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2 Soldiers Killed in Intesifying Military Action Against Tribesmen in Wadi Habab of Khowlan

PRESSURE BUILDING UP!

HABAB: Al-Haraja village of Al-Saeed Habab, Khowlan, has for the past two weeks come under heavy artillery and katusha rocket shelling by the Republican guard forces and army units stationed in the area. The shelling has so far led to destruction of 8 residential houses and the Shiite Mosque (Fatima Al-Zahraa), the only Shiite Mosque in the Republic of Yemen.

Artillery and rocket shelling killed large numbers of sheep and cattle, and fires devoured stockpiles of cattle fodder. The shelling has also inflicted heavy damage on water wells, and army troops have destroyed the citizens' farms and trees. Sheikh Ali Maqri Al-Radmani, one of the area's chieftains told our correspondent that they could not tolerate these inhumane practices indefinitely and "the tribesmen are armed and capable of powerful retaliation."

"We are not Israelis to have our villages, farms and worshipping places destroyed," Skeikh Radmani said. On the recent kidnapping incidents that took place in the area, Skeikh Al-Radmani has clarified that the person responsible for those incidents belongs to Aanis tribe. **More on P2**



A house of a villager destroyed



Fatima Al-Zahra Mosque, the Only Shiite Mosque in Yemen, Now Destroyed



The Cause of Last Week's Military Plane Crash Unknown

ADEN: Official sources still could not reveal the actual reasons behind the fall of the military MIG-21 plane last week. The plane crashed around 7:30 AM last Tuesday in an area west of Abyan governorate. According to eye witnesses, the plane flew for 30 minutes before it crashed to the ground, resulting in the death of its pilot, Hussein Al-Asadi, and his assistant Jamal Al-Hammadi, who were on a training mission. It is yet not know whether the crash was the result of a fault by the trainees, a technical error, or another reason.



MIG-21

Court Hearings of the Australian Yacht Attacking Pirates Started

ADEN: The court hearing in the case of the pirate attack against the Australian Tucker family, started last Tuesday. It was not long after the start of the court session at the Primary Court of Zinjibar, when Garry Tucker, the yacht owner identified the pirates. The defendants, Hadi Yaslam Bal'eed, Hussein Awadh Bal'eed, Mohamed Salim Lajzal, Salem Mohamed Bal'eed, and Major Ali Saeed Bin Afya, could not but confess that they were the ones who attacked the yacht.

Even though the 5th pirate was not identified because he stayed in the pirates' boat, the 5th defendant claims that he was not among the pirates and he was at his home when the pirates came back with the stolen goods. It is expected that the next court session will reveal who the 5th pirate is.

A Joint Communique Supporting The Minister of Tourism After the Assault Attempt Against Him

SANAA: After the assault attempt against the Minister of Information and Tourism, Mr. Abdulmalik Mansour on the 17th of November, the General Tourism Authority, the Yemeni Committee of Tourism and Travel agencies, and the Yemeni Hotels Union released a joint communique supporting the minister, demanding that the assaulters be taken to court. On the other hand, the Islah Party media authority denied the reports of the assault, calling it a direct reaction to the indecent behavior of the driver of the minister's car which, in their words, hit an old lady passer-by, causing the civilians there to confront the Minister's car driver and express their discomfort with his actions.



Under the Auspices of the President Yemen Times Organizes A Last Human Rights Seminar In Two Weeks

Yemen Times is a newspaper well-known for its support to human rights and press freedom issues. Having its founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf as the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Consultative Council, the newspaper focused on these issues even more. Through the years, Yemen Times brought a lot of stories of human rights violations and oppression of the press. Today, we are witnessing a new world order based on the respect of human rights and freedom of speech. On the 51st anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights, on the 5th of December, Yemen Times will organize the last seminar of the 20th century on human rights in Yemen. The invitation is open to all who wish to bring up human rights related working papers, and to all who wish to participate or attend the seminar which the president will attend and deliver a speech on this great occasion. **More details next week.**

New Section of the Yemen Times INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Due to the increasing demand of the local readers in Yemen for having a section for international news, Yemen Times from this week starts a new section titled "International News Digest" in which headlines and summaries of breaking news will be published on a weekly basis on page 3.

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Words of Wisdom

"Our system today, nobody will stop anybody from pushing through his/her vision of a morally superior system. But he/she should not wait for the president or prime minister to do something to help, beyond lip service."



That is why the best approach to make Yemen a better world citizen is through finding young Yemenis who have ambition and a sense of destiny, and promote in them the commitment for democratic values."

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

YT Weekly Opinion Poll

Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at:
<http://www.yementimes.com/#poll>

Question

In your view, did the presidential elections weaken or strengthen the stand of the opposition?

Result

The president was elected by the people with a huge percentage, hence weakening the opposition's stand. (35%)
It has strengthened the opposition because the participation in the elections was not as expected. (21%)
It has weakened the opposition but for other reasons (10%)
It has strengthened the opposition for other reasons. (17%)
I have no idea. (17%)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you feel that Yemen is more secure now than it used to be two months ago?

Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Military Strikes Intensify in Habab

The End Should Not Justify the Means!

What has happened in the Habab area in Marib province, is truly outrageous. It is the right of the state to order the deployment of military forces and take action against certain terrorist groups and elements that try to destabilize the country, but these terrorist actions should not be the excuse of the destruction of homes and farms of innocent people. After going to the area, and eye witnessing the damage the army forces caused to the houses and farms and even a mosque in the Habab valley, we were quite astonished, and we could not but publish the photos of the humanitarian disaster happening in that area.

The president should not allow such a mess to happen, as the forces are not organized, and blast and shoot in a random way. Some problems can be solved by force, but the level of force used should not exceed the limits and should always be in favor of security and stability of any region.

As our Yemen Times team went to the villagers and asked them why they think this is happening, they replied with quite astonishing answers. Some complained that the forces are destroying houses in a random way just to show superiority or power against the tribesmen. Others think that the security masses are trying through their actions to cause the tribesmen to stop kidnapping and exploding the oil pipelines. The rest think that they are targeting the wrong people, while the actual kidnappers have escaped the village, the forces are still hitting hard at civilian homes and destroying qat farms of normal villagers who are not related in any way to the kidnapping incidents.

My point of view is that force can be used, but precisely and to the point. It should be used when the target is known, well identified and located, without having any side effects on innocent people. It is well known that our army forces are not as well trained as they should be. They are not well qualified in finding targets, and confronting armed tribesmen in mountains and valleys. Hence, they usually hit randomly, leading to damage to others.

These actions should be stopped in the mean time, until the forces know exactly what they are after. It is the government's duty to rebuild the houses and mosque of the villagers that have been damaged unintentionally. On the other hand, the forces should have a clear plan, target, and an intelligent investigating unit that can reveal where the kidnappers are and capture them directly rather than having forces storm the wrong targets.

The government should not be stubborn, and should take these suggestions seriously. We all want the interest of the country, but we should not implement the strategy of "the end justifies the means." No, the end does not justify the means, especially if we are not so sure that the means would actually lead to the desired end. Our government should realize how to balance the way they do their actions. I am optimistic that the mess in Habab will stop and that things can be resolved peacefully without harming the interests of the innocent.

After all, we should join hands in favor of building the country in a constructive manner, and listen to critics, try to find our mistakes and try to correct them.

I hope my viewpoint reached its target!

In Brief

Nabil Kenani Death Sentence Confirmed

The death sentence against the Spanish national of Syrian origin, Nabil Kenani was upheld in Aden on Saturday November 20th. Nabil Kenani had been convicted of bombing charges and was sentenced to death last year by firing squad for leading a group convicted of bombings in Yemen. He had contested the Aden court ruling and filed an appeal. Kenani still has 40 days to appeal Saturday's ruling to the Supreme Court. Kenani had confessed that he planned to kill Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulkareem Al-Iryani and admitted to training other group members to carry out sabotage actions.

Heated Discussion Over the Budget of the year 2000

Heated discussion is nowadays going on inside the parliament on the state budget for 2000. Along with it goes fierce opposition by a majority of MPs representing all political parties. The opposition focuses on the budget and on the Parliament's speaker, Abdulla Ben Hussain Al-Ahmar's and others determined attempt to pass the budget.

Against this attempt, the political blocs of the parties represented in the parliament, namely the Arab Baath Socialist Party, Nasirite Unionist Party, the Islah party and the independents issued a statement opposing the way the discussions are carried out by the parliament. The statement also demands entering into a new era, in the year 2000, an era where the citizen enjoys security, stability and improvement of living standards in addition to securing health and education services as well as nationwide equal citizenship.

Hodeidah Fishing Port Inaugurated

Minister of Marine Wealth, Mr. Ahmad Mosaaed Hussain, Governor of Hodeidah, Mr. Mohammed Hatem and the Ambassador of France to Yemen, Mr. Pierre Boillot inaugurated the renovated Fishing Port in Al-Hodeidah on Nov. 20th.

Mohammed Sadeq Al-Odeini Released

Former editor of Al-mithaq newspaper, Mr. Mohammed Sadeq Al-Odeini was released Tuesday after two years of imprisonment in Ibb for involvement in murder. On the same day, Al-Odeini visited the Journalists' Syndicate in Ibb and thanked it for the efforts it exerted to

provide him with a fair prosecution.

Kuwaiti Delegation Concluded visit to Yemen

The Kuwaiti delegation visiting Yemen is concluding its visit today. The delegation headed by Mr. Abdul Aziz Al-Manshawhi, who represents the families of Kuwaiti hostages in Iraq, arrived in Yemen Tuesday in response to an invitation by Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussain Al-Ahmar. During the visit the delegation met a number of officials and discussed the issue of the Kuwaiti hostages. On another level, Mr. Al-Manshawhi held a press conference yesterday at the embassy of Kuwait in which he showed his appreciation for Yemeni people and officials' understanding of the humanitarian case of Kuwaiti hostages in Iraq.

Commemoration Party at the British Consulate

His excellency the British Ambassador to Yemen Mr. Victor Hinderson and his wife gave a reception party at the British consulate in Aden in commemoration of British servicemen killed during the 1st and 2nd World Wars on Nov. 14. His excellency the ambassador welcomed the guests, expressing his pleasure over the developing British-Yemeni relations. The reception party was attended by a number of political, social and diplomatic figures, as well as businessmen.

Paper Visa Transcripts Issued by Imm. & Passport Authority

For the first time ever, the Yemeni Immigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority issued the printed version of the visa transcripts for all foreign passports. The visas are a technologically advanced printout format that includes hidden codes that reveal whether the visa is fake, and includes information about the issuance number, and other details. The visas are so sophisticated that they can only be printed in a few countries in the world. Hence, the Yemeni visas are printed in Canada.

The main reason behind the emergence of these new visas is to block further attempts to fake visas for non-Yemeni nationals who were not allowed to come for legal reasons.

An Arrival of Dutch and Cuban Medical Team

These two teams have given assistance in the field of cosmetic surgery to Athora hospital and Kuwait hospital, and some members of the team will go to Aden. This visit is the fifth

visit to Yemen. In the previous visits they made about 600 surgical operations at Aden hospital and Athowra hospital in Sana'a. Up to this date they have performed 60 operations. The team consists of 11 doctors. It works with some Yemeni specialist doctors in Sana'a and Aden. They will stay in Yemen for 20 days.

Noman Won

On Wednesday, 17 November, 1999, the appeals court will uphold the primary sentence for the sake of Mr. Noman Qaid Saefi, against Ashoura Newspaper. The court will demand from the Ashoura newspaper about YR 200000. The court stopped 12 months of Mr. Noman's salaries, and an additional YR 50000 as a spending of the sentence. Mr. Noman was Editor in Chief for Alqoraba newspaper for one year and a half.

Al-Aff Cultural Foundation Prize of 2000

The opening of candidature program for the 2000 prize in Agricultural sciences is announced. The study will discuss possible substitutes for qat. This subject will deal with qat and the agricultural substitutes for qat. The study should be written in the Arabic language or translated from English into Arabic. The competitors' age should not be more than 40 year old.

Aden Hosts Arab Chess Champions

The biggest Arab chess tournament for men and ladies with the participation of 14 countries, was inaugurated on November 20, 1999. The Republic of Yemen hosts the 15th Arab chess championship from November 20th -30th. Participating countries include the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Sudan and Yemen. The committee has chosen Mr. Abdullah Salem Ba Malam from Yemen, Wagdi Lam'e from Egypt and Khalid Koheen from Morocco. The tournament will take place at Aden Movenpick Hotel. Dr. Abdullah Rawh, the Minister of Youth and Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanem, the governor of Aden attended the inauguration of the championship. The Yemeni chess team for men consists of Hatem Al-Hadran, Arab champion in Jordan, Zandan Al-Zandani, the winner of the bronze award at the Arab Championship and Sabri Abdulmawla, one of the prominent players in the Yemeni chess team. The Yemeni team for ladies consists of Maha Al-Shoraigi, Nadhemah Abdulsallam, Adelah Abdulwadod and Bothainah.

Bani Jabbar, Khawlan and Bakeel tribes, religious figures, all organizations and political parties, and the people of Yemen, appealing to them

to interfere to stop the shelling they are exposed to. The call says people's houses and mosques are being destroyed and children, women and elderly people have become homeless under the scorching heat of the sun and are scattered in desolate valleys without food or drink. Properties are being looted and the wounded are given medical treatment. The Sheikhs and dignitaries of the tribe called upon all those parties to help them out of their ordeal, asking UNICEF, human rights, and relief organizations to supply them with food, medicine and tents.

Continued from Page 1:

PRESSURE BUILDING UP

He added that the person had sought refuge with his tribe two years ago and is living among them temporarily. Nevertheless, he says, we are now held responsible for the consequences. The Sheikh has made it clear that they forced that person to release the hostages in only three hours.

