, perhaps as these individuals have

begun to assert their identity in their new homeland to a greater extent than in the past. In the years leading up to the cartoon controversy, major immigrant communities from Pakistan and the Middle East were collectively referred to as "Muslims"; their country of origin was of no interest, and they were thus differentiated from other new Danes.

After 9/11 and following President Bush's efforts against Al Qaeda, the Danish government became one of the most dedicated allies supporting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Soon thereafter, Muslims felt besieged in major Danish newspapers and by the ruling government, which introduced harsher immigration laws. This was not directly a result of the global crackdown on terrorism, but rather the culmination of many years of discussion on immigration, which coincided with 9/11 and further marginalised the Muslim minority in Denmark. The cartoon controversy could have been the impetus for state-wide dialogue on these important issues but instead became a missed

opportunity.

The cartoons were perceived to be a brutal intellectual and emotional attack on the hearts of already marginalised Danish Muslims. Ultra-conservative Muslims around the world used this incident to promote their own agendas.

The violent reactions that followed in some Muslim countries may have been appeased had the Danish prime minister chosen the path of dialogue, instead of refusing to meet with the delegation of ambassadors from various Middle Eastern countries. Perhaps engaging in discussion at that time could have prevented the controversy from spreading, reduced the violence that ensued, and resulted in a constructive intercultural conversation.

A few years before the provocative cartoons were published, a Danish company began selling summer sandals with a depiction of the Virgin Mary. This led to strong protests in Denmark and the shoes were soon taken off the market. This time society censored itself to avoid offence and further

protests.

It took several initiatives by domestic and international groups to calm the post-cartoon atmosphere, allowing for some positive gains. The publications of the cartoons ultimately led to animated and vivid debates in Denmark, and a growing interest in Islam among the Danish population. The eyes of the Danish people were opened to the issues surrounding Muslims and the immigrant population. Furthermore, mainstream Muslims within the Danish community were convinced of their need to enter politics, not only to speak for Muslims, but also to educate others about Muslims in their new homeland.

When access is blocked to media or political channels through which people can vent their frustrations, disenfranchised individuals sometimes make their opinions known through violent or destructive means. Rather than highlighting the sensational incidents, media could focus instead on filling this gap, providing a rational forum for discussion on controversial events or art.

The right to freely express oneself does not always have to mean making use of that right. Dialogue alone can lead to some interesting and challenging discussions between censors and their targets, inspiring deeper thought and possibly greater understanding. However, occasionally we also need the avant-garde – those who provoke us and force us to reflect and think through their art, their writing and/or their music – to spark constructive debate in healthy forums, at a time when change and growth are desperately needed for intercultural understanding.

Marie Korpe is the executive director of Freemuse (Freedom of Musical Expression, www.freemuse.org). This article is part of a series on freedom of expression written for the Common Ground News Service. Source: Common Ground News Service, 19 February 2008, www.common-groundnews.org Copyright permission is granted for publication.

Constrains to Business growth within the Business environment

By: AbdulKarim Hassan

Yemen is one of the world's least developed countries suffering from profound obstacles that hinder the economy's growth, these obstacles include widespread corruption, an inefficient government, an impoverished population, and a legal framework that fails to protect investors rights. The Realities of Yemen's business environment are grim, especially since any reform initiatives die at their infancy. The Yemeni businesses did not have a chance to thrive without having to indulge in corruption, bare with the government inefficiency, cater to a small market, and suffer from significant risks due to the non-enforcement of law. In this report, we summarize the Yemeni business environment as experienced by the privet sector in Yemen.

Widespread corruption

Although Yemen is a haven of eco-

nomic opportunities, considering that many subsectors of the economy that may prove lucrative for business, the assets in terms of natural resources such as marine wealth, tourism development opportunities, and, most notably, the human resources, Yemen suffers from widespread corruption that makes it next to impossible to play a role in the economy without having to be a part of corruption. From licensing, to sales, and from taxation to service delivery. A considerable percentage of business activity takes place through facilitators; employees in privet organizations who receive perks to guarantee bilateral business between two businesses. The culture of corruption has resulted in a black economy phenomenon, where most of the income is the direct result of corruption as the largest percentage of income is an accounted for.

In privet sector dealings with the government, it is evident that the privet sector has played a major role in spreading corruption, through corrupting government officials, introducing



bribes, commissions, and gifts to officials in order to facilitate the business transaction.

A new entrant to the business environment will be faced by a pre-existing

network of facilitators working within the privet sector and in relevant government agencies, who play a major role in diverting business towards pre-selected organizations, therefore making it hard to compete.

Government inefficiency

The government of Yemen provides integral support to the economy and the business sector on more than one level, through issuing the license to operate, as well as regulating business transactions such as retailing, import and export, customs, exemptions, and more importantly the role the government plays as a buyer in the domestic market. Dealings involving the government are always troublesome to business, examples include the days it takes to establish a business, the hustle in importing goods, among other issues.

The government's inefficiency in catering to business needs are most evident in public services, most notably the existence of an efficient road transport network, communication channels, internet services, and more importantly power. The government's lagging in delivering these basic services have an impact on the growth and development of the privet sector.

Poverty

The existence of a large population might be meaningless to business growth if discretionary income of this population is very small and shrinking – as in the case of Yemen, the widespread poverty throughout rural and urban Yemen forces consumers to

change their consumption patterns and become more price sensitive, and satisfy only their basic needs, which means that their shopping lists become smaller and less economy activity is expected on their part. Decreased consumption makes business environment less attractive to business.

Furthermore, the growing gap in incomes as experienced in Yemen might create a niche market for several businesses, which indicates that growth for several companies might by far exceed that of others, which over the medium and long term will evidently result in the close down of many companies due to their non-competitiveness and inability to maintain their staff as opposed to other companies.

Enforcement of law

Lastly, the importance of rule of law and enforcement of policies, rules, and regulations might help in leveling the playing field for business, but more importantly, it will help secure the investments of any business in the event of any dispute with other businesses and possibly the government. Additionally, one of the relevant constrains is that the commercial laws are not well drafted, understood, or implemented by the legal system, which results in a troublesome issue for the privet sector.

In conclusion, the business environment in Yemen suffers from several constrains that limit the growth of the privet sector, in this article we brushed on a few subjects, while there are many more issues being faced by businesses every day, however, those four issues top the list of these constrains.

Yemen's Ranking in doing business 2008

Rank	Doing Business 2008
Ease of Doing Business	113
Starting a business	175
Dealing with Licenses	35
Employing Workers	63
Registering Property	44
Getting Credit	158
Protecting investors	122
Paying Taxes	84
Trading Across Borders	128
Enforcing Contracts	41
Closing a Business	83

Source: International Finance Corporation

Why is China Booming?

By: John Delury

Providence, R.I. – China is now celebrating the 30th anniversary of the period officially known as “reform and opening.” Labeling time in this way echoes China's imperial history. During moments of political transition – a military victory, for example – the emperor might designate a special “era name” to help celebrate the good news. Or the court might test out a new era name after a political debacle, in an effort to wipe the slate clean. The last emperor of the Tang Dynasty proclaimed seven era names in fourteen years, as he sought in vain to “re-brand” his reign and avoid his regime's demise.

Deng Xiaoping began to champion “reform and opening” in 1978. “Reform” suggested a loosening of central controls on economic life, undertaken in a spirit of pragmatism and gradualism, as an antidote to Mao Zedong's ideology of “revolution.” Similarly, “opening” heralded the PRC's integration into the world community – especially the capitalist West. Deng's principles still guide policy today.

One must go back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) and its 60-year era of “heavenly flourishing” (Qianlong) in the eighteenth century to find a comparable period of coherent political and economic policy. The era of “reform and opening” has outlived its “emperor” by more than a decade, and has been the common thread running through transfers of political authority from Deng to Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao. Even the largest popular challenge the Chinese Communist Party ever faced, the demonstrations of 1989, now looks like a blip that helped Deng consolidate support for his model of development.

If one factor undergirds China's commitment to “reform and opening,” it is the extraordinary macroeconomic changes of the past 30 years. In China, people call it fazhan, or “development,” but in much of rest of the world, it is more commonly described simply as the “China Boom,” or the “China Miracle.”

The boom began in the countryside in the late 1970's and 1980's, and was followed by today's urban, industrialized growth. Indeed, there have been many smaller “booms” – in consumption, foreign direct investment, domestic stock markets, trade, travel, over-

seas study, military modernization, and international diplomacy. There is also a boom in pollution and toxic waste, and booming interest in religion – from Buddhism to Pentecostal Christianity – and in Confucian philosophy. Little in China today speaks of moderation.

A leading fashion industry executive argues that a key engine driving the economic boom has been the influx of women into the workforce, particularly in the manufacturing zones of the south. Another compelling explanation comes from a venture capitalist who credits Chinese society with copious reserves of entrepreneurial energy that derives, he believes, from the fact that Chinese culture attaches very little shame to failing in a business enterprise. High tolerance for failure keeps everybody striving to succeed.

Whatever the cause, the boom seems an unlikely capstone to a century of war, ferment, and revolution, and only adds to the sense of discontinuity that characterizes modern China. Certainly, few observers looking in 1978 at the smoldering embers of the Cultural Revolution, or at the seeming ruination of the post-1989 years, thought China would emerge as the lightning rod of the world's developmental hopes.

Paradoxically, the apparently dis-

continuous and contradictory nature of the “era of reform and opening” may actually help explain how China's boom came about. The tumult of the Maoist period instilled in a broad cross-section of people a profound appreciation for stability, and a yearning to be left alone. Deng capitalized on this revolution-weariness by diminishing the role of politics and the state in people's private lives and freeing them to release their pent-up energy to pursue their own goals.

Revolutionary communism may well have cleared the path for the boom in other ways as well, suggesting that the shift from socialist utopianism to capitalist pragmatism was less a U-turn than a sequential process of “creative destruction.” After all, Mao's Cultural Revolution against “feudal society” did raze much of the cultural landscape, denuding it not only of traditional values and institutions, but also of failed socialist efforts, leaving China ready for the seeds of capitalist development.

Mao's revolution fueled countless rectification movements and campaigns that inverted the once-inviolable primacy of ruler over ruled, scholar over worker, husband over wife, father over son, and family over individual. By the time of the reforms of the

1980's and 1990's, bonds tying individuals to culture, the state, the work unit, and household-registration systems, for example, had largely unraveled. The path had been cleared for a vast new population of atomized entrepreneurs and laborers, freed from fealty to family and Party, to storm the marketplace with newly liberated individual energy.

Of course, the boom's costs should not be discounted. Environmental damage has been staggering, the gap between rich and poor has been growing, and urbanization – with all its attendant problems – has surged. And, at least so far, the boom has not induced the systemic political changes for which many hoped.

But still, a key question remains unanswered: why did China's boom happen? This is one of the great questions of our time, relevant not only to China's future, but to scores of other developing countries enthralled by China's extraordinary, but still largely unexplained, success.

John Delury teaches Chinese history at Brown University and is the Director of the China Boom Project at the Asia Society. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.

Business in Brief

Central Banks calls on commercial banks to merge

The governor of the central bank of Yemen called on commercial banks which are unable to raise its capital inline with the demands of the central bank to merge with each other, in order to be able to survive Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Customs authority to prosecute businesses

Director of the customs authority Dr. Ali Al-Zubaidi stated that the customs authority has formulated a blacklist for several businesses which avoid paying customs on their imports and importing commercial goods while taking advantage of exemptions provided for personal imports. He also stated that the authority will restructure its activities in order to ensure maximum returns from customs.

Parliament to approve anti-money laundering law

The parliament is currently holding discussing on a draft law to combat money laundering in the country, in compliance with international treaties which Yemen signed in this regards. The draft law has been developed in cooperation with several donors, mainly the United Nations office to combat drugs and crime.

Parliament allows non-Yemenis to work in trade

The parliament has approved a legislation to allow non-Yemenis to work in domestic and international trade with no restrictions. This applies to persons as well as to international organizations such as Tesco and Walmart.

National Bank of Yemen announces profits for FY 2007

The National Bank of Yemen has announced that its profits in FY 2007 has reached 2.34 billion Riyals, exceeding the FY 2006 profits by 637 million Riyals. While consumer deposits at the bank increased to 80.9 billion Riyals from 71.6 billion Riyals in the previous year.

Yemeni Business Women demand positive discrimination

In a conference scheduled to March 6th, the Yemeni Businesswomen Association plans to partner with the government of Yemen represented by the ministry of trade in order to enhance partnership and cooperation towards the empowerment of businesswomen in Yemen through positive discrimination.

Shabwa local council demands prosecution of smugglers

The Shabwa executive local council has collectively called for immediate and public prosecution of a number of diesel smugglers, who were using the governorate's shores to smuggle subsidies diesel out of the country, the local council also applauded the role of the governorate's security forces who captured the smugglers and the diesel which was about to be smuggled.

Islah charity launches 'feed the hungry' campaign

Islah charity in Sana'a has started a new campaign to provide food aid to impoverished families which had suffered the crunch of inflation and are living in extreme poverty within the nation's capital. The charity has received sizeable donations from prominent businessmen as well as support from religious clerks and opinion leaders from several communities, and also hired volunteers to help in administering the program.