Speaking about the blasting of the oil pipeline on November 16, 1999, Sheikh Radmani said the explosion took place about 200 meters away from an army camp, implying that those who implemented it could be elements from the camp.

On the other hand, light weapons clashes between Republican guard and army troops, and residents of the area resulted in the death of two soldiers and the wounding of others, in addition to wounding two residents of the area.

The two dead soldiers were given funerals, and were buried in Sana'a on Sunday November 21, 1999.

The area's Sheikh and notables issued a statement appealing to the state to pull its troops out of the area and to stop shelling operations and the destruction of their villages and property.

The Appeal

"Sheikhs, notables and residents of Habab Bani Jabbar district, Khawlan, Marib governorate, sent a call to

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American Airlines Travel Agents Seminar & Dinner- 99

The annual American Airlines, Travel Agents Seminar & Dinner was held at the Taj Sheba Hotel, on the 17th Nov'99. representative of top selling travel agencies and managers of universal travel (GSA for American Airlines in Yemen) participated in the seminar. Mr. Omar M. Omar, GM, welcomed all the participants, which set off the formal proceedings for the evening.



The main feature of the seminar was a detailed slide and video presentation made by the AA manager, Mr. M. Wasi ul Azeem. The presentation stressed the benefits of flying American, and how it helps the passengers from the middle east, with its different services provided through London Heathrow airport in particular. He also emphasized the vast network of American airlines across the Atlantic, and the ease of connections available through its major European destination - LHR.

The presentation also included some interesting details about the Oneworld Alliance, which now groups seven major world airlines, which include American Airlines, British Airways, Canadian Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Finn Air, Iberia and Qantas. Another highlight of the evening was a lucky draw for free tickets for the sectors Europe-USA-Europe. These were won by Nazneen Rosario of Wings Travel and Abdu Naji of Ashtal Travel.

The evening came to an end with dinner for all the participants.

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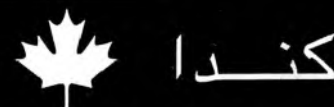
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Mr. John A. Garufi

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Branches:

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Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057;
Fax: +967 (2) 347-056
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 227-717
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Website: <http://www.yementimes.com/>
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Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-HAQ, Independent, Weekly:

Chief editor at Court:

The North Sana'a Court has adjourned the sessions of trials of Mr. Abdul Lateef Omer Kutbi till after the end of the judicial holidays. There are two cases raised by the government against both our Chief Editor and our colleague Tawfiq Al-Zaghoori. They are accused in the first case of publishing 'false news' because of a report titled "U.S.A. Forces Given Military Facilities at Soqatra Island" which appeared in edition 387. The other case accuses them of blaspheming which leads to a breach of public ethics.

AL-EHYA' AL-Arabi, Ba'ath Party, Weekly:

37 million Rials is Haraz-Gahm Dispute Verdict:

Final news of the Gahm-Haraz dispute is promising. Our own sources report that a final solution was reached last Monday in this dispute which lasted for five months in the aftermath of the 'kidnapping' of a Gahmi woman by a Harazi man. The good offices and mediation of prominent sheikhs from Sa'ada, Khawlan and Sanhan reached an agreement that provides for the 'arrival' of the sheikhs of Haraz to the dwellings of Gahm and payment of a fine that reached 37 million rials when added to 'arrival' costs. The said amount greatly decreased when the sheikhs of Gahm tribe struck off 15 million rials as a kind of honoring to the Harazi sheikhs. Additional efforts by sheikh Ali Maqsa' brought the total fine to 9.25 million rials. After this settlement, ten Harazis formerly detained by the Gahm tribe were released.

AL-BALAGH, Independent, Weekly:

MPs Insist Parliament is Sole Lawmaker:

A number of Members of Parliament insisted that parliament should continue as the sole lawmaker in Yemen. These MPs who asked their identities not to be disclosed, told Al-Balagh that the Consultative Council shall not be a lawmaker, and has no right to vote on laws, ratify them or amend them. A number of MPs also denied what was reported by Al-Quds of London of an intention to give members of the Consultative Council the right enjoyed by Parliament to discuss and issue laws.

AL-RA'Y AL-A'AM, Independent, Weekly:

1) Ba Um left while Qat Traders Sue Him:

Mr. Hasan Ba Um, YSP Hadhramout Secretary, left Yemen Monday morning for Cairo after he was cleared to travel. Mr. Ba Um and his family were returned from Sana'a Airport last Friday while trying to travel to Cairo. The YSP Politburo issued a statement in which it denounced the irresponsible practices that contradict the Constitution, the laws and citizenship rights.

However, a big number of qat traders in Al-Sharj Quarter, Mukalla, sent a number of signed complaints through Al-Ra'y Al-A'am to the Hadhramout Public Attorney's Office against Ba Um. They said Ba Um was fully responsible for their losses and injuries during Al-Mukalla demonstrations of 1998 in which a number of people were killed or injured. Ba Um's responsibility came from, they said, the fact that he led and directed the said demonstration.

2) Foreign Ships and Unlawful Fishing:

A number of huge foreign ships and boats continue to fish unlawfully in Yemeni territorial waters. These ships apply very damaging ways of fishing in our eastern governorates including the use of explosives. They are equipped also with factories and the products are sold in Yemen and neighboring countries.

Observers report that the lack of sufficient marine patrols and coast guards is the reason behind the continuation of these activities. Yemen has a 2500-km coast and its coast guard force can not cover it all. Some observers don't exclude dumping wastes, including nuclear wastes, and fuel wastes off Yemeni coasts, which can cause grave damages to our environment.

A number of Yemeni fishermen at the eastern coasts of Yemen phoned our newspaper complaining that they are facing fierce competition from the foreign ships and find their means of living diminishing. They demanded protection by the relevant authorities to our national marine wealth, our territorial waters and themselves against such violations.

AL-TAREEQ, Independent, Weekly:

Animals and Fish Die at Al-Mahra: The Marine Sciences Center at Aden has dispatched a researcher to Al-Mahra Governorate to investigate the

phenomenon of fish expiring in coastal areas of the Governorate. The Ministry of Fish Wealth issued strict instructions to the Marine Center to verify the reasons behind fish and animals, especially camels, expiring in Al-Mahra. It is recalled that animals in Al-Mahra, Hadhramout and Soqatra are traditionally fed on small fish.

AL-AYYAM, Independent, Tri-weekly:

In Sa'ada Law and Order Do Not Exist:

More than 80 persons who had applied for appointments gathered at a small place of prayer near the Civil Service Office inside the building that houses the Governor's office, Tuesday morning. They started to recite collectively the Holy Quran (Yassin Sura or the chapter which is traditionally read when someone dies). When they were asked, "For the soul of whom are you reciting?" They answered, "We are reciting for the soul of the deceased Law and Order."

The protestors pointed out that established standards of appointment were broken, that a person whose test marks were 29 was rejected while another with 23 marks appointed.

This is a first and unique protest for Sa'ada.

AL-WAHDAMI, People's Nasserite, Weekly:

1) Parliamentary Committee tends to Condemn Governor's Acts:

The Parliamentary Committee on Al-Udain incidents concluded its field visits to Ibb Governorate and is concentrating on preparing its report and findings. The Committee had received all high officials of Ibb and Sheikh Sadeq Pasha and a number of Udain residents. The nine-member Committee headed by Sultan Al-Barkani, Chairman of the PGC Caucus was formed to explore reasons behind the dispute between Ibb Governor and Sheikh Sadeq Pasha, to investigate the causes behind dispatching the police campaign in Udain and to inspect Sheikh Pasha's losses.

Al-Udain District witnessed a number of confrontations between security forces and Pasha's men. A big military campaign followed the 'outlaws' and demolished five private prisons belonging to Sheikh Sadeq Pasha and Sheikh Musawa.

It is noted that developments since the formation of the committee were given personal colors, while sources consider it likelier that the committee tends to condemn the acts taken by the

Governor of Ibb because of the way the committee was formed and the mentality of the Speaker of Parliament.

2) Lawyer Asked at Court to Repent:

Lawyer Yassin Abdul Razzaq, member of the group defending Al-Wahdawi, was astonished at West Sana'a Court to hear a member of the public prosecution side representing government asking him to repent to God. The prosecutor, Mr. Ahmed Ghaleb, said that he found it strange that Al-Wahdawi's lawyer would resort to the International Declaration of Human Rights in his defense, as he is a Muslim. He then asked Mr. Abdul Razzaq to repent to God because he resorted to 'imperfect rights' that were written by human beings under the name 'International Declaration of Human Rights.'

It is recalled that the Yemeni Constitution provides for the commitment of Yemen to international treaties, including the UN Charter and the International Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Ghaleb considered that ideas contained in defense arguments of another Wahdawi lawyer, Mr. Mohammed Naji Allaw, an MP, a call to lie. However, Mr. Ghaleb ended by asking God to pardon Mr. Allaw.

AL-THAWRI, YSP, Weekly:

Breaking Into Ghaleb's House:

An official YSP source denounced the breaking into the house of Mr. Mohammed Ghaleb Ahmed, YSP Politburo member and Secretary of the Central Committee, last week, by armed civilians who received orders from Sheikh Sadeq bin Abdulla Al-Ahmar, MP.

The source said in a press release last Monday that these people utilized the absence of Mr. Ghaleb in a visit abroad and committed their scandalous act without any grounds in an open challenge to the state and its organs.

The official source confirmed that there are financial or commercial relations or disagreements between Mr. Ghaleb and Sheikh Al-Ahmar and called upon the official state organs to shoulder their duties and protect people and their belongings from plundering and encroachments by the influential and powerful.

The said group broke into the house at Madhbah Area, Sana'a on Saturday evening and left it two days later.

Mr. Ghaleb had on Friday night participated in the TV program 'Agenda' on the MBC channel, which covered several issues of political life of Yemen.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

CHINA

A successful spacecraft launch

China has taken a major step toward joining the United States and Russia in space, successfully testing an unmanned spacecraft that soon could carry the country's first astronauts into orbit. The spacecraft — dubbed "Shenzhou," or "Vessel of the Gods" — separated from its launch vehicle and went into orbit about 10 minutes after liftoff, circling the Earth for 21 hours before controllers brought it down safely in Inner Mongolia.

PAKISTAN

Bombs kill 7

Militant supporters of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif claimed responsibility Sunday for a bomb explosion that killed seven people in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. Two children were among the dead. Another 17 people were hospitalized, police said. In a statement faxed to Pakistani newspapers, an organization calling itself the Al-Nawaz group said it had triggered the bomb to protest the military coup that ousted Sharif.

Deposed Pakistan PM Appears In Court

Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made a brief court appearance Friday to face charges of corruption, criminal conspiracy, hijacking and attempted murder. During his appearance, Sharif denied all the charges leveled against him. He also lashed out, alleging that the military administration had hijacked the legal government of Pakistan. No charges were actually laid at today's appearance.

PALESTINE

Barak urges Palestinians to cool rhetoric

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak gave a sweeping vision of Middle East peace but urged the Palestinians to tone down their rhetoric as the two sides conduct their final phase of negotiations. "We are at an extremely critical point in time," Barak told a crowd of about 800 people at a dinner Saturday night in New York. "The first step is a joint code of conduct during the negotiations by which both sides refrain from inflammatory rhetoric," he said.

CHECHNYA

Russian troops close in on Chechen capital

Russian commanders say their troops are within three miles (5 km) of Grozny, as federal forces tighten the noose around the Chechen capital and pound villages across the breakaway republic. Clear skies Saturday allowed Russian warplanes to renew bombing raids on Grozny. Meanwhile, Russian officials began restoring basic utilities to areas occupied by federal troops and urged residents who fled Chechnya to return.

USA

Texas A&M ponders end of bonfire tradition

Families prepared Sunday to lay to rest two more victims of Thursday's disaster at Texas A&M University, while university officials debated whether to end the 90-year tradition that led to 12 deaths. Texas A&M President Ray Bowen has ordered the formation of a task force of engineers and other experts to look into the disaster.

EGYPT

Debate over USA investigation in the Egyptian airplane crash

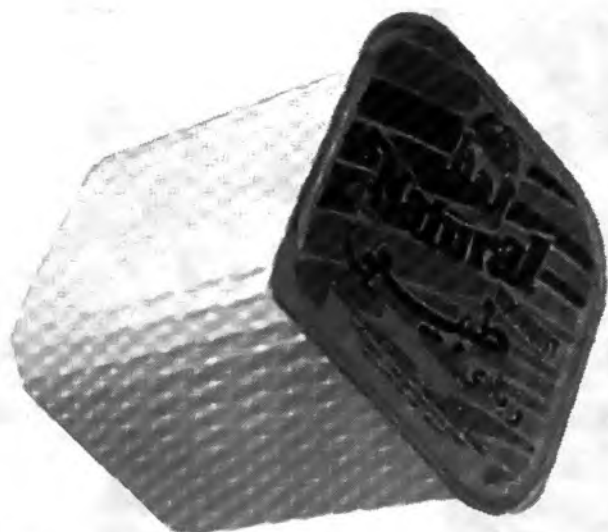
As U.S. investigators condemned a "cyclone of speculation" over the cause of last month's crash of EgyptAir Flight 990, many Egyptians have lost confidence in the probe and are turning to theories of their own.

Many Egyptians believe there has been a rush to judgment in the United States by those who believe that a co-pilot of the doomed jet, Gamael el-Batouty, caused the crash in an act of suicide. That perception has fueled a range of conspiracy theories in Cairo, in a society where the official version of events is met with skepticism, the rumor mill is considered a reliable source.