Oil-rich Gulf pushes U.S. to consider alternative energy

By Sherin Deghedy,
The Media Line Ltd

The capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi, is investing heavily in alternative sources of energy. The oil rich emirate, the fourth largest OPEC producer, with 10 percent of the world's known oil reserves, is keen to become a global center for the development and implementation of clean energy technology. The Masdar Initiative - a carbon-neutral city - backed by hundreds of millions of dollars of Abu Dhabi's money is considered an ambitious goal. However, this historic step does not indicate that the rich emirate wishes to reduce its future investments in oil and gas. The oil and gas sectors still retain dazzling appeal to United States oil companies.

Big U.S. energy firms have a strong presence in UAE's oil and gas sector, with a market share of 51%, according to published data. The giant multinational Halliburton unveiled plans last March, to move its base to Dubai, one of the UAE's seven emirates. Halliburton, which was headed by U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney until 2000, said this move will take advantage of the Gulf region's vast oil and gas markets. The New York Times quotes Energy Intelligence Group analyst Susan Shook saying, "they are moving to the center of the Eurasian-African hemisphere and that's where the bulk of the work is going to be in the future."

According to the National U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce publication, last June the U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Michele Sison, said, "with almost \$12 billion in U.S. goods exported to the UAE in 2006, opportunities for American industry are virtually unlimited. Among the many



The first project as a result of the Masdar Initiative is a new 6 million square meter sustainable development that uses the traditional planning principals of a walled city, together with existing technologies to achieve a zero carbon and zero waste community.

sectors showing excellent promise are aircraft and parts, the oil and gas sectors, construction materials, safety and security equipment, medical equipment and project management and architectural and engineering services."

The country's current total oil production is around 2.8 million barrels per day, but in April 2007, the UAE's Minister of Energy, Muhammad Bin Zain Al-Hamili, announced plans to increase production to 3.5 million barrels per day by 2009. Al-Hamili was also president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 2007.

One of the more important energy investments planned for the UAE in the next few years will be by ExxonMobil, which along with ADNOC and the Japan Oil Development Company, plans to increase production from Abu

Dhabi's huge Upper Zakum oil field from 520,000 barrels a day to around 750,000 barrels. ExxonMobil is also establishing a Technology Center in Abu Dhabi to support and train personnel in the most advanced production technologies. Abu Dhabi Oil and Gas City, a \$1 billion tax-free zone for the energy industry, will house offshore firms in such fields as engineering, project management, consulting and finance. Occidental Petroleum is also working on the Dolphin Project, a multi-billion dollar initiative to bring natural gas from Qatar to the UAE and Oman.

Given the UAE's critical need for energy and power, the energy sector is a key area for investment. A vital component of this strategic relationship is maintaining an unhindered flow of oil and gas.

In his meeting with David Hamoud, chairman of the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, 'Salah Salim A-Shamsi, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry encouraged American companies to increase their investments in Abu Dhabi. A-Shamsi stressed the importance of allowing American companies an opportunity to enter the fields of engineering consultancy, oil services, and other fields and assured Hamoud that the UAE authorities would facilitate and pave the way in this regard.

Clean energy

Abu Dhabi, bloated with oil money, is eager to explore the clean energy sector, which will definitely represent new

opportunities for U.S. clean-tech companies. The Masdar initiative has attracted both attention and skepticism due to the relatively simple fact that Abu Dhabi's Masdar initiative to research and develop renewable energy sources seems odd coming from one of world's leading oil exporters. Despite the criticism, Masdar is still pursuing its goals and showing how serious it is. Thus, Masdar is partnering the most prominent U.S. companies, educational institutions, and investment firms. The Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (ADFEC), a government owned organization mandated to execute the Masdar Initiative, is open to new partnerships from all over the world.

Dr. Sultan Al-Jabir, CEO of Masdar, explained, "The world needs a portfolio of solutions, it can no longer be hydrocarbons or renewables. It is a combination of both." Since its commencement, Masdar gained momentum and support by participating in the Clinton Global Initiative on Energy and Climate Change (CGI) last year in New York.

In February 2007, the ADFEC signed a cooperative agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) whereby MIT faculty would help expand the curriculum and organization of the Masdar Institute. Sultan Ahmad Al-Jabir, CEO of Masdar, hailed the agreement with one of the world's most prominent universities. He said "The Masdar Institute will serve as the nucleus of the Masdar Initiative, feeding it with talent and innovative technologies to enhance economic development and promote new industries using renewable energy and resources in the emirate and the region."

President George W. Bush visited a proposed model of Abu Dhabi's Masdar City at the Emirates Palace Hotel in January this year. He said, "We just heard a briefing about how they're going to construct a city based entirely upon renewable energy. It will be an opportunity to see what works and what won't work, and an opportunity to share their technology with others."

In Jan 21 this year, the ADFEC hosted the first World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, attracting around 200 of the world's foremost innovators and experts clean energy, and an exhibition of alternative energy technologies. During the summit, His Highness, General Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayyid Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, announced the most ambitious sustainability program ever launched by a government, to be funded by an initial

investment of \$15b. for projects targeting solar, wind and hydrogen power; carbon reduction and management, and sustainable development.

It is worth noting that American companies and universities are involved in the building and operation of Masdar. U.S. company CH2M HILL was appointed program manager for the first phase of the development and will be responsible for technology integration. Also, the American Louis Berger Group of consulting engineers will manage the Masdar city design process. So far, four architects firms have been shortlisted for the contract for designing the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) headquarters in its planned carbon-neutral city. Shortlisted are Foster & Partner, Murphy & Young and Atkins, all of the UK, and the US firm, Smith & Gill. Khalid 'Awad, director of the property development unit at Masdar said, "We will announce the winner soon." Groundbreaking on the world's first zero carbon emission city took place on 9 February. On the

UAE-U.S. Security Ties

Security issues play an important part in the U.S.-UAE bilateral relationship, and given regional tensions, will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. For more than a decade, the Defense Cooperation Agreement of 1994 between the U.S. and the UAE has provided a solid basis for military cooperation and coordination. Under this agreement, the UAE has participated in joint military training exercises with U.S. forces and offered U.S. forces access to UAE ports and territory. Lockheed Martin Corporation, for example, has worked closely with the UAE government on providing solutions to its defense needs, such as the F-16 fighter plane. Raytheon has had a presence in the UAE for decades and has been a key provider of UAE air defense systems since 1980.

other hand, some analysts say that this city seeks to create a new global community only for the elite as it is not a social project.

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Please send your CV and a cover letter in English to the CSM Project Director, mcsmdirector@y.net.ye MSIY, 14 October Street, behind Beit Al Bashiri, Sana'a 01 428738



Musical dialogue: Exegesis in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

As a part of their tour in the Middle East, the Exegesis Jazz Quartet performed in Yemen in live concerts in both Sana'a and Aden. In addition to the concerts the group had a special session with the Yemeni Music House where they met with Yemeni musicians and played with them in a beautiful musical dialogue that exposed both groups to the other's style and performance.

"Music is a universal language that knows no boundaries and has no limits and we are happy to meet with our colleagues and exchange experiences with them," said Fuad Al-Shargabi general manager of the Yemeni Music House.

The visiting musicians also met with Yemeni music male and female students and were impressed by their performance and enthusiasm. Al-Shargabi presented the group with Traditional Yemeni CDs as a souvenir from Yemen.

Exegesis performed some joint songs with the Yemeni Music House and



Exegesis at the Yemeni Music House with Yemeni music met with American Jazz.

Yemeni musicians at the concert last Monday at the Yemeni Cultural Center in Sana'a.

The event, which was attended by a huge crowd, included a session whereby Yemeni music was played using Jazz instruments in addition to performing Yemeni music using traditional tools by Yemeni musicians.

Exegesis bases its music in the belief that symbols, scientific thought, astronomical ideas, numerical ratios and

conceptual art and architecture can be expressed in sound. The group seeks to bridge the gap between modern music technology and improvisation, using live samplers and interactive music software to create the sonic illusion that there are more than four musicians performing. In 2002, Exegesis released their debut album, The Order of Chaos.

"This is going to be very exciting as it will be a chance for us to interact with and learn about the music of this

incredibly fertile and creative region of the world. It will also be an amazing opportunity to visit a region rarely frequented by American musicians," commented the group on their tour in Bahrain, Yemen, Oman, UAE and Kuwait.

The tours come under a special program of the U.S. Department of State: The Rhythm Road - American Music Abroad, produced in partnership with New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.



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Is the goal financial or educational?

The education system is the basic pillar and backbone for any successful and prosperous nation. Producing fruitful generations able to keep pace with reality and technology involves real education. If we all want to drive the wheels of the future forward, this is done only through the education system and a deep understanding of its handling.

However, the Yemeni education system has taken a considerable turn, with the main goal being financial rather than educational, as the top guardians of handling the learning process in schools are like money vampires seeking any sources of promotion.

In fact, what causes me to write this should take students by surprise and frighten them regarding the future of the learning process.

Several months ago, I requested a teaching position at several government schools whose only common feature was negative and illiterate headmasters.

It's regretful that schools in our society are considered educated and academic just based on their outer building while turning a blind eye toward management staff and quality on the inside.

With my due respect to those female headmasters who run schools, hundreds of teachers and thousands of pupils have no will or passion to yield ideal and well-educated outputs able to keep pace with reality and technology. Holding such posts doesn't depend on their qualifications or experience to provide the methodology of the learning process.



By: Shafeek Al-Homaid
Shafeek990@yahoo.com

So, what does true leadership involve? For them, leadership means making a profit, regardless of how much information students gain.

What I've witnessed in some schools is unforgettable, as they've become like real estate, with most classes being converted into cafeterias for rent under the pretext of providing students their main supplies.

The job of a school principal is really like a bus driver collecting as many commuters as possible and scraping together money and benefits in return.

Whenever I attend class, I notice that students are upset that they are daily asked to pay for trips, activities, printing and other school requirements. All of these collections go directly into the headmasters' purses.

If one puts forward amendments to serve the better, objections will be raised, as happened when I once told my headmaster that it's worth identifying students' shortcomings and determining their inclinations and desires in order to push them and enhance the learning process.

However, once applied, all of the ideas and proposals were quite disapproved and underrated in those places where most needed.

Some moments frustrate me and taboo questions come to mind, such as have these headmasters ever asked themselves why they're working? For the money, of course, but do they really have the satisfaction of an effort well done?

Most in these positions are absolutely unwilling to put their noses to the grindstone to properly serve their country and

its future generations.

Why do these few 'cream of the crop' - who are full-minded and pedagogical - move far from the positions they were deemed to deserve? The slogans that say, "The right person in the right position," sound like mere posters erected in our society.

Unfortunately, the bill for education generally has increased and gotten more expensive for both the private and the governmental sector.

I really keep wondering how the Ministry of Education continually spends millions of dollars on educational requirements to produce proficient and skillful outputs while all of these expenditures come to nothing.

As a result of deteriorating and decaying education in Yemeni schools and universities, many students drop out to do any type of work, believing that the future of education yields only pessimism and doesn't ensure a good future.

Many parents choose to send their children to school simply for the discipline and quality, not based on their business atmosphere or cost.

I don't believe any change will occur unless these headmasters in particular and everyone in general feels the huge responsibility and the honesty to realize it. We should do the jobs given to us, regardless of how much we're paid or what type of work it is.

Everyone realizes that education is in trouble in most of our society because schools are unable to produce graduates able to compete equally everywhere.

It's become nonsense for our education system to yield dependable outputs such as governors, judges, diplomats, etc., until we're all so busy doing it that we won't have time to wonder why.

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
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Do you believe a \$50,000 dowry?

The title looks like an advertisement or a title for a fairy tale. However, it refers to a real story in the country of poverty, Yemen, as some international organizations categorize it.

The story happened in the one of the poor cities of Yemen. It is not the only case. But perhaps there are many similar cases with similar amounts of foreign currency.

The issue of costly dowries has been a hot topic in many social and religious discussions. It aimed to draw the fathers' awareness to the economic situation of Yemen and the destructive results that may occur because of spinsterhood. Many actual moral, social, economical and above all religious problems appeared as a result of this phenomenon.

Society witnesses some cases like an unmarried lady above thirty engaging in illegal relations. Others start looking for money from any source and by any means. Some others accept to marry old men and this leads to many social problems. And so on.

On the other hand, bachelorhood has also spread, especially in cities. Men are starting to ignore marriage, forgetting or trying to forget that it is half of their religion, as our prophet Mohammed says. The majority of such men say bad financial circumstances

keep them from getting married. They cannot pay for the needs of marriage, especially when the bride is from the cities.

Now we have a case in which one gets married with a dowry of \$50,000. This is the girl's father's first demand. Actually, the amount was higher, but after mediations and bargaining it was lowered to help the bridegroom, who is still at the beginning of his practical life, as the girl's father commented.

Hearing this actually makes every one of us ask, "What will be the dowry if the man is at the middle or at the end of his practical life?" The father always claims that he has helped the bridegroom a lot.

This is the initial demand the fathers of the two families agreed upon. What are the other demands? And to what extent will the girl's father help the bridegroom? The bridegroom really asked this question. His reply was, "Beating a dead person is useless," meaning that since he has paid this amount, why care about any other demands?

One may think about the reasons that made the father ask for such a large sum of money. Again this question is asked and the bridegroom replies. "No qualifications, no additional features she has," he said. She is not a superwoman. The only thing the bridegroom can say is that "she has

American citizenship."

Now it becomes clear why the father asked for this big amount and why the bridegroom accepts it. It is a deal to have a visa rather than to marry a partner in life. It is only a visa contract rather than a marriage contract. Where are the human concepts of love, partnership and social relations?

A marriage like this does not take love or the girl's opinion into consideration. It is not important if the man is good or not. What is most important is money.

The man marries mainly to travel to the U.S.A. I just wonder how his feelings will be toward his future wife. And how will the relations between the husband and wife be after traveling to the U.S.A?

Similar cases may take place. But, my point here to both the man's and girl's families is that money is not everything. Money can be a matter, but it comes after the other basic requirements like love and morals of the girl and the man as well. A visa is something good. But the matter must be thought about in the mind's eye for the right decision.

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

How do Yemeni youth value Bluetooth?

By: Abeir Al-Shami

Technology is double-edged. That is to say, there are many technical inventions and devices which have both good and bad uses. These devices include satellites, the internet, cell phones, Bluetooth and others.

Bluetooth technology has become common internationally since its appearance in 1998. It has actually become one of the essential needs in our modern life. People are interested in using it for many purposes. Recently, there has been a small external device used as Bluetooth for computers that do not have this device in its basic program. But, when they start use it as a means of bad communication, its real value is destroyed.

Bluetooth can be used for many good purposes. But, some people misuse it in different ways. A survey about this topic has been conducted to get the following viewpoints:

Alkholidy, Maged, 27, a university teacher:

"Bluetooth is really useful. Though it can be used for bad things, this does not mean that it is useless. When I bought my last mobile, I insisted that it have Bluetooth. Some of my friends misunderstood me, thinking that I was going to use it for bad things. But when I bought it, they kept checking my mobile folders from time to time. The kind of folders in the memory of my mobile has proved to them that I use it mostly for good. I use it for transferring data from one computer or mobile to another. I really feel disgusted when I see some people using it only as a means of exchanging useless files. Such people actually destroy the value of technology as they destroy the value of themselves."

Ahlam, student level 2, English Dept:

"Bluetooth can be good. But it is used

badly. It must be stopped and banned in our society. Since there are many alternatives for its good uses, we no longer need to use Bluetooth. We can use flash disks (USB) to transfer data and profiles. Bluetooth actually forces its users to indulge in bad things. If I keep my Bluetooth on, for example, I suddenly receive a profile of a blue movie from an unknown source. It is better to avoid this. We will have other alternatives for the good uses that Bluetooth offers."

Lamia, student level 3, Engineering Dept:

"Actually, Bluetooth is a device that can be good or bad. It depends mostly on the user himself. Some users use it for exchanging profiles of bad and immoral content. But others use it for exchanging programs and data useful for study or anything else."

Fahd, 30:

"Bluetooth is useful. I sometimes use it for good things, and sometimes for bad things. If I want to have bad things, I will get them even without Bluetooth. I can get them in different ways. So, it is not the Bluetooth which is bad, but me who runs after such things. This is only to insist that Bluetooth is a useful device that can be used for different purposes, just like the internet."

Ibrahim Shara'aby, 27, a computer engineer:

"Though Bluetooth has many good and bad uses, it is also used by hackers to access the security of mobiles or computers. Sending data is done through a wave of 2.4 Megahertz frequency.

One digital company has conducted research in which it concluded that there is a technical defect in the Bluetooth device because it can be used to steal personal data or files from machines which have Bluetooth. Some mobiles have a security system which helps the users to control

others accessing their mobiles. For example, if one wants to send a file, the mobile system asks the sender to add a password which also must be added by the receiver when he receives that file. It also enables the receivers to refuse and reject any sent files to their mobiles if he/she does not like them."

These are the opinions of different people. Most of them agree that Bluetooth is a double-edged weapon. It is just like the internet, satellite and other technological inventions. It can be used for good and bad at the same time. It eventually depends on the user himself/herself.

Ibrahim Abdulah Ibrahim, 36, a civil engineer:

"Bluetooth offers people many good facilities. It makes it easy to transfer data from one mobile to another or from a computer to a mobile or vice versa. It does so free of charge. Some people, however, misuse Bluetooth. It can be used for sending bad messages of different types. It can be used for sending videos, songs, flashes, and so on. If these videos, songs, and flashes are good, there would be no problem. But, when the content is bad, that is a bad use. "Another bad effect of Bluetooth," Ibrahim adds, "is that it can be used to send viruses which may damage the mobile's systems. So it is better to keep the service of Bluetooth "off" and switch it one only when it is needed."

Aumaimah Esa, 26, Marketing:

"Bluetooth has positive and negative aspects. Regarding its positive aspect, it makes communication among people easier and greatly helps people to transfer data from one cell phone to another. It does not need any credit. But it has negative uses like quickly sending viruses from one mobile to another. It is also a fast means to exchange messages and profiles of bad content like movies, songs, flashes and others."

Game over

By: Ghaleb Hassan Al-Ahlasi
ghalebahlasi@yahoo.com
ghalebahlasi@hotmail.com

"GAME OVER" the screen read.

"That's not fair!" Khalid shouted, "I haven't even started yet."

"Well, it's not my fault," his older brother Abed replied.

"Please, brother," Khalid said entreatingly, "You're very good at this game. Once you start it, you never finish."

"What?" Abed said calmly, "You want me to lose so that you can play?"

"No, I just want you to let me play another game."

"Are you joking?"

"No, I'm not. Please, brother."

"Shut up and give me that control."

"Come on, brother, I'm begging you."

"Don't even try it."

"Please..."

"I told you to give me that damned control!" Abed shouted.

"Just one game. It's only one."

"I said no!" they both started shouting, tightening their grip on the control.

"Mama! Mama!" Abed shouted.

"What's up?" their 40-year-old mother said coming from the kitchen with a knife.

"Khalid wants to play another game."

"Well then, let him play it."

"But he's already played one."

"Is that true, Khalid?"

"Yes, Mama, but Abed is very good at this game and he'll take up the whole day playing it!"

"Well, it's not my fault if you're a bad loser."

"Mama, please tell him just one game!"

"The stars in the sky are much nearer for you," Abed said ominously.

"Abed, let him play."

"No!"

"Abed, I said let him play or I'll turn it off!"

"And I said no! I'm the one who asked father to buy it. I'm the one who did everything. It's all mine!"

"But father said it's for both of us!"

"And I'm saying it's all mine!"

"Ok," their mother interrupted, "as you wish," she said, turning off the power and taking the game. "Neither of you is going to play it!"

The two brothers remained silent, watching their mother take the game, angrily threatening, "I'll tell your father to throw this thing out of the house! I don't want to hear any word from you!"

After five minutes of sitting sadly and silently, Abed turned to his brother and said angrily, "See what you've done, you idiot!"

"It wasn't me. It was your selfishness," Khalid said, but he was scared.

"You're just a dirty, stupid idiot. I'm going to kill you one day!"

"You're just a selfish idiot! If you touch me, I'll tell father!"

"Isn't it enough that I let you play my game?"

"It's not yours, it's ours!"

"No, it's mine and you're going to tell mother to return it!"

"No, I'm not."

"Yes, you are! You're going to tell her or you won't play any other game."

"Hah! You'll have to kill me first!"

"You see, Khalid, I'm still using words. I haven't started using my hands. Don't force me to use them."

"Well, don't force me to tell father."

"Is that your final answer?"

"Yes, it is."

"Ok."

Another five minutes passed in silence, during which Abed was burning like hell and Khalid was as scared as a mouse. Before the sixth minute ended, Abed stood up and slapped Khalid. With a very red face, Khalid also stood, trying to slap Abed back but he couldn't. Abed's hands and legs were pummeling Khalid's body like a machine as Khalid's tears poured like rain.

Unable to take it any longer, he started to shout for his mother, but before he could complete the word "Mama," Abed strongly clamped his hands over Khalid's mouth and continued beating him. Khalid could neither move nor breathe. He squirmed under Abed's hands like a fish until eventually, no movement came from him.

Afraid, Abed attempted to stir his brother, but nothing happened. He called to him and then cried out even louder, "Khalid!" at which their mother came running, only to see Abed crying over his brother's dead body.

Train military "protectors"

By: Axel du Moulin
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As a regular reader, I greatly appreciate the availability of the Yemen Times online.

The article, "Tourism forum calls for preserving archeological sites," reminds me of the only unpleasant experience during my 30-day stay in Yemen. This unpleasant experience happened on a visit to the archeological sites in Marib last April to the palace, the temple and the old dam.

The driver and myself were accompanied in Marib by a vehicle with three police or military officials for protection. At all three

sites, I was given only about five minutes to take pictures. Despite my telling them that I didn't come here just to take some pictures, I was ordered to leave the sites. Both the driver and myself felt very unsafe and in danger.

As someone who esteems and respects the culture and people of Yemen and who likes not to just take pictures, but who wants to take in the atmosphere of the places, this behavior was very annoying.

I felt very safe in Yemen throughout my time and without this "protection," I also would've felt safe in Marib. So, in conclusion, it's an indispensable requirement to train such personnel or withdraw them completely from contact with visitors.

Ten commandments for Yemen

By: A Yemeni abroad
yementimes@hydrangea.propagation.net

1. Food and clean water for all
2. Health and sanitation for all
3. Education and modern science for all
4. Death for corrupt individuals
5. Stop your pride that you're from such and such tribe (read the story of Salman Al-Farsi from the book of God)
6. Freedom of speech, respect and equal rights for all
7. Equal justice and imprisonment for only criminals and killers
8. More work, less talk and building up the economy
9. Fair elections without drama - no more kids stuff because we're adults
10. Stop chewing qat, stay healthy, do some exercise in your free time or do homework and teach your kids. Stop brandishing AK-47s, get the notebooks and go to school because time is money or gold

The Arab streets today

Saleh Sharhan
New York
www.myibb@yahoo.com

Before the second Iraq war in 2003, I read an article by a pro-war writer. Writing it in the form of a dialogue between two people, he began with the first person pointing out to his friend that while Iraq has the fourth largest army, it is battle-hardened from the Iraq-Iran war. Therefore, he said, "Don't worry, everyone knows Arab armies are only good for military parades."

However, his friend cautioned, "But what about the Arab streets, where we don't want to stir or enrage their feelings?"

The first friend responded, "Don't

worry, I've been in the Middle East. The Arab streets are only good for slogans."

"But, they'll sacrifice their blood and souls for their leaders," his friend protested, to which he again pointed out, "No, the Arab streets are busy with smoking shisha and playing dominos."

Five years later, the Arab streets have managed to put the world's last great superpower in a fix and divided the United States politically to the point where it has come closer to a constitutional breakdown. Those Arab streets that like to smoke shisha and play dominos are on the verge of handing the world's greatest army a humiliating defeat.

What was supposed to be America's century instead has become its nightmare as the Bush doctrine of a preemptive war has turned into a scramble for a good exit strategy. The Iraq war built on a founda-

tion of lies now is losing itself under the blanket of truth.

George W. Bush will receive his well-deserved place as one of the worst presidents in U.S. history. The Bush family's political franchise has been bankrupted by George W. and his brother, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, whose political future is in peril.

Let's just say that at the end of the day, Saudi Arabia remains one entity - not four - Syria will live another day and Iran has become a regional power thanks to Bush's policy of destroying its enemies.

The Arab streets have given those who invaded or are planning an invasion a rude awakening that smoking shisha and playing dominos is no reason to undermine a people's will to defend their land and their homes.

I wish I could see that writer's face at



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الفاكس: 267619
ص.ب: 5465 صنعاء اليمن



للتواصل: ٧٧٧١٠٣٥٥٤

- للبيع: سيارة دايهاتسو ٢٠٠٣ - نظيفة جداً - السعر مغري
- للتواصل: ٧١١٣٥٥٢٤٣

سيارات

- للبيع: سيارة جلنت - ميتسوبيشي - موديل ٨٥ - اللون ذهبي - المواصفات خليجية - السعر مغري جداً



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فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩
ص.ب: ٥٤٦٥
Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

عمل في مستشفى مصطفى التقني - تخصص كهرباء عام - تقدير جيد جداً - خبرة في مجال استخدام الحاسوب - يبحث عن عمل مناسب

للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٥٥٠٠١

• محمد حزام قحطان - بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب ونظم معلومات بتقدير

عام جيد جداً - خبرة في صيانة الكمبيوتر وفي البرمجة - خبرة في التعامل مع برامج أوفيس وكذلك

الفوتوشوب - خبرة في تحليل وتصميم نظم - تصميم مواقع ويب باستخدام

فرونت بيج - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو

في أي مجال مناسب.