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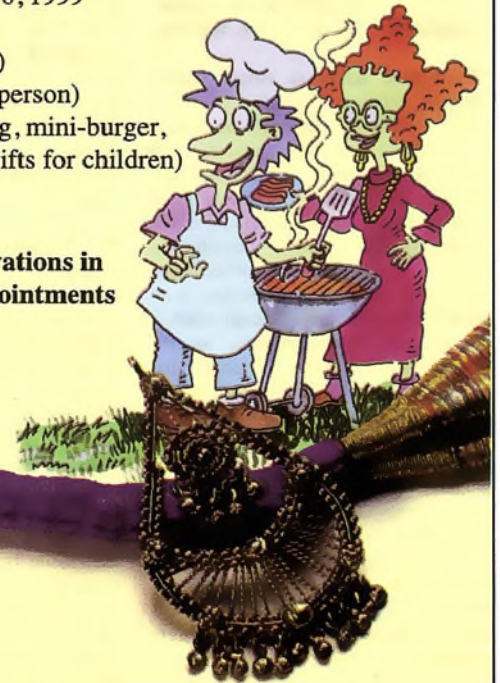


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Carrying Weapons: How to Deal With!



Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kibssi,
Member of Parliament

Howsoever we talk about a law which may regulate carrying and possessing weapons, and whatsoever we try to persuade people that they must interact and deal truthfully with rules, projects and future programs of the government, aiming at improving our country. To make the capital city of Sana'a empty from weapons as in other civilized countries, and to secure the lives of people who are living in the city. The actual state of affairs shows that the law regulating the carrying and possession of arms would be abided by particularly.

Military Commanders and Sheikhs Have Thousands of Bodyguards:

If the state wants to activate this decision, it must take appropriate procedures. Without taking these procedures, the law will not come into being. As a large portion of the armed forces bases and camps are stationed in the capital and other cities and



as a number of military leaders and Sheikhs have thousands of security men, and keep heavy weapons in their houses, military and police car number

plates are given to Sheikhs and to other officials illegally and as tribal law controls the country, we expect that the law will not be implemented and our suffering will continue indefinitely. As legislators, we discussed in

ple estimate the existence of 50 million pieces of arms, but I presume this is an exaggerated number. The reasonably acceptable number might range between 20-30 million pieces of military equipment which is kept in houses.

What we need is an appreciative kind of law. Here lies the difference in views between disarming people and permitting those who possess licenses to keep them. We have to take gradual steps in the execution of the law and use an amount of flexibility to ensure acceptability and a positive response. Implementation of such a law needs to be preceded by a large-scale campaign of enlightenment. And we seek in this respect full cooperation by social dignitaries in addition to direc-

tives to armed forces and security elements, not to carry arms when they are not on duty. But we have to take into consideration those who are involved in tribal disputes.

It is to be admitted that most social figures and members of parliament have bodyguards, but the state bears full responsibility for providing for their protection.

They would no longer need that number of guards. At the same time the number of bodyguards must be confined to the actual need of those personalities without exaggeration in number. It is

Some Proposed Solutions for this problem:

- 1- Law should be flexible and military and security forces should abide by carrying out this decision.
- 2- Those who do not respect the law should be punished.
- 3- Tribesmen and sheikhs should be guided by information media, and the state should take strict measures against them.

Armed Forces Should Abide By Government Decisions:
We are witnessing a credibility on part of the government and the state. Sometimes issuing any decision takes a long time because there are some corrupt forces, but what is happening now is as an undeclared war against carrying weapons. In fact we would not believe this while weapons are used in wedding occasions, in addition to using weapons during quarrels. At present, society and legislative authority are in need of these decisions more than before. If we want to develop our country, we have to support democracy and reject violence. Democracy is not merely elections, but freedom of opinion and respect of human rights. If the military forces abide by government decisions and if we illustrate through press and information media the dangers of carrying weapons, we will witness a good improvement in our society.

Some Military and Police Cars Have Forged Numbers:

There is another crucial problem represented by military and police cars which hide weapons, especially when those on board wear military uniform. Those cars which carry military numbers are not in fact military or police cars, but there are forged numbers given by some policemen to

SILVER LINING



Report in Series

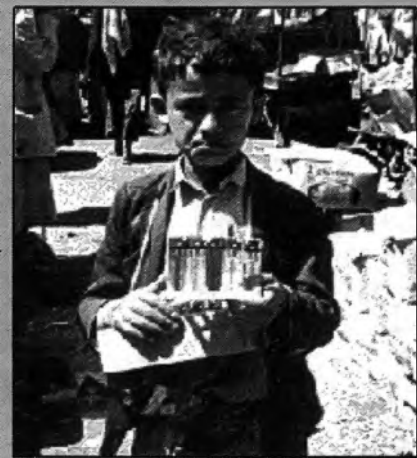
Mohammed Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor

WORKING CHILDREN IN YEMEN: A GENERATION PRONE TO DISASTER

2nd in a Series

Major Force of Working Children

The phenomenon of the working child class in Yemeni society appeared visibly in 1990s. As a matter of fact, there are some major factors lying behind the proliferation of this phenomenon so widely and which have forced children to join the working class of Yemeni society. Although exact figures about the size of the child working class in Yemen are not available, estimated reports indicate that the phenomenon is increasing. According to the employment surveys conducted in 1991 and in conjunction with the 1994 population census indicated that the phenomenon is commonly widespread and on the rise; around 8.4% of children aged 10-14 years were performing productive work of economic value in 1994, up from 4.9% in 1991. Working children aged 10-14 years in 1994 represented 5.7% of the total employed labor force against 3.4% in 1991. It is estimated that the number of working children is 231,000 - 51.7% males and 48.3% females. It is also estimated that working children represent now 6.5% of the total Yemeni work force.



The distribution of working children by economic activity shows that the large majority are involved in the agricultural sector (92%) and are from rural areas (96%).

As previously stated, the economic factor is the most important pressure forcing children to indulge in various types of work. As already mentioned, almost all of the rural working children (85%) work for their families without wages. They perform some agricultural work which has an economic value for their families.



We find that Yemen is one of the countries wherein the population growth rate (3.7%) and fertility rate (7.2%) is growing very fast. Reports say that if such growth continues, Yemen's present population of 17.8 million will dramatically

grow to 19.6 million by 2002 and is projected to jump to 27 million in 2010 and to a crashing 40 million by the year 2020. In 1975 Yemen's population was 8.1 million and in 1994 it reached 15.5 million. What is worse is that a high proportion of the population consists of young people. Around 2.5 million Yemenis are under four years-old, and another 5 million are between the ages of 5 and 14 years. Thus, infants and children represent 42.4% of the total population. This proportion will rise to 50% by the year 2010. So, these figures offer a scary and menacing picture. This population explosion adds fuel to the fire. This means that a lot of development services will be demanded which the shaky Yemeni economy, mainly because of corruption, is not able to afford. Therefore, a lot of families in such difficult economic situations, in which the per capita income is roughly \$276, can not afford to educate and feed their kids. Therefore, they are sent forcibly to perform any activity of economic value so as to help their families in their living. I conducted a questionnaire to find out the reasons forcing children to work. The questionnaire focused on the major cities in Yemen. Around 76% out of the respondents stated that they perform work activities in order to help their families sustain living, mainly because their fathers work can not cover the family needs.

We also find that the return of around one million Yemeni expatriates from the Gulf countries due to the Gulf War of 1990 has exacerbated the situation and added oil to the fire. Most of these returnees are not well-qualified. They formed a heavy burden on the fragile economy of Yemen and pushed the unemployment rate (around 40% now) forward. As a result, these returnees were unable to afford the basic needs for their families. Therefore, they forced their kids to either work or beg to help them. Hence, the number of people living below the line of poverty (30%) is on the rise. These economic factors together have forced kids to search for work.

To be continued next week

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Agriculture in Yemen



By: Ismail Alghaberi
Yemen Times

Agriculture is always connected with man. Without man and his efforts, the whole country would be nothing more than barren pieces of land. It is one of the most important economic resources for countries that helps achieve development and self-reliance. Land's life is simply man's life, and history shows us that many civilizations lived, depending solely on arable

lands. In olden times, people used to travel a lot in pursuit of lands that could be cultivated. In other words, they were in pursuit of life.

Today, about 75% of the population in Yemen depends on their land and fields for living. Many indicators show a remarkable development in the field of agriculture in Yemen.

Lack of water resources.

Yemen is one of the countries suffering from water shortage. About 80% of the arable land depends on rain for irrigation. Rainfall rates in these areas fluctuates and exploiting rainfall for irrigating lands is not effective. What is worse is that, water reserves are used carelessly. In addition, wells are dug randomly, ignoring the dangerous consequences of such actions.

Irrigation reservoirs

In fact, irrigation reservoirs available in some areas like the Wadis Mawr, Zabid, Siham, Tuban, Bana and others, are advanced ones. They play a very important role in controlling and distributing water runoff among fields as well as preventing soil erosion. However, they are in dire need of more attention in order to make sure that they will keep strong to control raging torrents. Unfortunately, what has been allocated for their maintenance is not enough. Even worse, farmers who are the main beneficiaries of these reservoirs, do not help share the burden.

Agricultural sector and food security

Since the 70s, food security has become a worry for many advanced as well as developing countries. The main reason is the impossibility of controlling productivity. There are many factors that help cause productivity fluctuations such as rainfall, temperature, moisture and many others. However, a great part of these factors can be controlled.

The wide gap between volume of production and consumers' needs is really the main challenge to our society. The agricultural sector has been able to meet consumer's demands of fruits and vegetables. However, it is not yet able to meet their demands for crops, white wheat, or other food products. The inability to achieve self-sufficiency in this regard can be attributed to reasons such as:

I) About 80% of the arable land depends on rain for irrigation.

II) The increase in growing qat which covers about 25% of the arable land.

III) Population increase.

IV) The unfair price policy that discourages farmers from growing crops.

V) The absence of private sector investment in the field of agriculture.

However, the agricultural sector has elements which qualify it to play a crucial role in achieving food security. What it needs is wise guidance that will set it on the right course to make it able to meet the increasing needs of the increasing population.

Desertification

Reports show that about 97% of the Yemen's arable land is threatened by desertification. Some of the reasons are:

I) The expanse of sands on arable land as a result of the lack of rain especially in Wadi Zabid and Wadi Rima in Tihamah and Abyan.

II) Woodcutting and grazing. Treeless areas are easily desertified. Trees can be a strong wall against expanding sands. Unfortunately, most of the trees were destroyed by woodcutters unaware of their wrongdoing.

The concerned authorities have realized this problem early and took suitable steps to avoid the disaster. Many trees and plants are being planted to prevent further expansion of sands. Defensive barriers are also being constructed for the same purpose.

Pest control

Pests are one of the main threats to plants. They may destroy all production. To avoid such damages, farmers should follow agronomists' instructions with regards to the suitable times of planting, watering, etc.

Agricultural researches

Researches done by the General Authority for Agricultural Research and Guidance have achieved remarkable success. For example:

I) Conducting research to guide farmers.

II) Planting new types of plants with high productivity.

III) Controlling pests.

IV) Specifying the amount of water needed to irrigate some kind of plants.

Although it is newly established, the Authority has been able to maintain a remarkable position among other Arab authorities in the same field. It has been able to achieve the second position and get the second prize for the best research among 102 other researches presented by 13 research centers. Moreover, new agricultural techniques have been implemented and this has helped improving both quantity and quality of products.

Overview of the General Budget for the Year 2000

The Ministry of Finance has, for the second consecutive year, managed to present the state general budget to the cabinet on time. This practice has helped to create a new tradition of preparing the proposed budget well before the fiscal year begins.

The year 2000 budget is estimated at 422 billion Rials. Revenues for the year 2000 are estimated at 389 billion Rials.

The project deficit for the same period is expected to reach around 33 billion Rials, equivalent to 2.9% of the Gross National Product.

The General State Budget can be divided into two major parts.

a) An estimated 367 billions classified as financial allotment for the public sectors' productive institutions.

The figure includes recurrent costs and capital investment. b) An estimated 36 billion Rials allocated for the public sector services institutions and include re-current costs.

The estimated government aggregate revenues for the year 2000 exceeded those for 1999 by 94.5 billion Rials. The increase is expected to be re-injected into investment projects, increased health and education spending. A small percentage will be channeled to the social security net projects.

Detailed break up of the budget is not available. However, there are a number of points which need light shed on.

1. The budget is expressed in current prices, thus the comparison purposes should be noted that there is about 10% inflation contained in the figure compared to last year's.

2. Although the budget, which has registered an increase of 33%, seems very impressive compared to that of 1999, the most important element in the increase can be directly attributed to the revival of oil prices in international markets and export revenues. If current prices remain unchanged, the revenues in 1999 will exceed 1.2 billion Dollars compared to 600-700 million Dollars in 1998. Sales of domestically consumed refined oil together with oil export revenues constitute about 2/3 of the government's budget.

The lifting of the remaining government subsidies on wheat, flour and grain wheat has provided the government with additional financial resources.

The fact that there are more than 87 billion Rials in the hands of the government means that a favorable opportunity is at hand to generate substantial development and to complete impeded projects.

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Impression about Yemen



H. E. Khalifah Al-Sheikh Mogren Al-Kanadi
Ambassador of U.A.E

Prior to my arrival in Yemen and assuming my post as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the United Arab Emirates in September 1997, I had already compiled sufficient information on Yemen. Besides, I have close ties with many Yemenis from different cultural levels living in the U.A.E. I have read a lot about the history of Yemen which we all are proud of, as Yemen is the origin of all Arabs.

God has bestowed upon Yemen so many features including its fertile land that has been very rich and generous to Yemenis. It has indeed been the land of the "Two Paradises" as mentioned in the holy Qura'an.

I have visited many governorates in the Republic and I am acquainted with so many Yemeni people. I could say that Yemen is in need to extend its agricultural land, especially after qat plants increased at the expense of many other plants.