للتواصل: ٧١٢١٠٦٥٨٢

• علي يحيى - خريج كلية المجتمع - صنعاء - برمجة كمبيوتر - جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في

مجال تخصصه

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٨٥١٥٥٨

• كمال اسماعيل - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - خبرة طويلة في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية وفي مجال المبيعات.

يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أوفي أي مجال مناسب.

للتواصل: ٧١٤٢٣٩٣٣

• معاذ عبد الواحد - بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة تعز - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر - خبرة في النظام المحاسبي (يمن سوفت) الإصدار

السادس لمدة سنتين - خبرة في النظام المحاسبي اليدوي - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه.

للتواصل: ٧٧١٥٧٢٩٩١

• متوكل - بكالوريوس تمريض -

عقارات

• للبيع: منزل دورين - المساحة ٦

لين مكونة من ١٠ غرف مع منافع - الحوش دائري يتسع لعدة سيارات - الموقع بيت بوس

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١

• للإيجار: دور أرضي مكون من ٦

غرف كبيرة الحجم + صالة كبيرة + مطبخ - ٤ حمامات علماً بأن المدخل مستقل مع موقف يستوعب أكثر من ٤ سيارات - الموقع: حدة (الحي السياسي) خلف DHL

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٤٧٣٩٩



مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حدة - الحي السياسي - الأسيحي - بيت بوس
سيار: ٢٣٣٨٠٢٨٥٥

• للبيع: أرضية وقف شارعين ، حدة ، خلف منزل علوي السلامي، مساحتها ٢٧ لينة . سعر المنطقة.

• للبيع دورين مؤجر بالدرار ، حدة ، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ١٤ لينة حر . الموقع ممتاز جداً .

• للبيع ٣ أنوار ، حدة ، شارعين ركن ، مساحة الأرضية ١٤ لينة حر . سعر البيع مائة مليون ريال.

• للبيع: دور وبدروم جديد ، حدة ، مؤجر بالدولار، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ١١ لينة حر. حجر دائري.

• للبيع: أرضية حر استثمارية قريبة جداً من شارع حدة، حدة، مساحتها أكثر من ١٠٠ لينة ٣ شوارع مسفلته.

• للإيجار: دورين وملحق في الدور الثالث، مفروشة، حدة، ٣ غرف نوم، ٤ حمامات، صالة جلوس، صالة طعام، ديوان في الدور الثالث مع حديقة في السطوح، منظر جميل للمدينة. الإيجار الشهري: ١٠٢٠٠ دولار

• دورين وبدروم، حدة، ١٠ غرف، صالتيْن كبيرتين، ٦ حمامات، حوش للسيارات. الإيجار الشهري ٣٠٠٠ ألف دولار

وظائف شاغرة

- مطلوب للعمل في الفترة المسائية مدرس أوتوكاد ورسم هندسي
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٥٠٠٤٠ - ٤٧٢٩٣٧
- مطلوب مندوبات تسويق مستحضرات طبية طبيعية شرط
- مؤهل لا يقل عن ثانوية عامة
- خبرة سابقة
- العمر لا يزيد عن الثلاثين
- للتواصل: ٠١/٤٠٣٦٧١

باحثون عن وظيفة

- بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة تعز - دورة في النظام المحاسبي (يمن سوفت) - دورات في الكمبيوتر - خبرة في العمل المحاسبي
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٢٤١١٥
- بكالوريوس كيمياء بيولوجي (جيد جداً) - خبرة ثلاث سنوات مشرف إنتاج في قسم الألبان - دورات في الكمبيوتر - يرغب في العمل في نفس المجال.
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٢٤١١٥
- ابراهيم محمد - ثانوية عامة - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - لديه رخصة سواقة
- للتواصل: ٧١١١٨٦٠٥٨ - ٦٠٠٥٥١
- بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة صنعاء - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - النظام المحاسبي من (يمن سوفت) الإصدار السادس - خبرة في مجال الحسابات

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ARAMEX
عن ٢٤٦٢٤٤ تعز ت: ٢١٢٤٩٩
المكلا ت: ٣٠٩١٩٠ - الجديدة ت: ٢١٩٤٢٣

شحن وتوصيل
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السيم والشحن والتوصيل ت: ٤٠٧٩٠٥
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مستشفيات
مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٩٦٧-٦٦
مستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٨١/٧٧
مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٣٩٨١
المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١٠٦٠٠٠٠/٧٠٢٠٠٠٠
فاكس: ٤١٨١١١١
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق
فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٣٧٧-١/١٢
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
فندق موفيميك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
فندق تاج سبأ ت: ٠١-٢٣٣٧٣٧
فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٢٥٥ - ٦٠٣٢٥٥

معاهد
معهد بالي ت: ٤٤٨-٤٤٨/٣٦-٤٤٨-٣٧
معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢
فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥
معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٤٣٤/٥
معهد أليكس ت: ٥١-٦١٢ - ٢٤-٨٣٢
فاكس: ٦٣٥٥٧٧

شركات للتأمين
الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٢٧٢٧٢/٢٧٢٧٢
مأرب للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/٨١٣
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٨٤١٣٢
عدن ت: ٢٤٤٢٨٠
تعز ت: ٢٥٨٨١١
شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٧٢٨٠٦/٢٧٢٩٦/٤٣
عدن ت: ٢٤٧١١٧
تعز ت: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

مدارس
مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٢٧/٤٢٤-٤٢٣
مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧-١٩١٧/٢
مدرسة التريكة الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٣٥٨/٩
مدرسة المعاهد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

سفرات
السيم للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٦٠

مطاعم
مطعم ومخبزة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩

بنك اليمن والخليج
فرع عن: ٢٢٧٨٩٩ / فاكس: ٢٢٧٨٩٤
بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ١/٦٦٦٦٦٦
البنك التجاري ت: ٢٧٢٢٤ فاكس: ٢٧٢٢١
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٣٦٧٥٠٣٢٧٠٢
فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٣٥٠٣٥٠

البنوك
بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٠١-٤٧٠٣٠
البنك العربي ت: ٠١-٢٧٦٥٥٨/٤
بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٦٣٨١٣
البنك المركزي ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٤٤

تأجير سيارات
زاوية (Budget) ت: ٢٠٩٦١٨-٥٠٦٣٣٢
فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
يورب كار ت: ٢٧-٧٥١
فاكس: ٢٧-٨٠٤
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٩٥٥
عدن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر
أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (مركز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٢٨٣٠٥
فاكس: ٠١-٤٧٤١٩
عدن ت: ٢٠٠٢٣٧١٩٩
تعز ت: ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤٣
المكلا ت: ٥٠٢٠٧٤٩٢

البريد السريع
Infinit Education T: 444553
NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٢

FedEx
صنعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧
الحديدة ت: ٢٤٨٢٣
إب ت: ٤١١٩٨٨
المكلا ت: ٣٠٦٤١
ضوه ت: ٢٠٢٣٢٦
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

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تفاصيل الاعلان:

عنوان التواصل:

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء
لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢/٣/٢٦٨٦٦١)

Taizi families are refugees in their own country

By: Hamed Thabet
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Some 46 families who abandoned their homes in the wake of a destructive 2006 landslide in Taiz governorate continue to await the new homes the Yemeni government promised them while living in a nearby schoolhouse.

Constituting more than 250 people, the families are from Dhrae'm'a village in Al-Mowaset district in Izla'a Bani Hamad area.

The landslide, which occurred in October 2006, caused 21 houses to collapse. Villagers fled the wreckage of their former homes to take refuge in Al-Amal School next to their village. Although the Yemeni government promised to build them new homes, the families of Dhrae'm'a still are waiting a year and a half later.

Sixty-year-old Um Hani cooks at the school's makeshift campsite and tries to maintain some semblance of normalcy.

"Every day, officials tell us to wait and be patient and that very soon the government will build us new homes, but nothing seems to be happening. We're now like Palestinian refugees," she observed, adding, "I don't want to feel like I'm a refugee in my own country."

According to Al-Mowaset district manager Abdulmu'min Al-Qadasi, he and the area's local council referred the problem to Taiz governorate's Council of Ministers, which formed a committee to track the destruction and havoc caused by the landslide.



The president ordered to build new houses for the villagers one year and a half, but officials did not obey his request.

The committee, which included geologists, concluded that, following the landslide, villagers had to leave their homes immediately because they

were in danger of collapsing at any moment and their lives were at risk. The local council and the district manager subsequently evacuated the inhabitants to a makeshift camp at Al-Amal School until the Yemeni government could build them new homes.

Some 21 families remain in the school, while 15 have gone to other nearby villages. A few the villagers were able to live with their relatives in other governorates and eight families returned to their homes in the destroyed village.

Feeling they had no other choice, those who returned to their homes don't care about the repercussions of doing so – including death.

The landslides destroyed Wahib Al-Haidari's three-story home, which took many years and cost YR 30 million to build, but due to the situation at the school, he and his family of 20 returned to their destroyed home.

When this landslide occurred in the village, several organizations and charities, such as the Charitable Society for Social Welfare, helped the families. The Red Crescent also provided foodstuffs and blankets to the families, but that was a year ago.

"We helped the locals with 210 blankets, 86 cubic meters of carpet in order to make the school rooms warm and clothing for the children," said Abdulhalim Thabet, director of Al-Sowra charitable organization.

The situation at Al-Amal School is bad and the cold weather makes it even worse. Because three to four families share each classroom, none have any privacy. Additionally, the school has only three small bathrooms, which is another major problem.

"The government said it would build us new homes in a new location within a few months, but it's been a year and a half and nothing has been done," complained 34-year-old Asim Al-Hamadi, who moved to the school with his family.

"Officials just keep talking and talking. We want real action and work," says Ahmed Sa'eed, adding, "Are we Yemenis or not? Why are they treating us like this? Is it because we're poor families and not tribes?"

He points out that it's been six months since any officials visited the school campsite.

"Building new homes for all of the villagers will cost millions," Al-Qadasi noted, "but our governorate doesn't

have that much of money, which is why we handed over the responsibility to the Council of Ministers. However, up until now, nothing has been done."

Al-Jumhuriyah newspaper published a December 2006 story about President Ali Abdullah Saleh sanctioning new homes for the villagers, but still nothing has been done.

Bani Hassan's Sheikh Naji Yousef, who is responsible for villages in the area, has never helped them either, according to the villagers.

"I really wish officials would respect President Saleh's order, which was to take care of us and build us new homes as soon as possible," Um Hani stated.

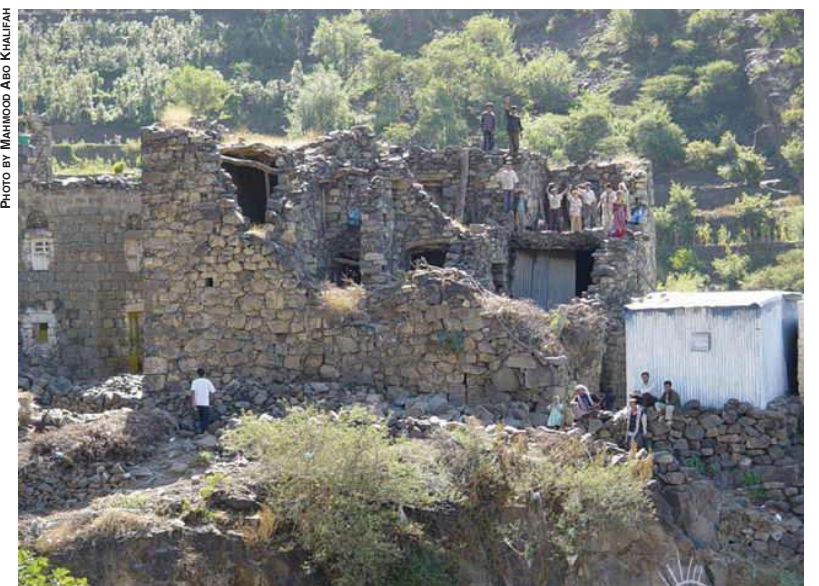
Al-Qadasi responded, "It's right that the president ordered to save these people and build them new houses, but it will take time. Until then, we're providing the villagers Al-Amal School."

The situation for Al-Amal School students also is deteriorating. As of now, only six classrooms are used for teaching, while the other 12 are for the villagers.

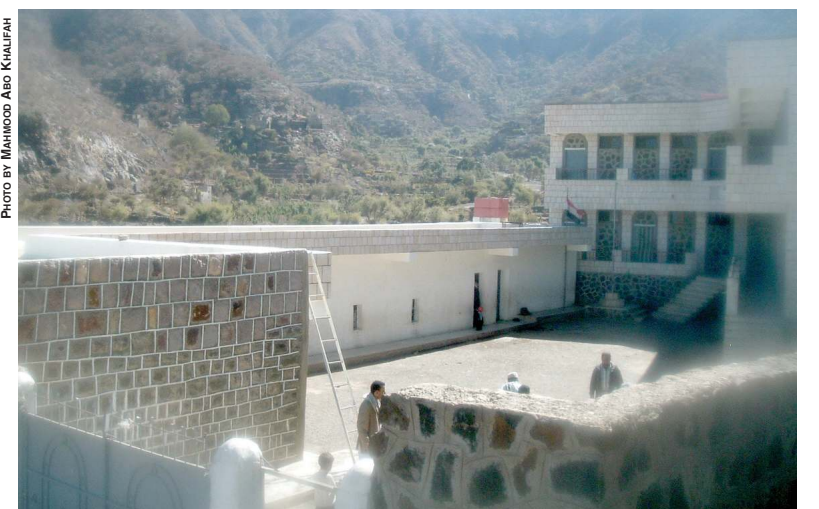
According to teacher Sultan Mohammed Othman, many students have their lessons in outdoor camps, regardless of the weather, because the school now is being used for the displaced villagers.