What I believe should hold the Yemenis' attention in particular is to face the major detriments for agriculture. They should draw up a national, prospective and strategic plan to develop agricultural instruments and to establish an agricultural system that ensures marketing the different agricultural products. This is very important especially as the Yemeni climate is distinguished for the variations of the seasons which enable farmers to grow many crops. If this is done, Yemen could have food security that meets the needs of the people who are continuously on the rise.

The decision of President Saleh to reconstruct Marib Dam and the help of his Excellency the Honorable Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahaian in doing so, is clear evidence that goes to prove that Yemen should restore its status to what it was in the past. The extended agricultural lands that have been reclaimed after the reconstruction of the dam are also a sure sign of the promising future that is awaiting Yemen.

One of the priorities that should be taken into consideration is to issue all the programs pertaining to extending arable lands and to give farmers all the facilities necessary to help them perform their work properly. If this is not carried out, conditions will remain as they are. Yemeni, Arab and foreign capital should also be given access to have a pivotal role for investment in this field. It is certain that the revenues of such investment are by no means less important than oil revenues. Agriculture is as much a national wealth as marine, oil and the tourist wealth for which Yemen is famous.

I am pretty confident that the mutual cooperation between the two sisterly countries will continue in this vivid field for measures are conducted to carry out the second stage of the Marib Dam which is funded by the Abu Dhabi Development Fund.

Mohammed Ben Sharafaddain: The Poet of Love and Beauty



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

I will try to highlight some aspects of traditional Yemeni poetry and one of its pioneers. Traditional poetry in Yemen encompasses many styles and nomenclatures. It varies just as Yemeni traditions and lifestyles do. One of the dominant traditional poetries in Yemen is called 'Humaini.' This kind of poetry has become very popular in Yemen with singers who have found in its songs a rich field of beauty and imagination. The 'Poet of love and beauty' is the title that has been attached to the pioneer of Humaini poetry, Mohammed Ben Sharafaddain. During the Imam's regime Yemen was isolated from the rest of the world. That isolation was not only external but internal as well. People were segregated into small groups; the literature and arts produced during the time were buried with these groups. Only a few manuscripts remain from this period. Such manuscripts were easily obtained by unscrupulous people who sold them in foreign markets without mentioning their origins.

Despite the tough times they have undergone and all the attempts to block their way, Yemeni songs were able to continue and live long. As far as the Humaini songs are concerned, their history goes back four centuries. Many critics see that it is Mohammed Ben Sharafaddain who laid the foundation stone for the emotional songs which are still popular, not only in

Yemen, but in the Gulf countries too. Sharafaddain's life and his works have been analyzed by many Yemeni critics including; Dr. Abdul Aziz al-Maqaleh, the late Dr. Mohammed Abdu Ghanim, the late Abdulla al-Baraddouni, Mr. Ahmad Mohammed al-Shaami and others. This reflects the richness of his works which are full of figures of speech and imagination. Many contemporary poets have followed his footsteps. For example, al-Ansi and al-Aanisi have played crucial roles in continuing this kind of poetry and songs.

Mohammed Ben Abdulla Sharafaddain was born in an aristocratic family in Kawkaban in 965 Hajirah. In spite of his being brought up in a family which indulged in wars, he created a special atmosphere for himself to be a poet of love and beauty. Such a poet born in a warlike environment could have been affected and influenced by reports of guns and the smell of blood. However, it seems as if he was reminding people of another world full of love and warmth rather than bloodshed. He was a man of peace and tranquility. He was thirsty for love and loved by many people. His songs are still sung today. One of the most distinguished contemporary singers of this kind is Mohammed Hamoud al-Harithi.

Sharafaddain used to escape from reality to poetry, from poetry to love and from first love to second love. Whenever he fell in love he could not hide his emotions. Although he paid no attention to the social problems of his time he occupied a very respectable position at the time.

One of the passionate stories that is still remembered is that once he fell in love with a very beautiful young woman. He wanted to marry her but he couldn't because she was still too young. He was very disappointed and heart-broken. His wife noticed his continuous absent-mindedness. She knew the story of her husband. However, when she asked him the truth, he denied it. She made him swear by the holy Quran but to no avail. Following this episode, Sharafaddain composed a very sweet poem which is still remembered and has been sung by many singers in Yemen and the Arabian Gulf.

Another popular song of his is 'Sadat Fuadi' (She's captured my heart). It goes:

She's captured my heart by her beautiful eyes and bright cheeks. This poem has a story too. As narrated by the poet himself, "when al-Nassir al-Muttahar married Huriyah Bent Ahmad al-Tihamiah, he asked me to compose a poem to praise the features of his bride on that occasion. When I finished it, I recited it in his presence. When I came to the line: 'Whose name I can never utter,' he asked, 'Why didn't you mention her name?' So I managed to mention her name (Huriyah) in one line and that satisfied him."

Sharafaddain died in 1016 Hajirah. He has left two anthologies, one in Humaini and the other in standard Arabic. If you want to know more about him I recommend 'The Other Nature' by the poet himself or 'Slang Poetry of Yemen' by Dr. Abdul Aziz al-Maqaleh.

Old Yemeni Folk Songs on Old British Gramophones

The artistic and cultural revival witnessed in Yemen in general and Aden in particular at the beginning of the 20th cen-

reflection of people's feelings in a very simple way, free from ambiguity or complexity. Long ago Yemeni people used to know nothing other than these kinds of songs in their various regional forms: Sanaani, Lahgi, Hadhrami, Yafe'ae. They were passed on by great Yemeni singers, especially in Aden. Wedding parties and social gatherings (maqials) have contributed much to the spread of these songs among Yemeni people. During this time no sound recording systems were available. There were only radios and British gramophones. Interestingly, singers at the time used to have strong voices that could be heard from outside the maqials. Two of the most distinguished singers at the time were Ali Abu Bakr Bashraheel and Ibrahim Al-

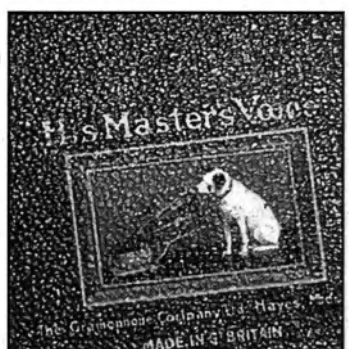


Mass who were famous for the Sanaani and Yafa'ae songs. They were both elevated to the stage of stardom. The rest of the article will be centered on Ali Abu Bakr Bashraheel. Bashraheel had a very melodious voice. He used to sing Sanaani songs in a professional way. He practiced singing to earn his living and this was one of the reasons that made him very close to people who loved him very much in return. The tradition at wedding parties of the time was to invite at least four singers to every wedding

ceremony. No wedding party was held without Bashraheel being there at the top of the list. This habit helped create a competitive atmosphere for singers. At these parties Bashraheel used to sit in front of the other singers



ceremony. No wedding party was held without Bashraheel being there at the top of the list. This habit helped create a competitive atmosphere for singers. At these parties Bashraheel used to sit in front of the other singers



wearing his white gown and accompanied by his oud. He never allowed any other musical instrument except his oud to accompany him while he sang. At midnight the bridegrooms used to come to the stage and dance to the rhythm of Bashraheel's songs. In all the parties he attended he never specified an amount of money before singing and he used to accept whatever was given to him thankfully. The popularity of public songs in Aden led British gramophone companies to record most of these songs and distribute them in Yemen and the Gulf countries through their branches there.

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Seminar on Procreation Health

Yasser Mohammed Ahmed,
Yemen Times

The Yemeni Association for Family Care held a Seminar on Procreative Health from 16-17 November, at the Health Institute in Sana'a. This seminar aimed at urging Yemeni society to work to improve family relations, while providing health care and guidance.

A number of lectures were delivered in the seminar and some video films which included family affairs were shown.

Miss Jamilah Al-Shara'ei pointed out that Health Care Association contributed a lot to offering services on motherhood and childhood, and engaging in different activities represented by the following:

- Motherhood and childhood services, and guiding family through the centers of the association in all governorates.
- Providing centers, hospitals and clinics offering new ways of family planning.
- Offering health services to mother and child through health centers in the rural areas.
- Organizing training courses in all health fields.
- Training doctors and nurses in all governorates' health centers.

The aims of this seminar include

training all doctors who are working in family care including mother and child health and to exchange expertise.

On Tuesday, November 16, 1999, a lecture was delivered by Dr. Yosra Morait titled "The concept of procreative health." Dr. Yosra's lecture concentrated on how we can teach procreative health, its importance and requirements in Yemen as Yemen is characterized by a high level of productivity with a lack of health services. The obstacles which face the family are represented by the difficulty of getting health services and the increase of women's illiteracy. The seminar also concentrated on sexual health, which is known by an "absence of venereal disease, infection and enjoying sexual life."

tion and enjoying sexual life."

We can attain procreative health through training doctors in the health sector, and spreading awareness on the influences of abnormal sexual relations through information media. We must offer guidance on sexual activity, unwanted pregnancy and teach sexual education at all academic stages.

On the second day, Dr. Mohammed Taqi'edeen has delivered a lecture titled "Sexually Communicated Diseases and AIDS". The lecture concentrated on giving the historical background of AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome), its dangers and causes. It also showed its sources and the ways through which it can be communicated. AIDS can be transmitted in different ways including:

- 1- Sexual relations.
- 2- Polluted blood.
- 3- Contagious diseases of mother to her infant.

The lecture illustrated the situation of AIDS in Yemen. The first contagious case of AIDS was registered in 1987, and the other one was in 1995, despite the fact that Yemen is one of the countries in the Red Sea, which has few reported cases. Females form about 33% of AIDS cases, while males form 67%. 47% are non-Yemenis, while 53% are Yemenis. The seminar also discussed the precautions and how we can control this disease. The seminar also focused on other diseases, which are communicated through sexual relations such as gonorrhoea and syphilis. At the end of the seminar, the trainers received certificates of merit.



Frank Talk Yemen Is Short on Laughter



Dr. Paramod Kumar
Taiz University

There are occasions to be solemn and occasions to feel elated. When a good number of people habitually put on glum faces, it is time to worry. If we lose the capacity to celebrate the lighter moments of life, we are a doomed lot. We are bereft of an important revitalizing source of energy. For sure, there is no substitute for mirth and light-hearted wackiness.

If you look at some people you get a feeling as if they are waiting for some disaster to happen. They appear as though they are carrying the whole world on their shoulders.

It is true that at times the going gets tough but different individuals respond differently to similar situations. The point is, a positive outlook not only reduces stress, it also increases the chances of a positive outcome by at least some percentage points.

Modern medicine fully understands the value of laughter. New findings support the view that it acts as a safety-valve, a release mechanism, in the high-tension context of modern life. Contemporary opinion is so gung-ho on the necessity to laugh that periodic self-induced laughter sessions are becoming a routine part of man's daily life. Laughter clubs are being formed in many parts of the world. The members of those clubs assemble in open spaces and laugh their hearts out. The ever-swelling membership of such clubs testify to their effectiveness. People from all cross sections of society participate in such hilarious exercises.

Interestingly, man is capable of producing a wide variety of laughter. For example, from the throat you can giggle, chuckle, cackle or coo and when the lungs get involved, you get the horse laugh, while the abdomen-splitting laughter is the belly laugh. But, if you are a legendary someone, you can take recourse to Homeric laughter, moving the earth and heaven with your echoes.

The corporate gurus know the virtue of putting on an easy, relaxed manner even in a boardroom environment. The message is often better received in a congenial atmosphere than otherwise. In normal life too, it holds to a great extent that many a truth is told in jokes.

Sulking, grumbling and throwing temper tantrums will leave you isolated, exhausted and unwelcome. 'Weep and you weep alone, smile and the world smiles with you,' is a time-tested dictum. As nectar to the bees, so is good humor to companions. A man with a cheerful countenance is actively courted by one and all.

Laughter is a master-key that opens many locks. A person beaming with confidence and who is happy all round, electrifies his surroundings. Laughter, indeed, is infectious. It spreads faster than any known virus.

To see an infant chuckle in joy is one of the most enriching experiences of our life. We feel like joining issue with John Keats' address to the nightingale, '.....While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad / In such an ecstasy!' This gift of ecstasy is inborn in us and we lose it progressively as we ripen with experience. The problem is more or less attitudinal and, as such, the solution may well lie within us. All we may need to do is to get rid of our inhibitions and give more room to our true selves. The anxiety level will reduce dramatically. Stress-related diseases like high-blood pressure, heart-attack, nervous breakdown, insomnia, etc. will automatically take care of themselves. We will agree in the end that laughter is the best medicine. Can a smile do for a laugh? Perhaps not. While a smile is more sedate and serene, it is also enigmatic. It may mean anything or nothing. A laugh on the other hand, is purely and simply a laugh. It is wilder, yet more deep. It can mean nothing but mirth and jollity. Smile has its own domain, it belongs to a different class altogether. It can not be taken as a substitute for or an apology for a laugh. We must set them apart.

The ability to share a laugh at one's own cost is rare. It is more often that we laugh at others. It could certainly be more liberating if we occasionally dropped our guards, suspended our egos, and enjoyed raillery directed at ourselves.

The people in Yemen, here, in this ancient land of wisdom, are not insulated from the comical aspects of life. They are quick, keen and shrewd observers of the funny and the absurd content of a situation. They are rich in wit and insight. The trouble is that a typical Yemeni character is too circumspect, preoccupied and self-conscious to let loose his emotions for public display. This fossilization of emotion has rendered him stiff.

The solution lies in relentlessly cultivating the habit of laughter. Often, we become what we act. So, acting happy may do the trick. It may fetch a wind-fall of genuine happiness. There is no harm in giving it a go. The stakes are high. There is nothing to lose but your tensions.

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CARBONARA

The Chairman of the Algerian National Council Talks to Yemen Times:

"I have witnessed a multi-dimensional renaissance and a determination to lead Yemen towards development based upon human abilities"

Algeria and Yemen enjoy a special relationship that has grown stronger over the years. As two Arab nations, they have many things in common; their culture, religion and pride of being Arabs. Mr. Bashir Abu Mi'ze, the Chairman of the Algerian National Council, visited Yemen several days ago in an attempt to further strengthen this relationship. Mr. Bashir is a well-known personality for his noble role in the Algerian revolution and for his call for Arab unity. Jamal Al-Awadhi of Yemen Times met Mr. Mi'ze and filed the following interview:

Q: You are one of the fighters of the Algerian revolution and one of the greatest advocates of Arab unity. Will you please tell us something about yourself and your visit to Yemen?

A: It is very difficult for one to talk about one's self. However, I joined the National Movement when I was 16, and my struggle spans more than 26 years. I have spent some of these years in prisons and others as a politician. I have written a number of studies and essays concerning Arab world issues.

As for my visit to Yemen, it was actually in response to a kind invitation by Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, chairman of the Consultative Council. I was honored during this visit by meeting President Ali Abdullah Saleh during which I handed him a letter from President Abdul Aziz Bu Taflia and discussed bilateral relations, as well as the current situation in the Arab world. In fact it has been a very busy visit.

The delegation accompanying me met Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and other consultative members and discussed issues of mutual concern and the means to promote

cooperation between our two councils. A joint statement was issued at the end of the meeting in which the two delegations focused on parliamentary cooperation as well as Arab solidarity. In addition, we have been in touch with Prime Minister Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Iryani, speaker of the Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar and some members of parliament. All of these meetings and contacts aimed at promoting and intensifying ways of cooperation in various domains under the leadership of the two countries.

Q: You visited Sana'a immediately after the revolution. Can Sana'a today be compared to the Sana'a you saw then?

A: The Sana'a of today cannot be compared to Sana'a right after the revolution. Yemen today imposes herself on maps of the region. She is backed by the great achievements of the revolutions and by the unity which is the greatest of all accomplishments. So, there is a great difference between Yemen, under the Imam's regime in the north and the British occupation in the south, and the uni-



fied Yemen of today which enjoys stability under the leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The accompanying delegation and I have witnessed a multi-dimensional renaissance and a determination to lead Yemen towards development based upon human abilities. I have also felt the president's strong will to overcome all economic difficulties and his confidence in a bright tomorrow. We, in Algeria, follow up the steps done by this sisterly country towards achieving self-reliance.

Q: Yemen is one of the countries calling for Arab unity. This was demonstrated by the Yemen unity. How do you see the future of Arab unity?

A: Yes, Yemen is one of the Arab countries that works for achieving Arab unity. This is obvious through the approach followed by both Presidents; Ali Abdullah Saleh and Abdul Aziz Bu Taflia.

The two presidents met recently in Algeria and they are frequently in touch in order to reinforce the movement towards an Arab reconciliation.

Regarding the future of Arab unity, it has no existence in the literature of idealistic language. We must establish a new mode of unity that is based upon harmony rather than merger. We also need to reinforce our nationalism by opening all fields for cooperation and integration.

Q: Yemen and Algeria's relationship is very solid. In what ways has your visit contributed to cementing this relationship?

A: The visit has given impetus to the relationship between our two countries through what I have mentioned before. It has also opened wider horizons for cooperation that will utilize the capabilities of both countries for their citizens' interests.

Q: Yemenis are concerned about the current situation in Algeria and the terrorists' attempts to create confusion and disorder. How do you evaluate the security situation in your country?

A: Algeria is working hard to achieve security and stability. There has been a positive response from politicians and the people to the Civilian Reconciliation Law. We have noticed a sharp fall in the crime rate since passing this law. Crime is only committed by highwaymen and terrorists. The state is

strong now, and it has announced an open toleration for those who were misled and have gone astray. Algeria is restoring its position. It is faced by two challenges, the first is internal and the other is external. The internal challenge lies in sustaining security and stability and the external challenge lies in restoring its role in the region, as well as the world.

Q: What are the outcomes of your visit? How do you assess the relationship between the two countries?

A: The outcomes of the visit have been positive and fruitful. This, in fact, reflects the desire of the two sisterly countries to extend horizons of cooperation between them and make their relationship an example to be followed. Regarding the second part of your question, it is simply good. However, joint efforts need to be exerted in order to maintain our interests and to achieve a real Arab reconciliation.

Q: Any last word?

A: I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to express the feelings of love and brotherhood I hold for Yemeni people. At the same time I would like to thank President Ali Abdullah Saleh who gave me and the accompanying delegation the opportunity to meet and talk with him about situations in the two countries, as well as in the Arab world. I also offer my thanks to Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani for his hospitality during my visit, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Dr. Al-Iryani and all Yemeni people.

Truancy of Yemeni Students: A Problem to Be Solved..



Nasser Ali Al-Taweeli

there away from home and school."

Shawqi Salah'edden, first grade secondary school:

"In fact neither my father nor my mother gives me money. My father goes with his friends to chew qat from afternoon up to the evening, and my mother does housework and goes to her friends to what we call in the Yemeni dialect a 'Tafrithah'. I go with my friends because they give money to me. I spend my time like this every day."

Moadh Al-Qobati, fifth class primary school:

"My father treats me harshly. He kicked me out of the house and let me sleep out of the house. In this case, I do not find any place except the club to entertain myself. When I play such a game, I like that play."

The following interviews are with some students' parents who gave the following reasons:

Mohammed's mother:

"I am very busy with housework, and I do not have time to follow my children's affairs or to know where they go. They go to school every day and return on time. I think that school is responsible to notify us about anything which may be done by our children."

Abdulrahman Ali Al-Manooz:

"As a proverb says: 'A man is known by the company he keeps,' so the bad friends take our boys to these places, and I think that this happens because of the negligence of the family. Hence, the responsibility falls on the family

and on the school, because they must keep in touch with each other, and for having the nearby entertainment centers closed during school time. There are few students who wear the school uniform, and they put their bags at those places."

Mana'a Manea Al-Omaithaly:

"The phenomenon of students' truancy has started since permission has been given to the neighboring trade centers to open close to schools without taking strict measures to prevent students from frequenting them. This phenomenon harms the behavior of the students because at such places students conduct themselves in a negative way. Regarding the influence of this on their educational level, there is no doubt that the students waste their time by going to such places to play. In this case the students hate learning, and they will not stay at school or listen to lectures."

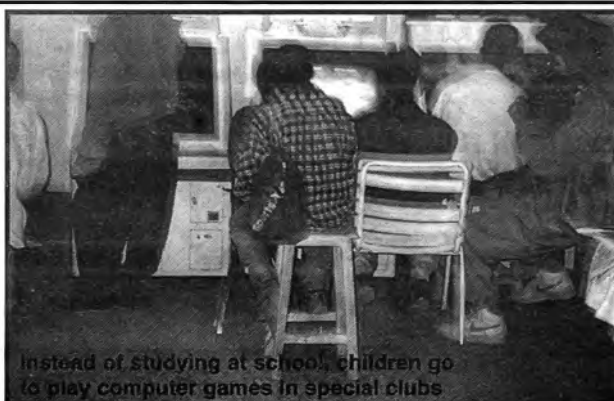
Responsibility for this problem can be ascribed to:

1 - Family: The family does not follow up their children and never keeps in touch with the school.
2 - Poverty: The lack of alternative entertainment tempts students to go to these places, and they are encouraged to do so by their wealthier classmates.
3 - Crowded classrooms: Large classes is one of the challenges which weakens the work of teachers. In addition to this, the teachers have a lot of problems which make them neglect guiding their students. Most of the teachers lack any experience in tackling the students' problems.

4 - The teachers and school administration do not pay enough attention to these problems.

5 - Some of the schools do not follow up students' affairs, and they do not inform their families about repeated trancies.

6 - Schools do not



Instead of studying at school, children go to play computer games in special clubs

carry out the instructions of the Ministry of Education to keep the school gates open.

Solutions of this problem can be summarized by the following points:

1 - Schools have to provide food requirements for students during the breaks at competitive prices.
2 - Taking disciplinary actions against those who come late instead of shutting gates at the beginning of school.
3 - Students should not be allowed to go out from school during school time.
4 - The family and the school should keep in touch with each other in order to discuss students' problems.
5 - Schools should pay attention to solve the psychological problems of the students, and they should treat students kindly.

Yahya Hamoud Al-Makhedi, General Manager of the educational department in the Ministry of Education Office in Sana'a:

In fact the truancy of the students is attributed to many reasons:

1 - Absence of control by the family and school, and the weakness of the administration and its lack of an understanding of its educational responsibility towards students.

2 - Absence of activities at schools, and the lack of capabilities which may play important roles in the educational process.
3 - Maybe there are some problems in the family which affect students psychologically and students are unable to find solutions to these problems from the specialists at school.

In fact this phenomenon will affect the educational level of students which can lead to bad results in the future. The responsi-

bility is shared by family, school, society and information media.

As I mentioned before the solution of these problems is:

1 - The school administration must play important roles in the lives of these students.

2 - Providing different activities at schools, and providing all required conditions so that teachers can perform their required educational roles, as well as activating their roles to follow up and assess their students. Research should also be conducted for finding additional possible solutions in coordination with the school administration and the family as well as other concerned parties.

3 - Information technology should play an important role in awakening the family and society to their duties towards students and to drawing up an information policy which is aimed at developing the skills of the students.

A Long Term Plan For The Fight Against Qat

On my first day in the Land of Yemen I saw a swelling in my neighbor's mouth which I thought was due to a toothache. As I saw many people with the same swelling I learned that they were chewing qat and the swelling was due to qat.

B. Samuel Jeremy
Kuwait Hospital

As the days passed by I was interested to see that most Yemenis had the habit of chewing qat, and I made a small study about qat chewing. I would like to write about this in my article.

I would like to say that I've not yet tried qat, but my neighbors often invite me to join them for a qat session and they would say that I could see India if I chewed. I have never been interested because I am worried that I would become addicted. Qat is classified as a narcotic in many countries and its addiction in Yemen is killing the country's economy, health and its betterment.

To stop this menace a systematic approach has to be sincerely adopted and implemented. First of all I would like to congratulate our beloved President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his firm steps and efforts to stop chewing qat by Yemeni people and also his personal decision to stop chewing qat. Constructive and bold steps like passing a government order stating that uniformed civil servants such as police and military personnel may not chew qat during duty hours is to be welcomed. The decision of Captain Abdul Khaleq Al-Kadi, the Chairman of Yemenia, to ban chewing qat on all domestic and international flights is a very positive step. The systematic approach can be done in three steps.

The First Step is to invoke social awareness.

I would like to say that almost all Yemenis feel that chewing qat is good. I was very much worried when I heard that qat sessions are organized when somebody dies. Its shows how deep-rooted this evil is. People should be made aware that qat is bad physically and mentally. Nobody can prove that it is not as bad as other narcotic drugs. Everybody should understand that serving and obeying God is the first responsibility of life. After that he has an equal responsibility to serve his family. Anything that distracts from doing this is a sin. Definitely qat distracts a lot. Chewing qat is a sin.

An effective campaign should be done by mass media such as newspapers, television and radio.

Putting up wall posters and displaying placards in public places will also be very effective. Above all, a very important thing is that great care should be taken to see that our younger generation does not get this addiction. In regard to this a campaign should be initiated in schools, colleges and universities.

Parents should not encourage their children to chew qat. If we don't do it today, tomorrow may be too late.

The Second Step is implementation of strict rules.

In this regard I feel that the government is moving in the right direction. Non-governmental and private organizations should take an active part in this by implementing strict rules in their areas of work. Companies and private firms should not organize qat sessions, and time should not be given for chewing qat. The heads of companies should be role models.

The Third Step is taxing the growing and selling of qat.

I was happy to see the data that you published about the amount of money and time spent on qat by Yemenis. As I said earlier the results of my study were similar to those of yours. I talked to a Yemeni friend of mine about the money wasted on qat. I told him that if this money went to the government it would be a huge source of revenue for the government. My friend agreed that a huge amount of money is wasted on qat, but he asked me if the government asked people to stop chewing qat, would they stop chewing and give the money they saved to the government? He also said that it was his money, and he was spending it as he wished. This is the thinking and view of many Yemenis. I would like to say that if the money is passed from one individual to another individual it does not reach the government. The government does not have any stake in it. There are many ways that the government can make a lot of revenue out of it.

1. Registration of Qat fields

A strict law should be passed that all qat fields should be registered under a central authority.

2. Taxing of Qat Fields.

Taxes should be levied on qat farmers according to the area of their plantations.

3. Registering and issuing licenses to qat selling shops.

The shops selling qat should be registered and issued with licenses. Fees such as a registration fee and a license fee should be collected from shops. The shops should maintain all records of purchases and sales which should be ready for inspection at any time. Taxes based on sales tax should be collected. Vigilant and honest government officials should monitor the whole process.

CONCLUSION

If these measures are implemented and monitored properly then there is a "RAY OF HOPE". I hope the concerned authorities will take note of it and take necessary action.