According to Izzadeen Naji and Abdulraqib, who both teach at Al-Amal, conditions at the school are unacceptable. "Many students are absent because of the cold weather," both teachers said.

In conclusion, as temporary school resident Al-Hamadi noted, "We're adults and we can handle what's happened to us, but I don't want my children to face this awful situation."



The landslide, which occurred back in October 2006, caused 21 houses to collapse. Weeks ago, 70 people went back to their unsafe houses.



The school holds 250 people. Noting that 3-4 families are staying at the same room, with only 3 bathrooms at the school.



Beside the 21 houses that were destroyed, other houses are subject to collapse and have cracks in their walls.



Houses in the village are not suitable to be lived in after the landslide and might collapse at any moment.

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Education

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Improve Your English: 313

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (100):
Use of doublets and triplets

A 'doublet' refers to one of two (or more) words with the same origin but make different meanings, such as 'shirt' and 'skirt' or 'hospital' and 'hostel'.
Use of doublets or triplets in the language of Law is triggered by the need to be precise, by the objective to accomplish certain linguistic and contextual finesse or by the desire to include or exclude certain aspects which may not be achieved by the use of a single word. It might benefit lawyers who aim at impressing the audience or the clients by their use of words exceeding the demands of necessity which contribute to achieving a certain degree of linguistic flourish. However, as legal conventions would have it, trilogies have survived in the language of Law because it is the preferred practice to say it in the same way. The following are some examples

Covenants, conditions and agreements
Executors, administrators and assigns
Leave, surrender and yield up
Signed, sealed and delivered
Retain, repossess and enjoy
Destroy, damage and defile
Rest, reside and remainder
Hired, engaged and employed
Sells, offers or exposes
Corrupts or fouls
Aid and abet
Accept or obtain
Decree or order
Obliterates or renders illegible

II. How to Say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Do you care if I smoke a cigar?
2. Suddenly, it was a loud bang from outside.
3. Difficult to know is why she left her job.
4. It was accepted to send a letter of complaint.
5. I find difficult to understand how she could have got lost?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. Fuad accompanied me **during** my trip to Aden.
2. Competition entries must be received **by** 12.00 on 30 November.
3. The island was uninhabited except **for** sheep.
4. She is incredibly rich. She has two other houses **besides** (or *as well as / in addition to*) her house in Sana'a.
5. He's always complaining **about** his younger brother.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Period of two weeks.
2. Any place for public discussion.
3. Recognizable part of a prehistoric animal or plant once buried in earth, now hardened like rock.
4. Help the growth and development of.
5. Having a bad smell or taste.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. Giving, or tending to give, shape to: **formative** (adj)
2. Requiring great effort to deal with or overcome: **formidable**(adj)
3. About to come out: **forthcoming** (adj)
4. Strengthen against attack: **fortify** (vt)
5. Calm courage, self-control, in the face of pain, danger, or difficulty: **fortitude** (n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. ophthalmologist, optician
2. fort, forte
3. bold, brave
4. beret, berate
5. blockade, blockhead

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **behavior** (n) (treatment shown towards others): His behavior towards me shows that he dislikes me.
behaviorism (n) (doctrine in psychology that all human actions could be analyzed in terms of stimulus and response): The Structuralist school of thought is based on behaviorism.
2. **austerity** (n) (extreme simplicity): Government of

Yemen has adopted austerity measures to put economy back on rails.

economy (n) (opposite of extravagance): Economy in defence expenditure will help the nation to devote its resources to development schemes.

3. **banish** (vt) (to remove a person from the country): Government of India has banished outlawed outfits from the country.
- exile** (n) (a person who has been forced to leave his country for political reasons): Napoleon died in exile.
4. **beautiful** (adj) (possessing beauty): Beautiful faces, often, lack tenderness of heart.
charming (adj) (pleasing and captivating): Her winsome personality and charming smile is her forte.
5. **beloved** (adj) (greatly loved): We are prepared to sacrifice our lives for our beloved country.
beloved (n) (a sweetheart, an object of love): John Keats' letters to his beloved Fanny Brawne are treasures of English literature.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

1. The Constitution **envisages** fundamental rights to its citizens.
a. to face b. to seek
c. to foresee in imagination d. to understand
2. It is nearly impossible to work in this **oppressive** weather.
a. impressive b. cold
c. disappointing d. unbearable
3. **'Frailty** thy name is woman.'
a. boldness b. weakness
c. beauty d. intelligence
4. It is not easy for **lay** men to understand technical jargon.
a. expert b. learned
c. ordinary d. idle
5. The soldiers **laid down** their arms.
a. put their arms on the ground
b. surrendered
c. refused to obey orders
d. put the arms in their place

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

Word	Synonym
1. ghost	an apparition
2. sagacity	wisdom
3. rancour	malice
4. germinate	sprout
5. fired	dismissed

(ii) Antonyms

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

1. You must try and find an **improvised** solution to the problem under the existing circumstances.
a. a complete b. a pre-planned
c. a permanent d. a proscribed
2. His behavior is anything but **logical**.
a. irrational b. disorderly
c. inconsiderate d. inconsistent
3. India is trying to explore **indigenous** sources of oil and natural gas to meet its needs.
a. perennial b. heterogeneous
c. alien d. foreign
4. We should be **alert** against any foreign aggression.
a. idle b. careless
c. sluggish d. lazy
5. 'An old man is but a **paltry** thing.'
a. liberal b. handsome
c. bountiful d. generous

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

Word	Antonym
1. comprehensive	superficial
2. levity	gravity
3. lukewarm	enthusiastic
4. morbid	cheerful
5. overt	covert

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

1. a. ackquire b. acquire c. akuire d. acquir
2. a. acquit b. akwit c. ackquit d. acquite
3. a. akrobat b. ackrobat c. acrobat d. acrobatte
4. a. aktiviate b. aktivat c. aktivet d. activate
5. a. across b. accross c. accros d. acros

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. accustom 2. achievement 3. acknowledge

4. acoustic
5. acquaint

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentences

1. give it one's best shot
2. all fingers and thumbs
3. take the bit between one's teeth
4. give (someone) his/her marching orders
5. strike it lucky

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **cast a shadow on (someone / something)** (to make someone or something less happy): The news of the bride's father suffering from heart attack cast a shadow on the wedding ceremony.
2. **do (someone) the world of good** (to have a very good effect on someone, to be of great benefit to someone): Regular exercise will do you the world of good.
3. **a nasty piece of work** (a very unpleasant person): Our new boss is a nasty piece of work.
4. **lose touch with (someone)** (to stop communicating with someone): I have lost touch with many friends since I left Edinburgh.
5. **hold the fort** (to take temporary charge of a job, task, etc.): The Vice Rector will hold the fort during the Rector's absence from office.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Read the short story given below and see if you can find the words with the wrong spellings. Rewrite the passage with the correct spellings of words

John was feeling very board in class. He looked at the rose of students reading they're books and wandered how he could stay awake for another hole our. Just then he herd annoys down by his feat. He new what two do - he was sew shore his plan wood work that he smiled two himself... What a site there was when the headmaster rushed in - the teacher's scream went hire and hire as the mouse maid it's weigh towards her! She went pail as she stood on the chair ringing her hands and then turned a funny shade of read. She didn't seam to no anyone else was their!
The headmaster tolled the class too go straight home. John was the hero of the class. They mist for hole ours of school that day and the class bully even promised two buy hymn an eye scream on the weigh home. It turned out to bee a grate day after all.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

Which word?

1. Can I do it **for** you?
2. Her **son** will be thirteen next week.
3. He **threw** the ball over.
4. A **herd** of elephants stampeded down to the river.
5. They sat on the **beach** and watched the **tide** go out.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

131: NEVER SAY 'YES' WHEN YOU WANT TO SAY 'NO'.

(A) Composition

130: MY RIGHT TO SWING MY ARM ENDS WHERE THE OTHER FELLOW'S NOSE BEGINS

In order to ensure peaceful coexistence in the society we should learn to practice the principle of "live and let live." We should respect others rights as much as we want our rights to be respected. Laws are formulated in the society for the benefit of the people. Thomas Jefferson says "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." Every individual is granted personal liberty which is the right to act without interference of others liberty within the limits of law. When we exercise our right to liberty we should be conscious of whether it affects others liberty. Liberty is not license. It has given no one the right to act in an arbitrary or idiosyncratic manner. So we should know our limits and act within decent limits of personal liberty.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Say. My Lord hath commanded Justice; and hath ye set your whole selves (to Him) at every time and place of prayer, and call upon Him, making your devotion sincere such as He created you in the beginning, so shall ye return." S7: A29

VI. Words of Wisdom

"It never occurs to me that there are things I can't do."
—Whoopi Goldberg

Teaching vocabulary for communication (Part 1)



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Over the many years I have been teaching English as a second language (ESL), I have become more and more aware that some of the most basic principles of vocabulary teaching and learning have been forgotten or ignored. This article will try to refocus us on the basic and most fundamental common sense aspects of vocabulary teaching and learning. Let us start with some of these common notions.

Teaching a word does not mean the students learned it. Teaching and learning do not go hand in hand, from the easy to the difficult. It is too easy to forget that teaching does not *cause* learning. Because students have finished a unit does not mean they have mastered all the words in it.

We do not learn a word from one meeting. Research tells us that it takes between 5-16 meetings (or more) to learn an average word. (Nation, 1990: 41).

It is easier to forget a word than remember it. Initial word knowledge in a second language (in our case, English) is very fragile and memories of new words that are not met again soon, are lost. This is because our

brains are designed to forget, not remember. If a student has just learned 10 new words, it is normal for most of them to be forgotten within a few days, and may be only one or two will be retained in the medium or long-term memory.

There are two major stages in word learning. The first stage is matching the spelling and pronunciation of words with their meaning. When a student has learnt this, the second stage of learning starts. Now, spelling and pronunciation should work on the deeper aspects of word knowledge. This may include the different ways a word may be used; the restrictions on its use; whether it is formal or informal; whether it is spoken or written; its similarity to other words; its shades of meaning; whether it is frequent or not, and so on.

Students do not need to learn every word they meet. This is because not all words are equally useful. The words students need to master are the general service vocabulary i.e. those that are found repeatedly in a wide range of texts.

Some words are more difficult to learn than others. Research suggests that words that are more concrete and closer to a known concept, or have a similar form in the first language, tend to be learned before those that are more abstract and are relatively dissimilar from those in the first language.

Words live with other words, not in isolation. Languages are made up of sets of words that go together to make individual meanings, such as *by the way, the day after tomorrow, bus ticket, half-past three, sunny day* and so on. These are often called collocations, or lexical units. It is easier to remember words in collocation rather than words in isolation.

Continued on page 2

Effective reading



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When you read faster? The answer is very simple. When you read slowly, you read one word at a time. The words seem separated, so reading separate words makes it harder to understand. The separate words become separate pieces of information that you must remember. By the time you get to the end of a sentence, you may have forgotten the beginning.

On the other hand, when you read faster, you understand better because your brain can make connections and put the words together. They are not single words, but groups of words that form ideas. These ideas are easier to remember than a lot of single words. It is also easier to connect these smaller ideas together to get the general idea of what you reading.

Now, the question is: How to read faster? There are some steps that can help increase the reading speed:-

Don't translate into your native language as you read in English. This habit will slow down your reading speed and will interfere with your ability to think in English.

Don't follow the words in the text with your finger or a pencil while you read. This habit will not allow you skip around. Pointing at the words forces your eyes to follow the lines of the text too closely and your eyes should follow your thoughts, not your finger.

Don't try to pronounce each word as you read. Pronunciation is not necessary for comprehension. In fact, if you try to say the words, even silently, you will probably understand less.

One can ask himself/herself: how do we read effectively? I don't mean the kind of reading for exams which requires memorizing lines after lines for many hours and days. The reading that I mean is the faster reading.

As a matter of fact, reading faster is better than slow reading for two reasons: first, you can read more in less time, and second, you can improve your comprehension. How is it possible to improve your comprehension

Continued on page 2

ELT Panorama

To kill two birds with one stone

Using literary texts to teach grammar



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Being a teacher of literature and grammar, I often find myself thinking of creating innovative ways for my sophomore students to involve them all the time in the lesson, especially when teaching grammar. Basically, most students regard grammar as one of the most monotonous subjects, particularly when presented with lifeless and boring examples. To overcome this problem, teachers need to update their knowledge and discover the most up-to-date methods to engage their students and stimulate them.