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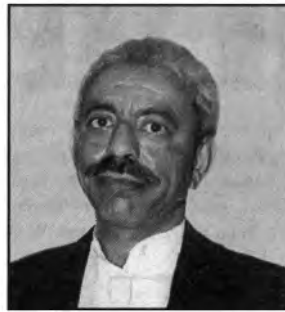
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Need to Focus on Education



The population of the Republic of Yemen is the highest (17,000,000) in the Arabian Peninsula, perhaps equalling in number the total population of the other countries in the peninsula combined, assuming that the official figures of the latter are not exaggerated, which is not an unlikely speculation for some of these other countries. Moreover, the population indicators show that the age distribution puts about 50% of the population below the age of 15 years-old. They also show the growth rate of the population approaching 4% per annum. Such population figures represent serious challenges to the development efforts of the country (assuming that these efforts are indeed serious) and a heavy strain on the already exploited limited resources and overburdened and mostly inaccessible social services. Perhaps the education sector is the area of greatest significance, as far as

Yemen's hopes of ever meeting the requirements for sustainable economic development and for making that long leap of cultural enhancement needed to overcome the centuries of isolation that Yemen endured, keeping the country and many subsequent generations of Yemenis almost out of touch and out of reach with much of the progress that has come to mankind, especially over the last five centuries or so (The intervening intervals of partial Ottoman Turkish occupations of the country did introduce certain elements of this progress into the country, especially in military hardware, but most of these elements, for some reason or another - instability and language - could not find their way into the mainstream of life, although many Yemeni chroniclers over the period were able to provide detailed observations of the components of these elements and the principles by which they were operated.). On a broad scale, and considering the many constraints that the development of

the country faced, especially in the education sector, including the absence of a modern infrastructure, the poor educational policy guidelines - and clearly defined objectives - which would coincide with the overall development agenda of the country, the social, geographic and demographic features of the country, as well as the limited resources that were harnessed for the development and growth of the sector, there were some significant achievements that were realized. These achievements were bolstered by the extensive regional and international donor support and the access to some 30,000 teachers from other Arab countries (the majority being from Egypt), also financed by donor support to a large extent.

It should be noted that, in the early years of the Revolution against the Imam rule of Yemen (the early Sixties), the traditional existing educational infrastructure was eradicated, as excessively zealous revolutionaries associated this system with the Imam regime, although it should be recognized that the system, despite its typically traditional features, was able to produce highly credible graduates in literature, philosophy, theology, religious law, history and other liberal arts, as well as many of the leading personalities of the Revolution itself! This abrupt elimination of an existing educational infrastructure and system left an educational vacuum, which was not replaced by a modern educational system for some time. Thus, Yemen's educational output, at the start, was confined to the scholarship students that were sent overseas on educational scholarship programs donated by, or arranged with, other Arab countries and member states of the East Bloc, including the People's Republic of China, prior to and after the Revolution. It would be some fifteen years later after the 1962 Revolution that Yemeni schools started to generate their own graduates, at the primary and secondary levels, with a trickle of Sana'a University graduates, at progressively increasing numbers, who would start flowing into the work force of the country.

While the emphasis on the numbers occupied the attention of the educational planners over the first two decades after the Revolution, the substantial donor support (over the Seventies and Eighties)

to the sector, along with the relatively more highly qualified teachers, had been able to produce significantly better qualified output than what the system in its present state could generate. The Gulf War (1990-1991) brought another abrupt transformation to the educational sector. This culminated in a sudden end to most of the donor support to the sector, the lack of resources to sustain the access to the better qualified expatriate teacher corps, the reduction of overseas scholarships in higher and professional educational levels and the lack of support for further growth investment in the sector. Thus the educational sector had to face another serious adjustment at the expense of quality output, adequate operations and maintenance - sustainability - of the existing educational infrastructure and the ability to carry on the expansion of the infrastructure to meet the growing needs of a rapidly growing population. This was made the more difficult by the obvious poor attention of poor education planners to work towards meeting the human resource needs of the educational sector itself, from its own output, in order to gradually replace the more expensive reliance on expatriate teachers and to meet the staffing needs of the new schools. As such, the void that was left by the departed expatriate teachers had to be filled by the reliance on conscripted teachers, who were mostly either secondary school graduates, or university graduates, who, more often than not, were not opting for professional teaching careers, or by poorly trained career teachers. On the other hand, the teachers that were recruited as such had to face delayed payment of their highly inadequate salaries that ranged in delay from six months to a year.

It was obvious that the system suffered a heavy blow to its ability to produce highly qualified and culturally enhanced output throughout the present decade. At present, despite significant growth, quantitatively speaking, the system could only absorb 52% of the school age children of the country, of which the female enrollment represents only 30%. Thus, a significant proportion of the population still remains without access to a formal education of some sort, which could be a serious breeding ground for social disarray and inequity, producing potentially serious social ills and problems for the

forthcoming millenium, the dynamics of which are hard to predict.

Private inroads into the sector, visibly on a rapid increase, featured by a lack of any form of regulation and a very strong commercial focus, have not been able to overcome this serious handicap to the sector or the quality shortfalls of the public educational sector, especially when considering the excessive tuition and other charges demanded by these private schools.

Further, the educational system, at the primary, intermediary and secondary level, is subjected to a rigorous curriculum that focuses on stuffing vast amounts of knowledge, most of which would not be of use to the student, and which tends

and assets of the country.

Clearly, the government needs to carry out an overhaul of the educational system (including the elimination of corruption in the sector, which is one of its most serious handicaps), with a view towards increasing government budget allocations to the sector to the tune of 25% of the budget, at least, if it is ever to see any substantial improvements in the quality and capacity of the sector to gear the forthcoming generations of Yemenis to mobilize all their intellect to overcome the obstacles and constraints to development which this generation has unfortunately created by poor planning and poor allocation of resources, as well as poor arrangement of priorities.

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THE YEAR 2000 IN THE EYES OF YEMENI CHILDREN

Nada Al-Shamiri
Sanaa University

One may presume and say that children are still a question yet to be answered. In the advanced countries children's skills are being developed in a gradual and step-by-step manner. Their children are living in an atmosphere of high tech achievements, and so are they.

Considering the child in Yemen, he is standing in the middle. His parents are unable to pursue his thoughts and opinions, neither is he able to follow up theirs. How does today's child think? How does he look at the third millennium? By interviewing some Yemeni children that talked about the year 2000, by words and drawings, one can infer that a good future is awaiting them.

***Fatema Al-Ahdal**, from Yemen Modern School, said, "Today's child is not the same as yesterday's. Computers and satellites have changed most of his behavior.



I look at him in a good way and I'm sure that he will help spread peace that has become a message sent to him and it is his duty to do it. The earth always needs someone to protect, to defend and to take care of it.

As a child, I say: The earth will always be there, the sun shines every morning, birds fly everywhere, the sea will keep its own

pureness and clearness, even though there will still be some shortcomings in our lives."

***Alia Al-Rasheed**, from Yemen Modern School, said, "I feel optimistic for the year 2000. We will do something useful for the world, because we have the ability to change. We will never agree with the events that happen around us, and I'm really sorry for the Iraqi children who are suffering from bad circumstances. I hope all the problems end by 2000. People should be happy."

***Shadi Saif**, from Pakistani school, said, "When I start to think about the year 2000, I guess that there will be developments in technology as well as less development in the human social relations. In the next

century the earth will

be like a migrating man, it will travel or stay like a sick man in a sick world."

***Mohammed Al-Dorani**, from Pakistani school,

"What I know is the problem of computers in 2000. I mean nothing will happen or maybe nothing important will happen."

***Grami Doner**, from Pakistani school, "I want peace because I love it. I hate wars and all those bad destructive events. How wonderful to be secure. Pollution is eating the color of our earth. We must take care of it much more. The year 2000 will be happy with it."

***Mohammed Najeeb**, from Pakistani school, "I hope that in 2000 violence among people will stop. What I want to say is, 'Don't kill animals!' Animals are creatures. It is not easy to delete something very important. I have two cats. They are

my friends, and I will never accept to be away from them."

***Asma'a Habeeb**, from Pakistani school, "No nature means no life. Don't cut trees to build houses or factories. We still need oxygen to live."

What I really need to see in the future is a blooming earth, full of colorful plants and clean air. In addition, a developed education is increasing



day by day. But I notice that today's child has lost the desire of being a student because he prefers to spend his time by the satellite and play station, and that takes him away from his studies. So I would like all of us to work hard to be able to receive 2000 as it should be."

***Lamia**, from Yemen Modern School, said, "The past will be better than the future. The earth in this epoch is eaten by a spider called POLLUTION. Day by day the danger is increasing. In the year 2000, an unknown hand with gloves will definitely come and rescue our earth."

***Nada Zaid**, from Yemen Modern School, said, "The child looks at the year 2000 in a white color, not black, or even gray. I encourage this optimistic vision, and I feel that what isn't here now, will be there in 2000."

Peace will spread. If it was in my power, I would be a mediator among countries. This suppressed world must get rid of this state I see the earth has two opposite parts. A split part, dry and useless. And a bloomy part, with water, fish and good life. What separates them is a tear that has become a language to express sadness. And that I hope it will be a language to express happiness

in 2000."



in 2000."

***Inas Abdo**, from Pakistani school, "I love flowers and rainbows. Sometimes I feel sorry for the future and nature, but then I tell myself that people will take care of nature. Inas's mother said, 'I have a daughter and a son. There is a big difference between them. My daughter is interested in nature and flowers. My son is interested in rockets, cars and speed. The child is hard to understand. He is brought up by the epoch he is living in, not by us. Satellites, computers and playstations are not suitable for us, but they must be available for today's child. This is out of our control. We used to take permission from our parents. We were not used to discussing, we used to agree with everything. Today, the child has his own independent personality. It is somehow good, but we can't deny the risks that come because of the adventurous and daring personality of him."

That was the opinion of a mother about the child approaching 2000. How do other members of society look at him? ***Najeebah Al-Haddad**, the General Manager of Education Management of the Child, at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said, "Today's child is difficult to evaluate as long as he is still living at a time of conflict of technology, the internet and modern educational means. Until this moment, we are still confused how to deal with him. What are our duties as mothers,

fathers, adults and specialists? How to help him achieve his future plans in the year 2000 and later. Every child has his own dreams, ambitions, opinions and thoughts. He is the world's mystery for all the teachers, doctors, consultants and journalists. It is not easy to understand what is going on inside the child's mind and soul like his feelings, dreams and problems. He lives among wars, explosions and earthquakes. What we can do is compare between today's child and yesterday's. Few years ago, the child was not the same as he is now regarding the contemporary concept of civilization. Now he is discussing every thing with his teachers. He likes, hates, accepts, refuses, dreams, hopes, settles emotionally and gets annoyed. The world has changed and so has he, in both the developed and non-developed societies. A child is a child but he is affected by the conditions he lives in.

***Badria Tariq**, a teacher, said, "What a difference! Today the child has become the parent and we the children. We are learning many things from him. He is discussing everything with everyone. We used to be ordered by our parents, but now he can not accept being under our control. Now we should talk to his mind and persuade him. He is more intelligent, more active, but not flexible enough. He knows more than he should. Technology controls him until he has become like a machine, his life has become merely keys. The mind is working. What about the body? It has become inactive; no reading, no sport, no social relations. He spends his time watching cartoon films and he gets bored. Then he turns to play computer and gets bored. At last, he sits and asks, what next?"

***Dr Ahmed Al-Nahari** said, "First of all, today the child is living in a technological and scientific house. He has the ability to know more about the future. He is not afraid of contracting some dangerous diseases. I'm pleased that we could get rid of epidemic diseases like smallpox and infantile paralysis. So, children of the 3rd millennium must be in a good health. They will not suffer as we


have. The society and the family are interested in taking care of his health. When I talk about his health conditions, I will relate it to all the modern technological scientific means that invaded all Yemeni houses. The child spends his time sitting in front of a computer and a satellite. What is the result? From the health point of view, it causes headaches and eye strain, in addition to laziness and fatness. Some programs can destroy spiritual relations with bad ideas about family problems and can easily change his pure mind to a complex one that can become depressed, then frustrated, and later perverted. The satellite should be under control so that it will not give our children other concepts contradictory to our moral, social and religious beliefs. He suffers from fear, nightmares and many kinds of worries.

All this is caused by science fiction, horrible programs that children watch. In addition, some problems can be related to busy parents who are always outside, so the child will lose the feeling of concern, interest, and care towards them. His education will go down and his behavior will be bad.


I feel optimistic about the president's wise decision on banning qat chewing. Parents will spend more time with their children. They will be able to take care of them the way they should. Finally, we asked a few children if they expected the chewing of qat would continue during the year 2000.

***Rua'a Abdul-Kawee**, 13, said, "I suppose that no matter what the government does, it will not be able to stop the chewing of qat by Yemenis. On the contrary, I think that people would not acquiesce to the government decision and that people would even stage demonstrations to make the government withdraw its decision. However, I still wish that this ugly phenomenon would completely disappear from our country."


Today's child is optimistic. He gives his aims and hope to the world. He dreams of reform and a better world. He makes a colored world by his own way. The question is, WHAT WILL HE GET FROM THE WORLD?