Using novels (Hemingway's *The*

Old Man and the Sea and Forster's *A Passage to India*) in teaching grammar has been an enjoyable experience and has given me yet another approach to teach grammar. Since teaching is a developing art, which requires novel and creative ideas, we must not hesitate to use such resources in our classrooms. They can assist our teaching of grammar while providing a relaxed atmosphere in the classroom and motivating students. For making grammar classes more active and appealing, teachers must create an atmosphere which enables their students to interact freely and effectively by making use of the given texts while giving examples of grammatical points.

The reason for writing this introduction is that I have had an interesting experience recently in my class and would like to share it with you. On that day, I decided to try and exploit this genre of literature to teach my students grammar. Believe me, the outcome was stunning, the students were very motivated and had a desire to participate. As a result, I was able to kill two birds with one

stone (teaching novel and grammar at the same time). The following examples were given during subsequent classes.

Infinitives after certain adjectives and nouns

- 1- Mrs. Moore and Adela Quested were **eager to see** the real India.
- 2- Dr. Aziz was **anxious to please** his Anglo-Indian friends.
- 3- Adela Quested made a sacrifice and was **sad to lose** her social standing as she became an outcast.
- 4- It must have been **difficult** for Adela **to be left** alone.
- 5- Santiago was **determined to change** his luck.
- 6- Losing the marlin was a high **price** for Santiago **to pay**.

Infinitives with 'too' and 'enough'

- 1- Fielding and Professor Godbole were **too late to catch** the train.
- 2- Dr. Aziz arrived **early enough to be** on time.
- 3- Santiago was **too exhausted to carry** the mast on his shoulder.
- 4- Dr. Aziz was **bitter enough to reject** prejudice.

Conditional sentences

- 1- If the fishermen had not mocked Santiago, he would not have gone out so far to sea.
- 2- If Manolin were with Santiago, he would help him.
- 3- If Dr. Aziz had not gone to the Marabar Caves, he would not have been imprisoned.

Passive

- 1- The marlin **was attacked** by a number of fierce sharks.
- 2- Dr. Aziz **was arrested** and accused of assaulting Adela.
- 3- Adela **was ostracized** by her people.
- 4- Manolin **was taught** how to fish by Santiago.
- 5- Santiago **is being helped** by Manolin.

In my view, teachers should re-think the way they teach grammar and look critically at their own teaching strategies. I hope it appears now more clear and convincing that the teaching of grammar can be supported effectively by using literary texts.

A letter to the learners of English: 13 Curves and strokes



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Dear student friends,

Writing the letters of English alphabet can be easily learnt if you practise curves and strokes; most of the letters can be carved out of curves and strokes. For example, letters c, e, o, s are carved out of curves; f, i, h, j, k, l, m, n, x are out of strokes and b, d, p, q are out of both. So, if you train your hand well in drawing curves and strokes, you can get the shape of all the letters of English easily. Let's start drawing the following curves and strokes several times:

///// ^^^^^ // // // ||||| |||||
|||||
((((())) (((()))
((()))

After getting them right, let's practise writing letters out of them, as follows

llllll bbbb cccc dddd
ppppp eeee fff hhhh jllll wwww
nnnn ssss vvvv xxxxx
qqqqq kkkkk uuuu yyyyy rrrrrr

maintaining the size and shape of each letter. Practise each letter well till you get it right. What is important is how to move your hand while writing each letter, because you can write the letter easily and at opti-

mum speed only if you write it in the right way. For example, look at the following:

b - begin the letter with a stroke from the top to the bottom, then draw a curve

c - begin the letter with a curve from the top

m - begin the letter with a stroke and move your hand towards right drawing other strokes.

If you don't get the movement correctly and train your hand regularly, you will find it difficult to get the shape of each letter well and end up writing shabbily. Capital letters have different shapes, as you know, except in the case of a few letters such as o, c, s, x and z. So you have to practise writing capital letters carefully. A good copywriting book will be of great help to you in giving such practice in the size and shape of the letters of English alphabet.

There are several kinds of writing, depending on the shape of each letter, such as cursive writing, copper plate, print, and italic writing. Each one can be used for a different purpose; for example, copper plate, because of its beautiful shape and look, is used for decorative writing, like calligraphy. Italic writing is the most favoured one for classroom teaching and learning, mainly because it is easy to practice, legible and good looking; moreover your writing will be at optimum speed, if you practise italic writing. Good luck.

Share with your guests,
even if it is elixir.

Yours affectionately,
Dr M N K Bose.

Seize the moment before it slips away

In this short essay, I would like to discuss the importance of time during university education. University students may be divided according to their awareness of the value of time, into two groups: members of the first group have their own perspective on the importance of time during university education. For them university education is primarily concerned with the study of curriculum. In other words, they study hard their lessons, attend all the classes of their term of study in order that they may get high grades and be considered as smart students by their teachers. Nevertheless, these students may not be educated students in the true sense of the term, because they just study the curriculum and memorize their lessons in order to write well in the exam. Furthermore, if they are asked the question "Why don't you read newspapers or other materials during your university education?", they may say: "We do not have enough time to read those things. We now utilize all our time in studying the cur-



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riculum. Inshallah after our graduation, we will read other materials available to us and educate ourselves." But the reality is contrary to their excuses. Several teachers and graduate students have confessed that they had promised themselves during the university education to improve their educational level after finishing the university study. But alas! After their graduation, they could not fulfill their promise. They betrayed themselves because they became preoccupied with their jobs, investing time and efforts for the

problems of practical life. Then, they felt regretful for every single minute they had wasted during their university education.

On the other hand, students of the second group look at the opportunity of university education as precious. They consider time as gold. To them university study means to invest time and efforts for gaining as much knowledge as they can, therefore they study day and night paying attention for every thing worth studying, regardless of whether the book they are reading is related to their area of specialization or not. Such students are not only reading

the textbooks prescribed in their curriculum, but also a wide range of other materials from different sources. Moreover, these students exploit their leisure time by going to libraries for searching good books, or discussing useful issues with educated people to get benefit from them. As a result, they get a broad overview of every thing which is the real education. Thus, they utilize their time properly and get a rich harvest in return. Indeed, time is valuable, so students ought to invest it properly, and every one should seize the present moment before it slips away.

Continued from page 1

Teaching vocabulary for communication

- Written and spoken vocabularies are different. Fewer (and often different) words are needed for fluent speaking and listening, than for reading and writing.
- Students cannot guess the meaning of an unknown word from the context if the surrounding text is too difficult. Hu and Nation (2000) suggest that students need to know about 98% or more of the other words in the text (1 new word in 50) before successful guessing can take place. If the rate of new words in a context is higher, the probability of guessing the meaning of unknown words is close to zero.

Having considered these notions of vocabulary learning and teaching, let us consider how to use these principles in English language teaching.

The core of CLT is learner autonomy. Since we may not have enough time to teach everything about a word, students have to become independent word learners. We must train them to be such autonomous learners. Students learn best by making sense

of their own vocabulary and internalizing it. The more they work with the words, the more deeply the words are processed. That is, by working with the new words in many different ways, it is more likely that the words will be retained in memory. Thus an early emphasis on vocabulary growth within ESL teaching will help kick start their learning (Meara 1995).

I am discussing here some techniques that will help making students autonomous in learning vocabulary.

Firstly, students should learn the principle of selecting words that they need to learn. Focus should be on choosing the *most frequently used* words. Learning such words makes one more fluent and meaningful as these words carry the most meaning senses. Similarly, the words which will be relatively easy to learn (i.e. those which have close relatives in the first language) should be learnt early to build a start-up vocabulary base. Special attention should also be given to words which are difficult to learn.

Secondly, as we can all but guarantee that most words we teach will be

lost to the *Forgetting Curve* (Pimsleur 1967), it is therefore essential that the new words are repeated soon after the initial learning, and repeated at spaced intervals in many contexts thereafter to cement them in memory. As our textbooks do not seem to consciously recycle important vocabulary for the required 5-16 times, teachers have to find ways to ensure that there are enough meetings. One easy way to achieve both these goals, and one that takes little classroom time, is to require students to read graded readers out of class or ask them to listen to simplified recordings (Waring, 2001). Added advantages of graded readers are that

- i. students will be exposed to massive amounts of vocabulary
- ii. they can discover new collocations, and
- iii. improve their reading fluency in an enjoyable way.

Thirdly, students should not be faced with material that is too difficult because they will not be able to guess successfully and easily the meaning of new vocabulary. Material that is a little easy is beneficial for language learning because students can improve their reading speed through competent guessing.

Fourthly, teaching students how to learn vocabulary effectively, and use their dictionaries well (Samantray 2000) will save a lot of time and will ultimately make them independent learners and users of vocabulary.

Lastly, vocabulary activities should focus on deepening and internalizing knowledge of words, and not just the surface or basic meaning/ mother tongue equivalent. The activities should deal with collocations and multiple-word units, not only single

words. The type of practice in these activities allows the students to notice new words, or new features of known words, and give them chances to internalize them. For example, simple gap-fill and matching exercises manipulate only the surface meaning and/or form, and thus call for relatively shallow mental processing. The focus should also be on deepening and internalizing the knowledge by doing activities at a deeper level. Thus, the *quality* of the mental processing when doing the activities is more important than simple *quantity*.

This is the first part of this article where we discussed the principles behind teaching vocabulary. In the next part, activities for teaching vocabulary will be presented.

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ANY GUESSES?

1. Why is an *atlas* called so?
2. What is the difference between a *lawyer* and a *barrister*?
3. What is *red corner notice*?
4. What does the acronym '*scuba*' stand for?
5. Which is the smallest and largest city in the world by area and population?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. The '*Vocal Joystick*' is a computer software which allows the disabled, who can use their voice but not their hands or arms, to control a cursor using sounds. Developed by researchers at the University of Washington, the device detects sounds 100 times a second and converts it into movement on the screen.
2. **Quantum tunneling:** In physics, quantum is the particle which obeys quantum mechanics. When a quantum particle has to cross a potential barrier which has more energy than the particle, then, according to classical physics, it cannot do so. But in quantum mechanics, it can, however small it may be. This phenomenon is known as quantum tunneling. The best example of quantum tunneling is the emission of alpha particles from a radioactive nucleus. Although the energy of alpha particles is less than nuclear potential, they can tunnel through it.
3. '**Medical narcissism**' is defined

as the need for health professionals not to disclose serious medical errors to their patients for fear of losing credibility and esteem in their eyes.

4. '**Special Olympics**' is an international organization created to help people with intellectual disabilities. It aims at developing self-confidence, social skills and a sense of personal accomplishment through sport training and competition. Among their other activities, Special Olympics conducts the Special Olympics world game every four years. This time it is taking place in China.
5. The phrase '**rule of thumb**' commonly refers to any means of estimation based on a practical and ready method but not on scientific measurement. One theory about the phrase's origin lies in the misplaced public belief that the English law allowed a man to beat his wife with a stick measuring no longer than his thumb. There was actually no such English law enacted at any time. Another theory concerning the phrase's origin involves the numerous ways in which thumbs have been used for estimation. Some examples are: measurement of distance based on an estimated inch which is about the length of a thumb; judging the alignment or distance of an object by holding the thumb at eye level, etc.

Effective reading

- Don't move your lips when you read silently. If you do, you will never be able to read faster than 200 words per minute.

- Practice reading faster by timing yourself. You must read against your watch. Many students find that they have reading rate between 50 and 200 words per minute. Reading at less than 200 words per minute means that you are almost certainly reading word by word and having trouble in understanding.

- Finally, the good reader is the

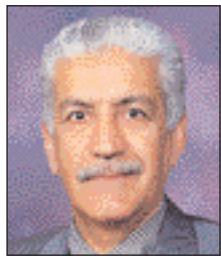
one who skips over words that are difficult for him/her and tries to skip over words which are not important to the general meaning of the text.

I want to conclude by another statement of Professor Anil K. Prasad. He says 'Yemeni students who want to learn English must think in English'. By these steps and others, students of EFL (English as a foreign language) can improve their language in general and reading skill in particular.

Tragic vision of Hemingway and Najuib Mahfouz: A comparative study (2)

Twentieth century witnessed mass social, economic and cultural movements and a left-wing character began to emerge in Egypt and America as in many oppressed nations in the post-war period. The corrupt regime of King Farouk in Egypt was hated and it lost its prestige completely with its military debacle and failure in Palestine war in 1948. The Wafid (delegation party), which had once its presence on the political scene long since lost the allegiance of the working and poor classes.

The American writers as well as Arab writers began to take sides with the oppressed classes in society. Millions of the oppressed Egyptians wanted a social overturn, and there was an intense focus by artists and intel-



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lectuals on the potential for social change. The American twenties was an era of vast change and experimentation in society. American writers saw themselves as the sole explorers outside society. The era witnessed the rise of the middle class in America and Egypt.