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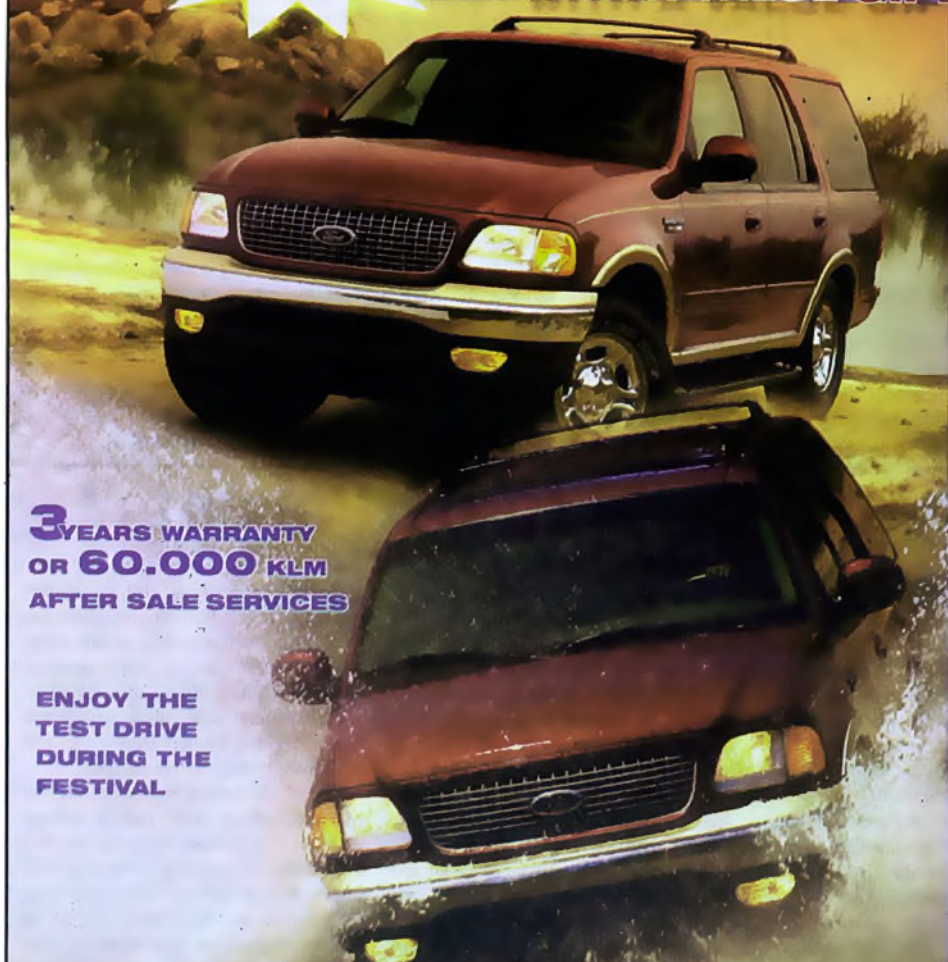
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Issue no.
47

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

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An American Artist in Sanaa

Q: What do you think is the most important image that will be boldly reflected through your painting in Yemen? What has impressed you most?

A: Actually there are two things. One is the architecture, and the second is the density; the density of the architecture of the old city and the density of people. The streets, the density of people, the constant movement, it is just incredible. I spent a lot of time in New York and I think this is more energetic than New York. There is an incredible movement here, constant movement. I think the architecture will probably find a way to the work in some points, images of the architecture because in the work that I do I have incorporated photographic images by a way of screen into the work. I think that there is a good possibility that I will make screens of some of the images that I have seen here. If I am lucky I think some of them will be incorporated into the work because things I do are really broken. The fraction of the images reminds me very much of the kind of architecture where the architecture moves in so many directions and where the patterns, particular patterns, Yemeni patterns and so on in the architecture interact in a certain way. The windows, the doors, all these I have found very interesting. Hopefully some of these will be incorporated, but it takes about two years for all that stuff to settle. In a couple of years I will see what will happen.

Q: Are you thinking of establishing a relationship with Yemeni artists so that they can show their paintings in

New York?

A: I am trying. My girl in Philadelphia has a web page. This web page contains images of the gallery I have in Philadelphia. I am trying to figure out if there is a way for artists to get their images on the Internet. There is some information I have to send here about the Internet and gallery relationships with the Internet. I am trying to find some resources and figure that out and I am going to send it here. Also I am bringing some images back to Philadelphia and seeing if that is going to gain some interest. I do not have an e-mail address yet, but next year I will open an e-mail address and establish regular communication and dialogue because it is important for lots of reasons. The work I have seen really should have more international attention.

Q: How have you found the quality of the work of the Yemeni painters?

A: It is excellent. I saw an exhibition tonight. The paintings are really smart. Technically, it is very good.

Q: Any last word?

A: I hope that someday I will be able to come back. This time I came here basically as a result of the US Embassy's invitation. Hopefully I will be able to return, and hopefully I will be able to show more works and participate in some kind of exhibition. Maybe an exchange exhibition. That would be great. Some Yemeni artists show in America and some Americans show here. That would be a great project. All kind of things are possible. I will just see what will happen.

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Answer of 45th Issue Competition:

"Broken homes and single parent families became the norm in the West because of the current trend is towards breaking up of the joint-family structure." -Frank Talk: The Wages of Sin (P7)

Winners of the 45th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Bandar Abdul Wahab Al-Doals, Sanaa

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Nayel Najeeb Maisari, Aden

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Osama Mohammed Abdullah Al-Alas, Sanaa

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Mohammed Ahmad Al-Tahari, Sanaa

Congratulations to All Winners

To receive their prizes, winners should come with their IDs to the Yemen Times Sanaa Office, near the Palestinian Embassy, Hadda Street. Tel. 268661. Winners from other regions can contact our bureaus in Aden or Taiz. No prizes will be given to winners who do not come within one month from the day of announcing their names.

مباركة

قرر الشبان الخلقان مطهر الشرجبي،
والكتابة المتميزة سلوى القدسي اعلان
خطوبتهما وسط فرحة الأهل والخلان
للشابين اكالييل الورد ومليون مبروك
وعقبال الضربة الكبرى.
ذ المهنئون، عماد السقا، فاروق
الكمالي، بشرى المقطري، فؤاد حاتم
القاضي، وكافة موظفي يمن تايمز تعز.

الف مبروك

اجمل التهاني واطيب التبريكات
نرفها للأستاذ/
ناصر عبدالرقيب الأديمي،
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون
وبالرفاه والبنين.
المهنئون،
باسام احمد السقا، عدنان عبدالله
السقا، ماجد وعبدالباقي احمد
الأديمي، وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

Water Security

Water security is a necessity which can help us achieve food security. Water is very important for our life because it forms 70% of the human body. A 5% loss of water from the human body will lead to hallucination, and a decrease of 15% will lead to death. Therefore, dehydration associated with some diseases should be compensated for by supplying the human body with necessary liquids. The decrease of pure water in the world day after day, and year after year is caused by increase population at a rate of 100,000,000 persons a year, and because of environmental pollution

Turkey. However, the Arab water situation will deteriorate more in the future. The World Bank's report published in 1996, warned some Arab countries, as well as Sana'a, that they will face water depletion by the end of the year 2025. The report called for holding a conference for discussing water problems, and finding the solutions for those problems. To avoid such problems, and to ensure water rights for the coming generations, we have to take the necessary precautions.

- Issuing against this danger, and making people aware of the importance of water, and reducing rates of population



which affects rainwater and groundwater. This pollution is also caused by runoff of fertilizers, insecticides, etc. The problem of water, especially in Sana'a, worsens because of qat planting, random digging of water wells and because of an absence of scientific planning. The studies indicate that 80% of the water in the Sana'a basin is exhausted and its level dropped by 80 meters during the last twenty years. This means that there is a danger which specifically threatens Sana'a, in addition to the water shortage which threatens the whole world in general and the Arab world in particular. Although it covers 10% of the world's surface, the Arab world has only 1% of the world's pure water. Arab water is being plundered by Israel at the estuaries of Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian rivers. At the same time Iraqi and Syrian water is being confiscated by

increase through information media.
- Putting an end to random digging of water wells.
- Using new scientific technology to desalinate sea water.
- To ration water usage and reduce water consumption.
- Conducting scientific studies on water.
- Searching for pure water resources under deserts, on the coasts of seas and river banks.
- Imposing progressive taxation on excess usage of water, and using these dividends for developing water security.
- Allocating a big portion of the government budget to build more dams in order to achieve water security.
- Demanding for the Arab world water rights via international organizations, and restoration of its stolen share of water.

Nehad Nasser M. Al-Moreid

PASSION FOR PEOPLE
AT SHERATON

Successful Marine Ball was held on Thursday, 11th November 1999 with the presence of H.E. Ms. Barbara Bodine, Ambassador of the United States of America.



Children's Halloween Party was held last 28th October, 1999.

Who's taking care of you?
Sheraton Sana'a

When do Parents Learn to be Parents?

Children arrive all soft, cuddly and innocent, but they set their parents on a course of trial-and error learning that lasts for a lifetime. Children are lovely. They bring indescribable love and joy, but at the same time they bring equal doses of confusion and pain.

However, it is parents who have the biggest influence on their children. They play an important role in forming their personalities and behavior. Children are affected by them socially and psychologically. They are important figures for children and everything children acquire or learn depends on their parents' attitudes. For example, if parents are loving and warm in their guidance, children will probably treat other people in the same way. On the contrary, if violence takes the place of guidance, we may find children resorting to duplicate the same behavior in their treatment of other people.

Becoming a parent doesn't require classes or licensing. Many parents know more about the cars they are driving than about their children. Such parents who do not know a lot about their children are careless. In fact, they are not qualified to be parents or controlling heads of families. It is fair to say that such parents escape from their duties as parents. Becoming a parent requires a mature understanding of the duties of parents and the rights of children. If parents understand their duties towards their children, we will never see a spoiled or deviant child. We will never see them here in Yemen, playing football, hitchhiking cars, or begging on public streets. We will never find them noisy at school or naughty at home.

A parent told me that he sat with his children only on Friday, if he wasn't

busy. So his children dare not talk to him or even do anything when he is at home. In other words, when he is at home, fear becomes the dominant emotion. But that parent wishes that his children would talk to him, discuss things with him, or even ask him for money. However, it is he who caused that gap between him and his children. He is buried in work, he deprives his children of his attention, and he may deprive him of their joy, love and trust.

In fact, how you treat your children and how you bring them up is a matter of great importance. Parents should not show superiority to their children which causes a gap between them and their children. Parents are expected to treat their sons as if they were close friends. They are expected to share their joy, happiness and also their pain with them. If a parent helps his child in his school-

work and helps him to solve any difficulty he faces, there will be mutual respect between him and his child and an honest willingness to listen and learn. Looking at life from a child's perspective sometimes offers new insights. Understanding how much your child loves watching TV may help you to deal with the tendency to overprotect.

It is time for parents to understand that parenting duties don't end at feeding children. They mean teaching children all morals and instilling virtues in their minds. It is the parents' duty to set their children on the right path, and to let nothing deter them from trying to succeed in life. That is what carries families forward from generation to generation and makes societies progress.

Murad al-Azani
Housing and Construction office
Taiz

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

This weekly education supplement
is presented every week by
Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,
Associate Professor,
College of Education, Mahweel

What to say ...

Expressing happiness

Majid: You look happy today. What is the matter?
Sadiq: I am happy. My results are out. I have passed my secondary school exam in the first division.
Majid: Congratulations. You deserved this very much. I am so glad.
Sadiq: Thank you. I, of course, worked very hard. But I didn't do so well in Mathematics.
Majid: What is your score in that paper?
Sadiq: Well, I have secured 70 percent in Mathematics.
Majid: Oh! That's really an impressive performance.
Sadiq: It came to me as a pleasant surprise, indeed. I'm so grateful to God for His mercy.
Majid: You know "Sincerity never goes unrewarded!" You worked hard and got the fruit of your labor. Now, what are your plans for higher studies?
Sadiq: I want to join the Faculty of Medicine, Insha'allah. As a doctor I want to serve the suffering.
Majid: May your dream come true, Insha'allah. Let me see what is in store for me.
Sadiq: You look worried. What's the matter?
Majid: Yes, I'm just worried. I have to take a Mid-term exam in English next week.
Sadiq: Best of luck to you.
Majid: Thank you very much. See you soon. Bye.
Sadiq: Bye for now. Take care.

Points to remember...

- In the expression **I am happy**, the strongest stress is on **am**. It is an emphatic form, indicating confirmation. It is similar in meaning to the short answer form **I am** which may, as well, be used here.
- Exam** = examination
- Pleasant surprise**: This phrase is used when one gets an unexpected piece of good news that makes one happy.
- What's the matter?**: An expression meaning "what's troubling you?" \ "what is wrong?" \ "what is the problem?"
- I am just worried**: Here just means "merely".
- Have to** means "must".

We apologize for placing the wrong puzzle last week

Crossword Puzzle

Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

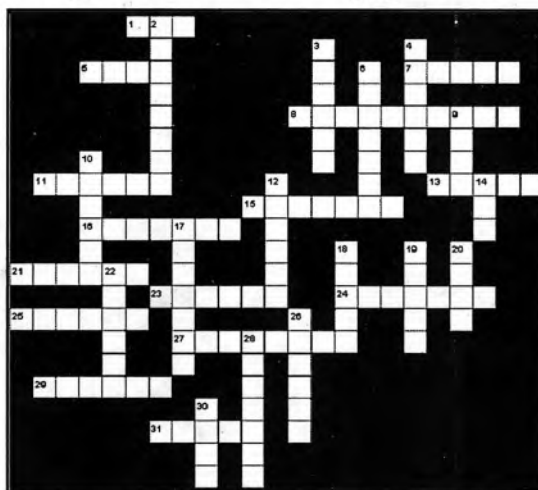
Across clues:

- They are wearing shorts because the weather is too
- We could not find a place where we could cross the puzzle, so we had to across it.
- We talked our plans last week..
- A narrow board with four small wheels, that you stand on ride on.
- A construction that takes a road or a railway over a river, etc.
- Your pencil is down there. It is the chair.
- I am looking to seeing you.
- To blow up with a loud noise.
- A period of ten years.
- A person who attacks and robs ship at sea.
- A drawing making fun of someone or something.
- A solid object that is

- the shape of a ball.
- Opposite of positive.
- The distance from one end of an object to the other.
- Opposite of dirty.

Down Clues:

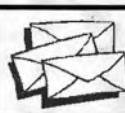
- I won't go this way, I'll go the direction.
- We went out so we the doors of the house.
- A person who cuts men's hair, shaves their beards, etc.
- Get me four steaks at the 's shop.
- The commercial capital of Yemen.
- We watched the movie in the yesterday.
- The are investigating the crime.
- A bank or wall of earth, concrete, etc. to keep back water.
- I have to do it this



- way, I have got no other
- The brother of your father or mother, or the husband of your aunt.
- My father bought me a new It shows time precisely.
- Frozen water vapour that falls to the ground in soft white flakes.
- We could not get enough food the war.
- A person who is not married.
- A word opposite in meaning to another one.
- The part of your body between your head and your chest.



YOUTH FORUM



The Hope
When I come, when I go,
Everywhere I walk,
There are stones and thorns on my way,
Sometimes they injure my feet,
Sometimes they make me fall,
But I always rise,
Because what I want I must get.
There is an aim in front of me,
There is a hope lurking in my heart,
So I must forget the pain,
To rise, fall, and rise again.

I am lonely again,
In my soul all world's hurts,
In my heart all world's penury,
All the pain, all the tears,
Your silence is out to kill me,
See, its icy hands advance to me,
Save, save, but no one hears,
Oh, you who deserted me,
Oh, you who destroyed me,
Please come to me,

Nabilla Abdullah,
College of Education, Mahweel

Words of Suffering
Dear Sirs, stop saying more hearsays,
No time, no other ways,
Think, do and try to raise
our conditions that are getting worse all days.

Some people have nothing to eat,
Others only have wheat,
Your answer is off beat,
Because, you have an immovable seat,
Unemployment is on the rise,
Insanity is on the rise,
Beggars are on the rise,
Inflation is on the rise,
More promises like the rain,
All of it goes in its special drain,
That costs more suffer and much pain,
Oh, our efforts shouldn't be in vain,
Yemen is beautiful,
Nothing is successful,
Are you really careful?
If you are, try to be faithful.
This poem is my gift to the people in charge.

Abdulaziz M.I. Abdullah, Taiz

The Art of Public Speaking



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,
Associate Professor,
College of Education,
Mahweel

Many of us feel shy and nervous at the very thought of addressing a group or an audience from a platform. We are seized by an unknown fear complex and feel as if the ground is shifting from underneath our feet and our tongue is in the cheek. Some of us experience fast beatings of heart and heavy perspiration. Even when the teacher asks a simple question in the class, a student very often feels nervous to answer although he/she knows the answer. When called upon to deliver a speech on a ceremonial occasion in school or college many of our students feel extremely diffident. This is due to what is called 'stage fright'. This unreasonable fear complex or psychosis can be easily overcome by regular practice of the art of public speaking.

There is nothing difficult about learning to speak in public. The principles of public speaking are very similar to those of social interaction, such as conversation. If we are able to carry on conversation with a friend or a few others with ease and confidence, we can easily learn to speak before an audience because public speaking is no more than conversation with a relatively large group of listeners. Another difference between conversation and public speaking is that in the case of conversation, no prior preparation is necessary, but public speaking, being more formal and purposeful, needs preparation.

Now let us consider some steps which would help us prepare the speech. Sometimes we are given a topic to speak on. In such cases we can get started by:

- collecting material,
 - organizing material, and
 - practicing techniques of delivery.
- However, if the choice of the topic is left on us, we have to carefully choose the topic keeping in view
- the demands of the occasion,
 - the interests of the likely listeners or the audience, and
 - our own interests and experience.

After choosing the topic we must settle down to our main purpose of speaking. This requires that we learn to have a general goal in view which is to bring about a change in the minds, attitudes, or actions of our listeners through our speech. The general goal can be divided into the following five specific goals:

- To inform**: for example; 'There are 1652 mother tongues used in India.'
- To convince**: for example; 'Students should join hands to eradicate illiteracy.'
- To impress**: for example; 'Practice simple living and high thinking.'
- To entertain**: for example; 'Imagine me holding my glasses and going round the house searching for them.'
- To move to action**: for example; 'Let us come forward to help the poor and the destitute.'

Sources for collecting material: We can gather material in the following ways:

- by generating ideas from our own background.
 - by interacting with others who have information on the subject
 - by consulting printed sources such as encyclopedias and a thesaurus
- Preparing a draft outline for the talk**: After collecting relevant material and organizing these in a presentable order, our next concern should be to prepare some kind of an outline for our talk in the same way as engineers or architects prepare blueprints. This stage completes our spadework before delivery of the speech. Now we should get ready for the final phase of our preparation for the speech. Our next task is to hit upon an

appropriate beginning for our speech which would evoke the listeners' interest in the subject and slowly lead them to the heart of the subject. Some of the effective ways of beginning our talk are the following:

- By means of a striking incident**. For example; 'More people are killed in road accidents these days than in wars.'
- By means of a question** that would set the listeners thinking. For example; 'How long can our country ignore such a vital issue as environmental protection?'
- By means of a narrative**: We can narrate a short experience or personal anecdote which has a bearing on the subject.
- By reference to the occasion**: For example; 'When we are assembled here for the graduation ceremony, I feel as though I've gone back to the day when we joined the college four years ago.'

It is rightly said that "well begun is half done." After successfully making an impressive opening, we should make an effort to develop our ideas logically and persuasively. This can be done in the following ways:

- By restatement**: For example; 'This is a pertinent issue that deserves our most careful consideration.'
- By stating advantages and disadvantages**: For example; 'After careful consideration of the pros and cons of the question, I believe there is justification for going ahead with our plan of organizing a study tour to Aden.'
- By example**: For instance; 'The College of Education, Mahweel organized a trip to Aden last year.'
- By statistics**: For example; 'Of every four automobiles in the world, three are in the USA.'
- By reference to authorities**: For example; 'Dr. Abdulla An-nijar, dean, wholeheartedly supports the idea of diversifying learning opportunities for students of the college.'

After giving attention to developing our ideas coherently, we should think of preparing the main points of our talk. Usually, a talker concludes his speech by giving:

- a summary of the main ideas,
- an apt quotation that reinforces the points,
- an emotional appeal, or
- a thought provoking question.

Presenting the speech: There are generally methods of delivering a speech which speakers choose from, depending on their personal preference and demands of the situation. These methods of delivery are as follows:

- Impromptu speaking**
- Extemporaneous speaking**
- Memorized speaking**
- Reading from a manuscript**
- Composite method**

1- An impromptu talk is delivered without any previous preparation. It is planned, organized and presented on the spur of the moment. In such cases the speaker rises to the occasion by relying on his knowledge of the subject and ability to organize the information into a coherent pattern, and presentable form. He needs to have a sound knowledge structure and experience as well as a good measure of self-confidence to be able to stand up to the expectations of the audience.

2- An extemporaneous talk is different from an impromptu talk in the sense that although the outlines of the content of the lecture are carefully planned, the details, including the choice of words, are left until the moment of utterance. The speaker broadly knows what he is going to say, but depends on his control of language to provide him with an uninterrupted flow of language to communicate his ideas in an impressive manner and organized form. The speaker in this mode of delivery modifies his speech according to the demands of the situation.

3- A memorized talk, on the other hand, is previously prepared and committed to memory word for word.

This method is very risky because if the speaker's memory plays tricks with him, he can get tongue-tied and land himself in an embarrassing situation.

4- Reading from the manuscript as a method is resorted to when the speaker has to use exact and precise expression in an extremely formal or ceremonial occasion. This method should be sparingly used as it inherently artificial, lacking in naturalness and spontaneity.

5- The composite method, as the name implies, is an optimal combination of two or more methods. For example, a speaker memorizes the introduction and conclusion of his speech, refers to illustrations or statistical figures, or even a quotation in his notes, and develops the body of his arguments extemporaneously. The last method, namely the composite method is usually the preferred mode of delivery of a speech for the variety and flexibility it offers.

Tips for delivery of the speech. Whichever may be our chosen method of delivery of the speech, we, as learners or practitioners of the art of public speaking, should remind ourselves of a few practical tips which are common to all the methods mentioned above.

1. Before the speech: Relax, take a stroll, talk to a friend to ease mental tension, if any, and take a deep breath. Be modestly dressed and arrive on the venue of lecture well before time.

2. During the speech:
a) Adopt a natural posture: During the delivery of the speech, we should stand easily erect, feet a few inches apart and parallel. Shoulders should be level and arms at sides except when making a gesture.

b) Maintain eye contact with your listeners: Making eye contact with the members of the audience enhances the confidence of the speaker and endears the audience to the speaker.

c) Fight stage fright: Although some amount of stage fright has a positive impact on the speaker to the extent that it leads him to reasonably furnish himself with necessary information, facts and figures, excess fear of the audience or for the ultimate impact of the lecture should be avoided as far as possible. We should suggest ourselves that we have an adequate level of information to satisfy the curiosity of the audience. We should feel happy and relaxed that we are going to have a friendly interaction with a group of cordial friends.

d) Speak in conversational idiom: We should practice delivering our sentences in a slow, clear conversational style in a natural accent to make an impact on the audience. The lecture should be occasionally interspersed with humor; not too cheap jokes, but ones which are appropriate for the occasion. Indeed, humor is an invaluable asset to relieve monotony. We should try to avoid false starts such as 'er' and 'uh'.

e) Handling stress and distractions: During the delivery of the speech, we should demonstrate patience and coolness in handling audience responses and other forms of distraction. We should avoid giving sharp reactions, unsavory comments and curt remarks that might agitate the members of the audience.

f) Conclude the talk logically: We should structure our talk into a beginning, a middle, and an end so as to form a coherent, organic whole. In the fitness of things, we should plan an appropriate conclusion to our talk carefully because it would clearly have a lingering impact on the minds of the members of the audience. The conclusion should be brief and clear. After the conclusion we should thank the audience, the organizers and be seated.

Rules for public speaking are brilliantly summed up in the following sentence. "Tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them and then tell them what you told them."

"The World is Getting Smaller in Terms of the Art World"

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Art is one of the most important creations of human beings. It is actually a language that can be understood by all human beings. It breaks all the barriers of language, race, religion, etc.

The American artist Charles Browell recently paid a 5-day visit to Yemen and made an exhibition. The American Ambassador to Oman invited him to Oman to give a series of lectures and workshops to some Omani artists and also to see Muscat and surrounding areas. From Oman he went to Dubai. Yemen was his final destination. Yemen Times Managing Editor Mohammed Hatem Al-



Qadhi interviewed Mr. Browell and filed the following:

Q: Could you please tell us about your visit to Yemen and your impression about Yemeni artists?

I have been giving workshops and lectures here over the past couple of days and I have also met with a number of artists working in Sana'a. It has been really great. All of my experiences in the Gulf area have been incredible and people everywhere have been very generous and warm.

I am very impressed by the artists in Sana'a. The work is very sophisticated, very complex, and it is of a very high quality. I have seen a number of exhibitions here and I have been to a number

of artists' studios. They talked to me about their work, showed me what they were doing, and I was very impressed. I am trying to bring some of the images, post cards and posters back to Philadelphia to show what the Yemeni artists are like and the kind of work they are doing. Because really, there is not a lot of information about Yemen available to the artistic community in Philadelphia, so I would like to tell them more about the country and more about the people. Hopefully, opportunities might come up and other artists may travel here. I think I have just got to let people know

more about it so that they can see where it is at least.

Q: When did you start painting and what is the message you would like to convey through your paintings?

A: Well, I have been painting for twenty years. I grew up painting also. As a young child I spent most of my time drawing. Basically, I am trying to connect with contemporary culture, my contemporary American culture. I think the

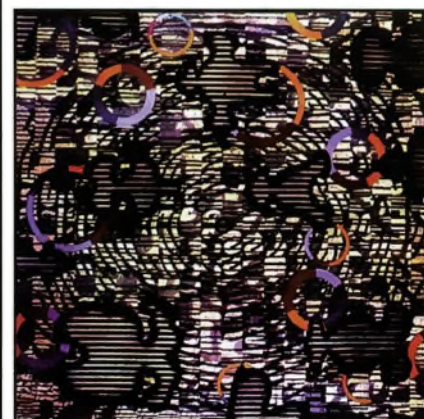
still retains a kind of human quality. There is still a human presence within the complexity. I am trying to make works that deal with that kind of late twentieth century and early twenty-first century, where there is a struggle between technology and the human presence. The maintenance of a certain kind of humanity within urban technology is what I am trying to deal with in the paintings.

Q: Regarding your exhibitions, how many have there been?

A: Well, actually I show in America, mostly in the East coast I suppose. I guess some years back I was involved with a group of Philadelphia-based African-American artists and we did projects as a group in Brazil and we did a project in Copenhagen, Denmark. Those are the only two countries that we did projects in, but I have been involved in other things and I have been to different places with my work. This came about kind of quickly because the Ambassador to Oman was in Philadelphia looking for work and he went to see my work in a museum and at an exhibition there.

Q: What do you think is the common message that artists can convey?

A: I think for the most part that artists are looking for ways to express where they are and their relation to their culture and their relation to the particular time they exist in. Most artists reflect the time and place they live in. It is a kind of a reflection of what is going on with the perspective of an outsider looking at culture and criticizing that culture. I think most artists around the world work that way. But when you go from one country to another you obviously get a different perspective. Another thing which is really happening in terms of Western Art, is that a lot of artists are traveling to America and participating in the mainstream of Western Art, so you are really getting a lot of international flavors. In a sense, the world is getting smaller in



images I make are really a reflection of the environment I live in, and the cultural surroundings that I live in, the urban complexity. My thinking is that what I am trying to convey in the work is the kind of urban complexity which

try to another you obviously get a different perspective. Another thing which is really happening in terms of Western Art, is that a lot of artists are traveling to America and participating in the mainstream of Western Art, so you are really getting a lot of international flavors. In a sense, the world is getting smaller in

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