This period also witnessed the outbreak of two World Wars. In addition, it witnessed inventions, discoveries and transformations in the economic, social, and literary life. One can say that the twenties up to fifties and sixties were the Hemingway and Mahfouz decades. Both writers wanted to show the face of life: smiles, tears, pains, suffering and triumph. The novels of this period are tragic vision novels in the sense that the heroes are defeated by society. Both writers challenged the old methods and traditions prevalent at that time.

These writers focused on the major themes of adultery, sacred marital commitments, alienation, philosophy of life and death and dissatisfaction as different from the remaining aspects of the previous periods. All these American

and Arab writers portrayed suffering, pains, agony, escapism and oppression in society. The background of Hemingway and Mahfouz's novels reflect a realistic description of some historical trends of the period. As Mahfouz depicts Egypt before and during the 1952 revolution, Hemingway records the transitional period between the pre- and post-World Wars I and II in which the destruction of wars had its effects on human nature and psychology. Both writers show how the characters lost faith in spoken moralities of the political leaders of the time. All characters believe that the universe is chaotic, indifferent and even sometimes hostile to man's pains and plight.

The philosophy is that man struggles against man, against society, and against unknown forces of nature.

The wealthy teacher



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People talk about wealth from different angles. Teachers, however, seem to be the people to have fastest growing riches. The teacher's real wealth is the total number of distinguished students who provide good examples in their life. The larger the number of outstanding students you have produced, the wealthier you are. Those brilliant students are a real treas-

ure that teachers should be proud of. Of course, it is luck sometimes that yields a good number of those fruits at a time, making you feel proud of them.

I, for one, feel enormously gratified when I see good circles of my bright students acting enthusiastically together; others emulating them. They all spare no effort to go ahead and top the list. As an English teacher, I feel complimented to see them use their English and practise whatever they have picked up from their teachers. They tend to be zealous, decent and optimistic. They resolve to leave no stones unturned in navigating the learning route and never relent. Such students are the real shapers of tomorrow and they are the invaluable assets to the society whom teachers remember for a long time. They are, in fact, not only the wealth for a teacher but the architects of tomorrow for the whole nation. They rightly make my days and make me feel that I am a wealthy teacher. Do you feel so? I hope you do!

Stress managing techniques



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Every one of us needs to understand the clear meaning of stress and the importance of managing it. In order to analyze the points of pressure in your life, so that you can plan to neutralize them, you must know the range of different management techniques. Stress in our lives, whether personal or professional, can cause severe health problems. In cases where stress is causing significant or persistent unhappiness, stress management

techniques have been shown to have a positive effect on reducing stress. The following are the few starting points for effective stress management:-

Stress Diary: Identify the immediate and short-term stresses in your life. One must have a clear understanding of stress-related symptoms and causes. Maintaining a stress diary helps us in identifying situations that may actually be dangerous, and may threaten us physically, socially or in our career. Here, stress and emotion are part of the early warning system that alerts us to the threat from these situations.

Job Analysis: If your stress is related to your job then job analysis is the first step in managing work overloads and job-stresses. By analyzing the points of pressure in your professional life you can tackle the stress at its very source, and plan to lessen or neutralize it with the help of other stress managing techniques mentioned here.

Performance planning: Performance planning is all about planning ahead to reduce performance

stresses. By organizing and focusing ideas into common themes you can get the greatest returns, making the most of your opportunities. In this way you can overcome the performance stress at its earliest.

Imagery: It deals with mental stress management, i.e., how personality affects the way people think. How stressed someone feels depends on how much damage they think the situation can do them, and how closely their resources meet the demands of the situations. Stop imagining things as stressful in their own right; rather it is our interpretation of the situation that drives the level of stress that we feel.

Physical Relaxation: Physical relaxation exercises keep a guard on our mind and body against stress related threats. Very often, however, we are overly harsh and unjust to ourselves in indulging to physical relaxation techniques which result in harming our performance level and paralyzing our mental skills.

Positive and Rational Thinking:

Thought awareness, rational thinking, and positive thinking are simple tools which help us to change the negative ways of thinking. Unfortunately, negative thoughts tend to fill into our consciousness, do their damage and fill back out again, with their significance having barely being noticed. Thought awareness is the process by which you observe your thoughts and become aware of what is going through your head. Challenge your negative thoughts rationally. Finally, prepare rational, positive thoughts affirmations to counter any remaining negativity. Affirmations help you to build self-confidence and you can use them to undo the damage that negative thinking may have done to your self-confidence.

If stress managing techniques are used with a strong common sense they are highly effective in minimizing stress, improving decision making, maximizing your personal effectiveness, and much, much more.

Professionalism in education

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

Professionalism literally means 'the behavior, skill, qualities special conventions, forms of politeness etc. associated with a certain profession or shown by a professional.' An important part of being professional is adopting an open, questioning approach to the field in which we work, including our own contribution to it. Half of the battle of becoming a professional is your perceptions, your self-esteem and what you desire from life. It depends on whether you want:

- to be a worker or a leader
- a job or a career.

Education is a complex human process. Excellence in education is achieved when the teacher becomes a reflective practitioner, possesses the academic and professional background necessary to perform at the highest level. Professional development is most effective when the teacher conducts himself through reflective practice and judges the value of training and development activity in terms of its impact on teaching and supporting learning. For this purpose the teaching practitioner must make professional development plans which should clearly articulate his needs, set measurable objectives that reflect the teaching context, fulfilling the needs of the employer.

Professional development is a continuous process that adds value throughout a teaching practitioner's career. It is most successful when undertaken as an integral element of the teacher's routine, rather than seen by him as an additional burden. The main element is a commitment to quality education based on sound pedagogic insight. The primary approach to the nature of professionalism includes

- the use of skills based on theoretical knowledge
- a code of professional conduct oriented towards the 'public good'
- a powerful professional organization.

Millerson (1964)

The teacher holds a position of professional status in the school because he has established himself as an authority in some aspects of the culture of the community. His job is to be a path finder and lead others into what is regarded as worthwhile. In order to fulfill this role, teachers need to be competent in their field and flexible in their outlook and approach. Being an effective teacher depends on the ability to integrate the people skills, teaching skills and subject knowledge as well as applying them imaginatively and creatively.

Danielson (1996) has proposed a framework for teachers' efficient handling of professional responsibilities.

A model teacher

1. **Reflects on teaching.** He makes accurate reflections and decides how to improve for the future. There are different levels of decision making in education. Even in the classroom, apart from the teacher, the active role of students themselves is increasingly recognized an important correlate in the development of appropriate learning ends.

2. **Maintains accurate records:** He maintains a record wherein he includes students' completion of work and different stages of progress of learning.

3. **Communicates with families:** He keeps the parents posted about the instructional program and the students' progress, positive or negative. He seeks active participation of parents in monitoring progress of their children.

4. **Contributes to the school and community:** He includes in his personal agenda activities related to volunteering, cooperating, supporting, contributing and leading-in relationships at the school and district, and activities within the surrounding community.

5. **Grows and develops professionally:** A teacher aiming at highest standards of professionalism seeks opportunities to develop professionally through improving content knowledge and pedagogical skills and contributes back to the profession through presenting responses to suggest positive ways forward.

[Danielson, C (1996). *Enhancing professional practice: A Framework for Teaching*. Alexandria: Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development.]

What a model teaching professional needs is

- to have higher expectations of himself and of all pupils
- to accept accountability
- to take personal and collective responsibility for improving their skill and subject knowledge
- to seek to base decisions on evidence what works in school internationally
- to theorize from classrooms
- to work in partnership with other staff in the school
- to have an open mind to constructive suggestions made by parents and others outside a school
- to welcome change and promote innovation.

Such professionalism can hardly be achieved by a teacher who is impatient to get quick results. Professionalism grows into a teacher in slow degrees. His aims eventually develop and his convictions crystallize through experience as he gives time to think about them. Appropriate teacher training capsules needs to be developed to meet the needs of teachers aiming at achieving quality in education which is its mainstay.

Al Haddad: A famous Yemeni writer

Nabila Mohammed Al-Haddad
Officer - Central Library,
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Mohammed Yahia Al Haddad, a well-known Yemeni writer, was born in 1923 and died in 1987. He lived in Ibb. He was educated in one of the Quranic Schools in Ibb. He continued his studies in Alhmedia School (home science). The teachers of Alhmedia were the republic mufti (preachers and wisers) Abdullah bin Abdu Alkareem, Zeed Ali Mushaky, Mohammed bin Mohammed bin Ismael Almansour and others.

He focused in his writings, during the two revolutions of 1948- 1962, on his country and his studies. He wrote many books such as *The History of Yemen* before the revolution of September 1962 and *The History of Yemen Before Islam*. It was the first



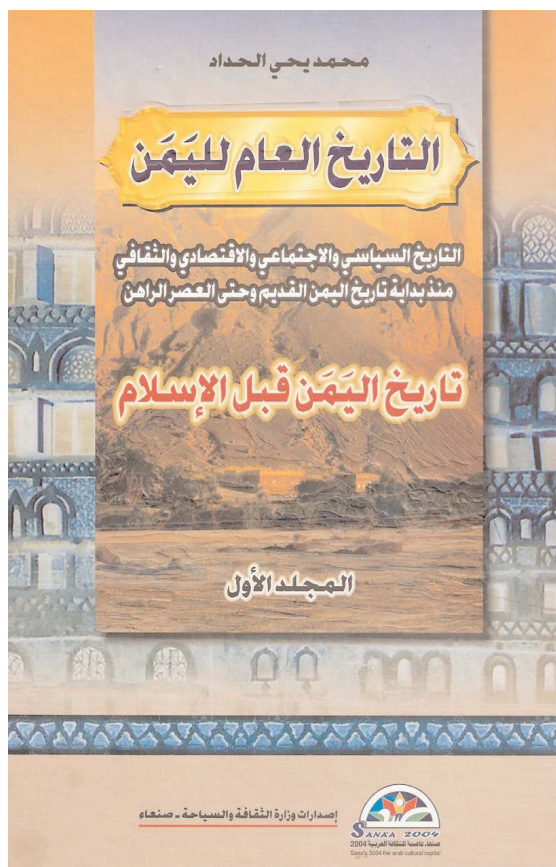
Mohammed Yahia Al-Haddad

political volume about Yemen.

After the Yemeni revolution, he became the head of justice in Ibb Governorate. He also wrote a book on the contemporary social themes with a futuristic outlook: *Picture of Future* which catalogues several important socio-historical facts about Yemen.

His *The General History of Yemen*

talks about the civilization of Yemen before and after Islam. He states, "...[some of] the most important travelers came to Yemen a long time ago... the orientalist came as doctors, traders or explorers and others." He talked at length about the civilization of Yemen and highlighted the contributions by the travellers and their analyses of the famous inscriptions of Yemen. The author referred to some Arabian travellers who were interested in Yemen's Saba'ain inscriptions at that time. Alhaddad narrated about Yemen before and after Islam. He referred in his writings to the small towns and emirates that were found at that time. He referred to the most important events of the time in these towns and emirates and described the political, social and cultural significance of these places.



Finally, special thanks go to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture for publishing some of his works which have benefited researchers, students and general readers.

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. If an air conditioner is available at home, one should check for
 - electricity leakage
 - voltage fluctuation
 - traffic in that area
 - water leakage
2. Who invented thermometer?
 - Rutherford
 - Galileo
 - Newton
 - Bohr
3. Aqua regia is a mixture of
 - nitric acid and HCl in a ratio of 1:3
 - HCl and nitric acid in a ratio of 1:3
 - Sulphuric acid and HCl in a ratio of 1:3
 - Sulphuric acid and nitric acid in a ratio of 1:3
4. What does 'CTC' written on teabags indicate?
 - curling, thrashing and cutting
 - cutting, trampling and curling
 - cutting, thrashing and curling
 - cutting, trampling and curling

5. Salinity of sea water is the
 - amount of salt in 100kg of water
 - amount of minerals dissolved in 100 kg of water
 - hardness of water
 - amount of oxygen dissolved in water

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. The increasing cold for which it is not adequately protected stimulates a bird to migrate.
2. The number of chromosomes present in a man is 46.
3. The technique by which electrical impulses of the brain are recorded and studied to understand brain function is called **Electroencephalography**
4. Hardness of water is due to the presence of **soluble salts of Ca and Mg**
5. The terms 'rod' and 'cone' are associated with **retina**.

POETRY CORNER

Purpose of life

Saba Jarallah Saleh Gawbah

Life comes and goes,
Every minute... every hour,
A process without a pause,
No matter of riches or honor

You're born; you grow up,
And you experience youth.
You insist; you give up;
You search for the truth.

It is shining like a star,
In the sky day and night.
So close though so far,
Only Peace without fight.

Worship the only and the true God.
Life one day shall end,
You win eternal life with God,
And you become the angels' friend

Translator: Between the devil and the deep blue sea



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should be *source-language-centered* or *target-language-centered*. There is no consensus regarding the point whether, in rendering a given text from the Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL), the translator should adhere to the potential linguistic and cultural norms of SL or embrace their counterpart aspects of TL.

Eminent scholars of translation such as Peter Newmark, J. C. Catford, Augine Nida, Mona Paker and others have written a considerable number of books in most of which, if not all, they have discussed these two extremes and have tried to tackle such dilemmatic issues. These writers have coined the terms mentioned above. *Literal vs. free*,

word-for-word vs. sense-for-sense, formal vs. dynamic (Functional), form vs. content, style vs. message, faithful vs. idiomatic (communicative) and other taxonomies are based upon certain variables such as; form, content, style, reader and writer as well as other pragmatic, hermeneutic and semiotic factors.

The readers of this article may agree on the give-and-take solution, which compromises between the two previously mentioned extremes that are likely to be mutually exclusive such as *form* and *content*. This process of compromise, from my own perspective, is hazy, vague, ambiguous and indistinct. Saying the word *compromise* is easy but, the question is HOW?. Is this com-

promise built on an ad-hoc basis, or is it guarded by certain criteria? If the second is the case, what is the criterion on which the translator depends in his *compromise, adaptation, or localization*?

There is an English proverb: "One man's meat is another man's poison". The SL centered translation of this proverb is [lahmu Shakhseen yakunu summan le akhar], whereas the TL centered translation is [masa,ibu qawmen 'inda qawmen fawa.idu...]

Mr. Essam Hassan Al-Mizjaji is a PhD scholar at Sana'a University and a member of the teaching staff at University of Science and Technology.

On the part of translators and translation theorists, there has been a long standing debate as to whether translation



My first day in Indian Embassy school

It was highly playful,
To come to the school
Of an Indian origin
In a land of an alien.

But in its premises my first day
Bestowed upon me
A sense of boundless joy
That words can hardly say.

Is this the school of India
Where the world comes to flock
Enriching humanity
And promoting brotherhood?

Am I in a school for Indians?
But why do the others like to come?
Do they think it an unfulfilling source
Of knowledge and inspiration?

It seems that the
Indians
Like to serve the
world
Teaching the lesson
of
Non-violence and
Love for mankind.



O Lord! Let me be the child
Of hope and positive thinking
So that the world can come to us
To know the life's meaning.

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Life's difficulties

After you read the title, you may start thinking about many difficulties we face in the life cycle. Family, study, love, loneliness, lost friends, failure, worries, fear, depression, death and sadness are examples of some of the difficulties we face in our life. They are different from one another in their degree and intensity.

Life is beautiful. Everyday we are put to test by her and she waits to see who are strong enough to be worthy of life's adventure.

Like the stones on the street, are the difficulties in life. But we have to ignore them and be flexible and buoyant like the stream which cannot stop by any rock or

stumbling block. Be firm like the rock which can not be moved by the wind.

Don't wait for anyone to help you. You should make the first step to change your life. Make your life like the spring season full of love, color, and happiness. So everyday when you open your eyes, start your day with a big smile, it will make your life brighter. And remember that no one knows you better than yourself, for that do not give up. Be grateful to Allah for every gift you have while others crave to have just one.

Rabab Ali Al-Mammar
Level 4, Education
UST, Sana'a

To my venerable Dr. Ayid

Lo! Here my heart is my ink
Into my heart my fingertip I dip
Yet am unable to describe thee
Oh! Ayid thy love is boundless as the sea

A star sometimes does vanish, we see
But thou art a star behold always we
One knows God loves His creature
But Ayid has perennial love for literature.

Each book of thine is as our sun!

Every line in them is as its ray
That enlightens every one
So that to do without it no-way.

I cannot but say as much as camel hair
Multiplied many fold again and again
Multiplied by drops of every rain.
Thanks, my dear, as thee there is no peer.

Ramzi Abdullah Mansour
Department of English
Faculty of Education, Khawlan

To die together

I am yours
You are mine
Don't let me alone
I am you
You are me
Let's be together
To be happy forever
Life's ordeals do we share
To have fun together
To eat
To live
To go

To come
To walk
To sleep
To wake up
To fly
To swim
To climb
To travel
To see the world
To fly again
And to die together
I couldn't stand to be left

forlorn
Put your hands in mine
And let's be one
One of two
Two of one
You are me
I am you
You love me
I love you
Sarah Muhammed
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Dealing with animals

Allah has created the whole universe with all creatures for human service. Its a gift from Him.

Man must use it as Allah commands him. Therefore he must treat all creatures in a kind way. Allah forbids us to kill animals with any need and not to let animals fight and kill each other to entertain us, as it happens now-a-days in cass of bull fighting in Spain.

Our Prophet (PBUH) advises us how can we slaughter and hunt animals in a merciful way: if you kill or slaughter an animal you have to treat it in a merciful way and make your knife very sharp to comfort your animal.

Islam is the only religion which takes care of animals in such a kind way.
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Writing: Need for its cultivation by young learners



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available learning centres. The pen is rarely used by them. So the need of the hour is to make the young minds pay due attention to the promotion of writing skill and its potentialities. In fact, it is a treasure and a good source of manifesting thoughts in words that spring from one's mind.

May I take this opportunity to request the youth to lend their ears to the following points for their welfare and that of the future posterity.

Let's begin by asking: What happens in the process of writing and how any writer becomes an 'exact' man as Francis Bacon stated. If one could peruse the following, writing skill would be easy to acquire.

Creativity: Everyone has his/her own ideas and thoughts to share with others. It is this resource one has to explore. That is, there should be coordination between the hand and the mind so as to get the output highly appreciable. This creativity is innate in all. One need not

suppose that it is for high achievers only. Every one is potentially a high achiever given the proper nurture. So try to tap the mental and physical resources to maximize their innate 'creativity'. Once something is written, it could be seen and edited any time as it remains on the paper or board and not on the screen or monitor. This constant touch leads to its continual refinement. Obviously, the electronic device cannot help a lot in practicing the writing skill.

Practice: Writing is a kind of exercise in which the mind generates thoughts leading to the act of their pouring out freely. At the initial stage the mistakes may be preponderant, but this should not deter one from one's endeavour in achieving the objectives. So creativity can be pruned only by constant practice. There are a good many writers who rose to eminence by dint of constant practice that culminated in beauty of their creation which was admired by one and all.

Vocabulary: If thoughts are generated, the mind will search for words to put them in the appropriate place and context. The dictionary becomes an invaluable learning tool at this stage. In course of time, one discovers one's area of topical interest to explore and expound. This is the step in which he exhibits his creative identity. So Vocabulary building is extremely important in the cultivation of writing skill.

Style: Originality of thought and expression would, gradually, blossom and writers would, eventually, follow their own distinctive style in their composition.

Great works of art are the product of consistent toil. May I appeal to young minds to cultivate writing skill so that they reap the benefits for which the posterity will hold them in grateful memory.

Basic Education Improvement Program, BEIP-GTZ

The English Curriculum Specialists led by Dr Ayid Sharyan

Basic Education Improvement Program (BEIP) sponsored by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Yemen held a Training Course on Analyzing the Curriculum & Textbooks for Yemeni Curriculum Specialists from 02-02-2008 to 18-02-2008 at the Higher Teachers' Training Institute, Sana'a. This program was financed by GTZ (the German project for basic education improvement program). The team of trainers from the University Education Development Center (UEDC), Sana'a University was led by UEDC Director, Dr Abdu Al-Mutallis. He outlined the theoretical framework for Curriculum design and analysis during the first five days. The second part (the rest of the period) was led by the respective subject specialists who highlighted the salient principles of analyzing curriculum and textbooks. The objective of this training program was to devise ways and means to combine the two textbooks or parts of every subject in one textbook instead of having two in the first and second term.

This in-service training aimed at enabling the specialists of the basic competencies to activate the curriculum and involve themselves more effectively in the curriculum development committees in the act of revising, evaluating and improving the existing curriculums. The program intended to equip them with the skill and knowledge in planning, analyzing, evaluating, and improving curriculums so as to ensure quality in the public basic education and safeguard continuous development in the context of local, regional and international changes.

The training input dealt at length with concepts, factors and organizations of curriculum, with focus on analyzing it from the perspectives of concepts, styles, producers and the ways to apply them to content analysis in public education.

Dr. Ayid Sharyan, an established author and specialist of repute distributed a ques-

tionnaire to a number of teachers of English in Sana'a and analyzed the data to use the result as an authentic input for training. Other members of the team at UEDC, namely Dr Abdu Mutallis, Dr Radman, Dr Abdullah Othman Al-Hamadi, Dr Saud Al-Saab, Dr Ahmed Al-Awami, Dr Abdulsalam Al-Salahi as well as Dr Abdulkareem Al-Nasheri the GOPA Consultant, and the German expert Lise Voss from GTZ brought to bear their experience and expertise to enrich the different training sessions.

About 30 trainees participated from different fields: Islamic Education, Arabic Studies, Social Studies, Science and Math Education, and English Language. The team of English led by Dr Ayid Sharyan consisted of the curriculum specialists such as Ali A. Alnoor, Horya Al-Khalaki, Gazem Awad Al-Qalbi, Hareth Al-Eryani who actively participated in analyzing *The Crescent English Course For Yemen* the current textbooks (7, 8 and 9 grades) from the point of view of objectives, content and suggested the approach, activities, and evaluation modalities to prepare specialists for writing instructional materials. The participants focused on:

1. the relationship between the components that should be contained in the curriculum document and the ways to define the relationship between the components and the textbooks constituents, teacher's manual, and standards to evaluate the curriculum document and textbook structure according to specialization,
2. analyzing the curriculum goals across vertical and horizontal dimensions, specifying the relevance of these to the needs of the learners.
3. analyzing the curriculum components (aims, content, activities, evaluation) that are included in a textbook, identifying their relationship with each other as well as their compatibility with curriculum doc.
4. analyzing a unit of a given textbook and determine:
 - a. the relation of the unit content with the curriculum as a whole.
 - b. suitability of the unit content to the



Participants engaged in the deliberations.

learners' needs and interest.

c. the suitability of the unit with the other units at the same level.

d. the knowledge input, attitudes, and skills (i.e. competencies) that are included in the unit content and the complimentary structure that precedes and follows the unit.

e. suitability of pictures, graphs, tables, etc to the unit content.

f. variety of assessment methods and their relationship with unit content (aims, content, activities.)

5. designing a map of concepts for a unit in a textbook.

The overall task was very demanding, particularly because it was concerned with curriculum design in a country like Yemen that has its own idiosyncratic teaching and learning situation and in the light of the fact that curriculum is a vast area with the following interlinked components:

- I. Goals - what do you want learners to do?
- II. Content - what are the necessary activities to achieve your aims?
- III. Activities - how to organize these activities to reach your goals?
- IV. Evaluation - how do you know that

the goals have been achieved?

All these components are in a state of flux and change quite dramatically from time to time to meet the constant changes in developing countries like Yemen. At a point in time in the past, for example, it was enough to look at education as rote learning, recalling information in the exam and retaining whatever was needed. There was no attention given to the expected outcomes and the level of achievement on the completion of the course. The learners were supposed to study what was planned for them and put in the textbook- the only source of learning. The products of such curriculum were learners who were limited in creative and critical thinking. New experiences in life surprised them because they were not trained to adapt themselves to new situations. From this perspective, the currently outcome-based education appears to be more suitable and the need of the hour.

The new trends in curriculum involve learners in the learning process in which learning becomes an organized activity with expected outcomes at the end of the learning experience. It looks at the learner as the pivot of the learning activities where learners' needs are catered for. Curriculum allows learners to discuss, negotiate, solve problems, plan, and take an active role in the learning activity. The training program was, therefore, a laudable endeavor on the part of BEIP-GTZ under the guidance of Dr Abdu Al-Mutallis, University of Sana'a, Mr Gubari, Director of the General Directorate, Curriculum and Guidance Sector of the MoE and the team of experts who have the credentials of improving the current textbook in Yemen to meet the challenges of basic education in the age of globalization.



Work with a smile...



A section of delegates in rapt attention.

CAMPUS CAUSERIE

Seminar On How to Make Poetry Easy

Students of Level-3, Group-A, Education of UST, Sana'a presented a seminar on the topic: *How to Make Poetry Easy* on 21st February, 2008.

Elham Yaser Khalil discussed the kinds of poetry: *descriptive, reflective, lyrical, classical and romantic*. Afkar Hussain Ali highlighted the achievements of great poets like Chaucer, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Donne and Wordsworth. Amira

Baidar offered several suggestions to make teaching and learning of poetry easy. The accent of the seminar was to outline appropriate strategies to make poetry stimulating.

Teachers and students of Education and Translation of all Levels attended the seminar. Dr. Mohammad Ejaz Alam, Assistant Professor lauded the efforts of the students and expressed his considered views on the topic.

RESPONSE TO ARTICLES

Dear Dr. Ejaz,
Occasionally, I read your informative articles published in Yemen Times. I agree with your view points and share your ideas, especially the ones

expressed in your article entitled *Management of classroom communication*.

Arfeen Al-Dahia
Arfeenaldahia@yahoo.com

READERS' VIEWS

Dear Dr. Sahu,
I'd like to extend my thanks to you. Your are playing a really great role in developing the level of Yemeni English learners (students and teachers) through your Education page in the Yemen Times, my favorite newspaper. I'd like to see your lessons in a complete book.

I have enjoyed the lessons published in your column *Improve Your English*. Please provide me with those material because I think they are of great value to me.

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